

Committee Print

[Reflecting the actions of the Subcommittee on Economic
Opportunity on July 19, 2023]

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3848

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by
the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homeles-
ness, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Housing our Military
5 Veterans Effectively Act of 2023” or the “HOME Act of
6 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PER DIEM PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SEC-**
2 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SERV-**
3 **ICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

4 Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

8 (i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB)—

9 (I) by striking “115 percent” and
10 inserting “133 percent”; and

11 (II) by inserting “, plus, for each
12 of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, a
13 percentage increase to such rate equal
14 to the percentage determined under
15 section 3564(a) of this title” after “of
16 that section”;

17 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(iii) Subject to clause (iv), during each of fiscal
20 years 2024 through 2028, the Secretary may waive the
21 maximum rate for per diem payments under clause
22 (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and provide such payments at a rate
23 that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate authorized
24 for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection
25 (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary

1 may increase from time to time under subsection (e) of
2 that section, if the Secretary—

3 “(I) determines that the grant recipient or eligi-
4 ble entity furnishes services to homeless veterans
5 in—

6 “(aa) a rural or highly rural area;

7 “(bb) an area with a high rate of suicide
8 among veterans; or

9 “(cc) an area with a high rate of homeless-
10 ness among veterans; and

11 “(II) notifies Congress of the need for such
12 waiver.

13 “(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii),
14 waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more
15 than 20 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities
16 in a fiscal year.”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(4) The Secretary may not provide more than
20 10,500 payments under this section in a fiscal year.”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 section:

23 “(f) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023,
25 and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter,

1 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
2 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate
4 for per diem payments under this section that includes,
5 for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the De-
6 partment, the following data:

7 “(1) The average rate for such a payment.

8 “(2) A list of locations where the rate for such
9 a payment is within 10 percent of the maximum rate
10 for such a payment authorized under this section.

11 “(3) The average length of stay by a veteran
12 participating in a program described in section
13 2011(a) of this title.”.

14 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF**
15 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN**
16 **FUNDS FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN AS-**
17 **SISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

18 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
19 fairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made
20 available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry
21 out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United
22 States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Sec-
23 retary determines necessary—

1 (1) food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hy-
2 giene items required for the safety and survival of
3 the veteran;

4 (2) transportation required to support the sta-
5 bility and health of the veteran for appointments
6 with service providers, the conduct of housing
7 searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies;
8 and

9 (3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones,
10 and related service plans required to support the
11 stability and health of the veteran through the main-
12 tenance of contact with service providers, prospective
13 landlords, and family members.

14 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-
15 ERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collabo-
17 rate, to the extent practicable, with one or more or-
18 ganizations to manage the use of land of the Depart-
19 ment of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans for
20 living and sleeping.

21 (2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration
22 under paragraph (1) may include the provision by ei-
23 ther the Secretary or the head of the organization
24 concerned of food services and security for property,

1 buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six
5 months thereafter until the date specified in subsection
6 (d), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that
7 includes, with respect to the period covered by such re-
8 port—

9 (1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical
10 center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the
11 amount of funds under this section—

12 (A) each such medical center requested
13 from the Secretary; and

14 (B) to which the Secretary provided each
15 such medical center;

16 (2) data, disaggregated by each such medical
17 center, relating to how each such medical center
18 used amounts provided by the Secretary under this
19 section;

20 (3) the number of covered veterans to which the
21 Secretary provided assistance under this section;

22 (4) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
23 provided to covered veterans pursuant to subsection
24 (a)(3) for communications equipment, broken down
25 by the type of equipment provided;

1 (5) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
2 provided covered veterans pursuant to subsection
3 (a)(2) for ridesharing;

4 (6) the number of covered veterans who re-
5 ceived such assistance; and

6 (7) a description, for each rideshare used by a
7 covered veteran with such assistance, of the reasons
8 such covered veteran used such rideshare.

9 (8) the number of covered veterans who lived or
10 slept on Department land;

11 (9) the amount of funds used to make available
12 Department land for covered veterans to live and
13 sleep;

14 (10) the number of Department employees
15 whose primary responsibilities involved providing
16 services for covered veterans living or sleeping on
17 Department land;

18 (11) the average length of time a covered vet-
19 eran lived or slept on Department land, and

20 (12) the period of time the Secretary expects
21 Department land will be made available for covered
22 veterans to live and sleep.

23 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall
24 terminate on September 30, 2024.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
2 veteran” means—

3 (1) a homeless veteran; and

4 (2) a veteran participating in the program car-
5 ried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States
6 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).