

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on substance use and alcohol use disorder recovery for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on substance use and alcohol use disorder recovery for 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. PILOT PROGRAM ON AWARD OF GRANTS FOR**  
4 **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RECOVERY FOR**  
5 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

6 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 180  
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1   retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a  
2   pilot program under which the Secretary shall award  
3   grants to eligible entities for the provision or coordination  
4   of services for recovery from substance use disorder for  
5   veterans who are homeless, were previously homeless and  
6   are transitioning to permanent housing, or are at risk of  
7   becoming homeless.

8       (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
9   pilot program during the five-year period beginning on the  
10  date of the commencement of the pilot program.

11       (c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
12  pilot program at not fewer than five locations selected by  
13  the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

14       (d) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot  
16  program, the Secretary shall award a grant to an el-  
17  igible entity for each veteran with substance use dis-  
18  order participating in the pilot program for which  
19  the eligible entity is providing or coordinating the  
20  provision of recovery services for substance use dis-  
21  order under the pilot program.

22           (2) INTERVALS OF PAYMENT AND MAXIMUM  
23  AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may establish intervals of  
24  payment for the administration of grants under this  
25  section and a maximum amount to be awarded, in

1       accordance with the services being provided and the  
2       duration of such services.

3           (3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under  
4       paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to  
5       eligible entities providing or coordinating the provi-  
6       sion of recovery services for substance use disorder  
7       for veterans with substance-use dependency who face  
8       barriers in accessing substance-use recovery services  
9       from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10          (4) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary  
11       shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, grant  
12       amounts awarded under paragraph (1) are equitably  
13       distributed across geographic regions, including  
14       rural and Tribal communities.

15          (5) NOTIFICATION OF SOURCE OF AMOUNTS.—  
16       Each eligible entity awarded a grant under para-  
17       graph (1) shall notify each veteran receiving services  
18       paid for with amounts under such grant that such  
19       services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by  
20       the Department.

21          (6) REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.—The  
22       Secretary shall require each eligible entity awarded  
23       a grant under paragraph (1) to submit to the Sec-  
24       retary a report that describes the services provided  
25       or coordinated with amounts under such grant.

1 (e) GRANT APPLICATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking  
3 the award of a grant under this section shall submit  
4 to the Secretary an application therefor in such  
5 form, in such manner, and containing such commit-  
6 ments and information as the Secretary considers  
7 necessary to carry out this section.

8 (2) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each appli-  
9 cation submitted by an eligible entity under para-  
10 graph (1) shall contain the following:

11 (A) A description of the recovery services  
12 for substance use disorder proposed to be pro-  
13 vided by the eligible entity under the pilot pro-  
14 gram and the identified need for those services.

15 (B) A description of the types of veterans  
16 with substance use disorder proposed to be pro-  
17 vided such recovery services.

18 (C) An estimate of the number of veterans  
19 with substance use disorder proposed to be pro-  
20 vided such recovery services.

21 (D) Evidence of the experience of the eligi-  
22 ble entity in providing such recovery services to  
23 veterans with substance use disorder.

24 (E) A description of the managerial capac-  
25 ity of the eligible entity—

1 (i) to assess continually the needs of  
2 veterans with substance use disorder for  
3 such recovery services;

4 (ii) to coordinate the provision of such  
5 recovery services with services provided by  
6 the Department; and

7 (iii) to tailor such recovery services to  
8 the needs of veterans with substance use  
9 disorder.

10 (3) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-  
12 tablish criteria for the selection of eligible enti-  
13 ties to be awarded grants under this section.

14 (B) ELEMENTS.—Criteria established  
15 under subparagraph (A) with respect to an eli-  
16 gible entity shall include the following:

17 (i) Relevant accreditation as may be  
18 required by each State in which the eligible  
19 entity operates.

20 (ii) Experience coordinating care or  
21 providing treatment for veterans or mem-  
22 bers of the Armed Forces.

23 (f) PARTICIPATION.—Participation by a veteran in  
24 the pilot program shall not affect any eligibility status or

1 requirements for such veteran with respect to other bene-  
2 fits or services provided by the Department.

3 (g) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
5 training and technical assistance to eligible entities  
6 awarded grants under this section regarding the  
7 planning, development, and provision of recovery  
8 services for substance use disorder under this sec-  
9 tion.

10 (2) PROVISION OF TRAINING.—The Secretary  
11 may provide the training required under paragraph  
12 (1) directly or through grants or contracts with such  
13 public or nonprofit private entities as the Secretary  
14 considers appropriate for purposes of this section,  
15 including through grants awarded under section  
16 2064 of title 38, United States Code.

17 (h) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION.—To the extent  
18 practicable, the Secretary may collect information from an  
19 eligible entity awarded a grant under this section relating  
20 to a substance use disorder of a veteran participating in  
21 the pilot program for inclusion in the electronic health  
22 record of the Department for such veteran for the sole  
23 purpose of improving care provided to such veteran.

24 (i) STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PILOT PRO-  
25 GRAM.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct  
2 a study on the effectiveness of the pilot program in  
3 meeting the needs of veterans with substance use  
4 disorder.

5           (2) COMPARISON.—In conducting the study re-  
6 quired by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall com-  
7 pare the results of the pilot program with other pro-  
8 grams of the Department dedicated to the delivery  
9 to veterans of recovery services for substance use  
10 disorder.

11          (3) CRITERIA.—In making the comparison re-  
12 quired by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall examine  
13 the following:

14           (A) The satisfaction of veterans targeted  
15 by the programs described in paragraph (2).

16           (B) The health status of such veterans.

17           (C) The mental wellness of such veterans.

18           (D) The degree to which such programs  
19 encourage such veterans to engage in produc-  
20 tive activity.

21           (E) The number of veterans using such  
22 programs, disaggregated by—

23           (i) veterans who have received care  
24 from the Department during the two-year

1 period preceding the conduct of the study;

2 and

3 (ii) veterans who have not received  
4 care from the Department during such pe-  
5 riod.

6 (F) The number of veterans who are still  
7 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless one  
8 year after completion of receipt of recovery  
9 services under such programs.

10 (G) The number of veterans who still have  
11 a substance use disorder within 180 days of dis-  
12 charge from receipt of services provided under  
13 this section.

14 (4) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the  
15 date on which the first grant is awarded under this  
16 section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall  
17 submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
18 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
19 the House of Representatives a report on the results  
20 of the study required by paragraph (1).

21 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
23 ty” means any of the following:

24 (A) An incorporated private institution or  
25 foundation—



1 (i) no part of the net earnings of  
2 which inures to the benefit of any member,  
3 founder, contributor, or individual;

4 (ii) that has a governing board that is  
5 responsible for the operation of the recov-  
6 ery services for substance use disorder pro-  
7 vided under this section; and

8 (iii) that is approved by the Secretary  
9 with respect to financial responsibility.

10 (B) A for-profit limited partnership, the  
11 sole general partner of which is an organization  
12 meeting the requirements of subparagraph (A).

13 (C) A corporation wholly owned and con-  
14 trolled by an organization meeting the require-  
15 ments of subparagraph (A).

16 (D) A tribally designated housing entity  
17 (as defined in section 4 of the Native American  
18 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act  
19 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

20 (2) SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER.—The term  
21 “substance use disorder”, with respect to a veteran,  
22 means the veteran has been diagnosed with, or is  
23 seeking treatment for, substance use disorder, as de-  
24 termined by the Secretary.