H.R. 4035

[Report No. 117–]

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill;

which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY --, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 22, 2021]
A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Real Justice for Our
Veterans Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO VETERANS COURT TREATMENT
PROGRAMS FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORI-
TIES AND WOMEN.

Section 2991(i)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(2)) is amended
by adding at the end the following:

“(C) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after
the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the
Attorney General shall submit to Congress a re-
port on the effectiveness of veterans treatment
court programs. In preparing such a report, the
Attorney General shall conduct a national multi-
site evaluation of such programs, including an
assessment of—

“(i) the population served by such pro-
gams;

“(ii) whether such programs use evi-
dence-based treatments for substance use
and mental health, including medication for
addiction treatment;
“(iii) recidivism rates of participants in such programs;

“(iv) program completion rates; and

“(v) whether racial and ethnic minorities and women have equal access to such programs and an equal opportunity to complete such programs, including by collecting and analyzing data related to admission in such programs and completion of such programs, to ensure there are not disparities related to race, ethnicity, or sex.”.

SEC. 3. VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM ON PROMISING RETENTION MODELS.

(a) Establishment.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to eligible units of local government to improve retention in veterans treatment court programs (as such term is defined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)) and drug court programs.

(b) Eligibility.—In order to be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local government shall operate a veterans treatment court program or a drug court.

(c) Application.—A unit of local government seeking a grant through the pilot program under subsection (a)
shall submit to the Attorney General an application at such
time, in such manner, and containing such information as
the Attorney General may reasonably require, including—

(1) a description of the therapeutic or treatment
modality that the unit of local government plans to
implement and data to support the use of the therapeu-
tic or treatment modality, including information
showing how the therapeutic or treatment modality
will promote retention in and completion of veterans
treatment court programs and drug court programs;
and

(2) detailed plans on how the applicant would
test the efficacy of the therapeutic or treatment mo-
dality.

(d) REPORTING METRICS.—Not later than 180 days
after receiving a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local
government shall submit to the Attorney General a report,
which includes demographic information of participants in
the veterans treatment court program, and completion rates
of such participants. The Attorney General shall develop
guidelines for the report required under this subsection.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
authorized to be appropriated $3,000,000 for each of fiscal
years 2022 through 2027 to carry out this section.
SEC. 4. ADMISSION OF VETERANS TO DRUG COURTS.

In the case of a jurisdiction that does not operate a veterans treatment court program (as such term is defined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)), but that does operate a drug court under part EE of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10611 et seq.), a veteran who would be eligible to participate in a veterans treatment court program may participate in the drug court, including a veteran who is a violent offender (as such term is defined in section 2953(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10613(a))).