

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 3848  
OFFERED BY MR. VAN ORDEN OF WISCONSIN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

8       Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

10           (1) in subsection (a)—

11                   (A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

12                           (i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB)—

13                                   (I) by striking “115 percent” and  
14                                   inserting “133 percent”; and

15                                   (II) by inserting “, plus, for each  
16                                   of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, a  
17                                   percentage increase to such rate equal  
18                                   to the percentage determined under

1 section 3564(a) of this title” after “of  
2 that section”;

3 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(iii) Subject to clause (iv), during each of fiscal  
6 years 2024 through 2028, the Secretary may waive the  
7 maximum rate for per diem payments under clause  
8 (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and provide such payments at a rate  
9 that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate authorized  
10 for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection  
11 (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary  
12 may increase from time to time under subsection (c) of  
13 that section, if the Secretary—

14 “(I) determines that the grant recipient or eligi-  
15 ble entity furnishes services to homeless veterans  
16 in—

17 “(aa) a rural or highly rural area;

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

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

22 “(II) notifies Congress of the need for such  
23 waiver.

24 “(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii),  
25 waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more

1 than 20 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities  
2 in a fiscal year.”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
4 paragraph:

5 “(4) The Secretary may not provide more than  
6 10,500 payments under this section in a fiscal year.”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8 section:

9 “(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days  
10 after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023,  
11 and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter,  
12 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’  
13 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
14 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate  
15 for per diem payments under this section that includes,  
16 for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the De-  
17 partment, the following data:

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

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

22 “(3) The average length of stay by a veteran  
23 participating in a program described in section  
24 2011(a) of this title.”.

1 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF**  
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN**  
3 **FUNDS FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN AS-**  
4 **SISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

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

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

14 (2) transportation required to support the sta-  
15 bility and health of the veteran for appointments  
16 with service providers, the conduct of housing  
17 searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies;  
18 and

19 (3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones,  
20 and related service plans required to support the  
21 stability and health of the veteran through the main-  
22 tenance of contact with service providers, prospective  
23 landlords, and family members.

24 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-  
25 ERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—

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

6           (2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration  
7           under paragraph (1) may include the provision by ei-  
8           ther the Secretary or the head of the organization  
9           concerned of food services and security for property,  
10          buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by  
11          the Department of Veterans Affairs.

12          (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months  
13          after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six  
14          months thereafter until the date specified in subsection  
15          (d), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that  
16          includes, with respect to the period covered by such re-  
17          port—

18                 (1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical  
19                 center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the  
20                 amount of funds under this section—

21                         (A) each such medical center requested  
22                         from the Secretary; and

23                         (B) to which the Secretary provided each  
24                         such medical center;

1           (2) data, disaggregated by each such medical  
2 center, relating to how each such medical center  
3 used amounts provided by the Secretary under this  
4 section;

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

7           (4) the total amount of assistance the Secretary  
8 provided to covered veterans pursuant to subsection  
9 (a)(3) for communications equipment, broken down  
10 by the type of equipment provided;

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

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

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

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

21           (9) the amount of funds used to make available  
22 Department land for covered veterans to live and  
23 sleep;

24           (10) the number of Department employees  
25 whose primary responsibilities involved providing

1 services for covered veterans living or sleeping on  
2 Department land;

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

5 (12) the period of time the Secretary expects  
6 Department land will be made available for covered  
7 veterans to live and sleep.

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

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

12 (1) a homeless veteran; and

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

