

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2325

To amend certain laws under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reauthorize programs relating to substance abuse and homeless assistance for veterans, to authorize a demonstration program to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26 (legislative day, JULY 20), 1994

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. CAMPBELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend certain laws under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reauthorize programs relating to substance abuse and homeless assistance for veterans, to authorize a demonstration program to provide assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. REAUTHORIZATION OF DEMONSTRATION PRO-**
4 **GRAM OF COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY**
5 **AND THERAPEUTIC TRANSITIONAL HOUSING.**

6 Section 7(a) of Public Law 102–54 (38 U.S.C. 1718
7 note) is amended by striking out “fiscal years 1991

1 through 1994” and inserting in lieu thereof “fiscal years
2 1991 through 1996”.

3 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE TREATMENT**
4 **AND REHABILITATION FOR ALCOHOL OR**
5 **DRUG DEPENDENCE OR ABUSE DISABILITIES.**

6 Section 1720A of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended by striking out subsection (e).

8 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF HOMELESS VETERANS’**
9 **REINTEGRATION PROJECTS.**

10 Section 738(e)(1) of the Stewart B. McKinney Home-
11 less Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11448(e)(1)) is amended
12 by striking out subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) and in-
13 serting in lieu thereof the following new subparagraphs:

14 “(A) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 1995.

15 “(B) \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 1996.

16 “(C) \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 1997.”.

17 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL**
18 **CARE FOR HOMELESS CHRONICALLY MEN-**
19 **TALLY ILL AND OTHER VETERANS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
21 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
22 end the following:

1 **“§ 1720E. Community-based residential care for**
2 **homeless chronically mentally ill and**
3 **other veterans**

4 “(a)(1) The Secretary may provide care and treatment
5 and rehabilitative services (directly or by contract) in half-
6 way houses, therapeutic communities, psychiatric residen-
7 tial treatment centers, and other community-based treat-
8 ment facilities to homeless veterans suffering from chronic
9 mental illness disabilities who are eligible for care under
10 section 1710(a)(1) of this title.

11 “(2) In providing care and treatment and rehabilitative
12 services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may also pro-
13 vide such care and treatment and rehabilitative services—

14 “(A) to veterans being furnished hospital or nurs-
15 ing home care by the Secretary for a chronic mental
16 illness disability; and

17 “(B) to veterans with service-connected chronic
18 mental illness disabilities.

19 “(b) Before furnishing care and treatment and rehabili-
20 tative services by contract under subsection (a) to a vet-
21 eran through a facility described in subsection (a), the
22 Secretary shall approve (in accordance with criteria which
23 the Secretary shall prescribe) the quality and effectiveness
24 of the program operated by such facility for the purpose
25 for which such veteran is to be furnished such care and
26 services.

1 “(c)(1) The Secretary may provide in-kind assistance
2 (through the services of Department employees and the
3 sharing of other Department resources) to a facility de-
4 scribed in subsection (a) under this section. The Secretary
5 shall provide such assistance to a facility under a contract
6 between the Secretary and the facility.

7 “(2) The Secretary may provide assistance under
8 paragraph (1)—

9 “(A) only for use solely in the furnishing of ap-
10 propriate care and services under this section; and

11 “(B) only if, under such contract, the Secretary
12 receives reimbursement for the full cost of such as-
13 sistance, including the cost of services and supplies
14 and normal depreciation and amortization of equip-
15 ment.

16 “(3) Reimbursement under paragraph (2)(B) may be
17 made by reduction in the charges to the United States
18 or by payment to the United States.

19 “(4) Any funds received through reimbursement
20 under paragraph (3) shall be credited to funds allotted to
21 the Department facility that provided the assistance.

22 “(d) The Secretary may not provide care and treat-
23 ment and rehabilitative services under this section after
24 September 30, 1998.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 3 after the item relating to section 1720D the following new
 4 item:

“1720E. Community-based residential care for homeless mentally ill and other
 veterans.”.

5 (c) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED AUTHORITY.—Section
 6 115 of the Veterans’ Benefits and Services Act of 1988
 7 (38 U.S.C. 1712 note) is repealed.

8 **SEC. 5. REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
 9 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ASSIST HOMELESS**
 10 **VETERANS.**

11 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) Not later than February
 12 1 of each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall sub-
 13 mit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate
 14 and the House of Representatives a report on the activities
 15 of the Department of Veterans Affairs during the year
 16 preceding the report under programs of the Department
 17 for the provision of assistance to homeless veterans.

18 (2) The report shall—

19 (A) set forth the number of homeless veterans
 20 provided assistance under such programs;

21 (B) describe the cost to the Department of pro-
 22 viding such assistance under such programs; and

1 (C) provide any other information on such pro-
 2 grams and on the provision of such assistance that
 3 the Secretary considers appropriate.

4 (b) BI-ANNUAL REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall
 5 include in the report submitted under subsection (a)(1)
 6 in 1995, and every 2 years thereafter, an evaluation of
 7 the effectiveness of the programs of the Department in
 8 providing assistance to homeless veterans.

9 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON ASSESSMENT AND PLANS FOR RE-**
 10 **SPONSE TO NEEDS OF HOMELESS VETERANS.**

11 (a) UPDATE ON ASSESSMENT.—Subsection (b) of
 12 section 107 of the Veterans' Medical Programs Amend-
 13 ments of 1992 (Public Law 102–405; 106 Stat. 1977; 38
 14 U.S.C. 527 note) is amended by adding at the end the
 15 following:

16 “(6) The Secretary shall require that the directors
 17 referred to in paragraph (1) update the assessment re-
 18 quired under that paragraph in each of 1995, 1996, and
 19 1997.”.

20 (b) REPORTS ON ASSESSMENTS AND PLAN.—Sub-
 21 section (i) of such section 107 (106 Stat. 1978) is amend-
 22 ed—

23 (1) by striking out “REPORT.—” and inserting
 24 in lieu thereof “REPORTS.—(1)”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(2) Not later than December 31, 1994, the Sec-
2 retary shall submit to such committees a report that—

3 “(A) describes the results of the assessment
4 carried out under subsection (b);

5 “(B) sets forth the lists developed under para-
6 graph (1) of subsection (c); and

7 “(C) describes the progress, if any, made by the
8 directors of the medical centers and the directors of
9 the benefits offices referred to in such subsection (c)
10 in developing the plan referred to in paragraph (2)
11 of such subsection (c).

12 “(3) Not later than December 31 of each of 1995,
13 1996, and 1997, the Secretary shall submit to such com-
14 mittees a report that describes the update to the assess-
15 ment that is carried out under subsection (b)(6) in the
16 year preceding the report.”.

17 **SEC. 7. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF**
18 **VETERANS AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY-BASED**
19 **ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS TO ASSIST**
20 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
22 shall carry out a demonstration program under which the
23 Secretary shall enter into partnerships with community-
24 based homeless service organizations described in sub-
25 section (b) in order to provide services and assistance to

1 homeless veterans in conjunction with such organizations.
2 The Secretary shall carry out the program in accordance
3 with this section.

4 (b) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS.—The orga-
5 nizations with which the Secretary enters into partner-
6 ships under subsection (a) shall be organizations that—

7 (1) encourage the assumption of personal re-
8 sponsibility by homeless veterans who receive serv-
9 ices and assistance from the organization;

10 (2) provide transitional housing to such veter-
11 ans;

12 (3) provide employment training or employment
13 placement assistance to such veterans;

14 (4) may collect from such veterans rent derived
15 from employment-related income of such veterans;
16 and

17 (5) in the case of organizations that collect rent
18 from such veterans, utilize rent amounts collected to
19 cover the expenses of the organizations in providing
20 services and assistance to such veterans.

21 (c) PROVISION OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE.—(1)
22 The Secretary shall carry out the demonstration program
23 authorized under subsection (a) at not more than five loca-
24 tions designated for that purpose by the Secretary. The

1 Secretary shall designate such locations in various geo-
2 graphic areas.

3 (2) With respect to each location designated under
4 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into an agreement
5 with a community-based service organization referred to
6 in subsection (b) in order to provide services and assist-
7 ance to homeless veterans.

8 (3) The Secretary shall ensure under an agreement
9 entered into under paragraph (1) that appropriate person-
10 nel of the Department of Veterans Affairs provide individ-
11 ual and group counseling, substance abuse counseling, em-
12 ployment counseling, basic medical care, and referrals to
13 other Department health care and benefits programs to
14 homeless veterans at the location covered by the agree-
15 ment.

16 (d) REVIEW OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall
17 enter into an agreement with an appropriate non-Federal
18 entity under which agreement the entity shall carry out
19 a study of program carried out under this section. The
20 Secretary shall ensure that, in carrying out the study, the
21 entity shall—

22 (1) determine whether assistance and services
23 are provided to homeless veterans under the pro-
24 gram in a cost-effective manner;

(3) make any recommendations that the entity considers appropriate for the improvement and expansion of the program or any agreement entered into under subsection (c).

(e) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 1996, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study carried out under subsection (d).

(a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF DEMONSTRATION PRO-
GRAMS.—Section 2(b) of the Homeless Veterans Com-
prehensive Service Programs Act of 1992 (38 U.S.C. 7721
note) is amended in the first sentence by striking out
“four” and inserting in lieu thereof “12”.

(b) REMOVAL OF FUNDING LIMITATION.—Section 12 of such Act (38 U.S.C. 7721 note) is amended by striking out the second sentence.