

Union Calendar No.

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3848

[Report No. 118-]

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

JUNE 6, 2023

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER (for herself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

SEPTEMBER --, 2023

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 6, 2023]

A BILL

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, 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”.*

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

10 *Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-*
11 *ed—*

12 *(1) in subsection (a)—*

13 *(A) in paragraph (2)(B)—*

14 *(i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB), by strik-*
15 *ing “115 percent” and inserting “133 per-*
16 *cent”; and*

17 *(ii) by adding at the end the following:*

18 *“(iii) During each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026,*
19 *the Secretary may waive the maximum rate for per diem*
20 *payments under clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and, subject*
21 *to the availability of appropriations, provide such pay-*
22 *ments at a rate that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate*
23 *authorized for State homes for domiciliary care under sub-*
24 *section (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Sec-*
25 *retary may increase from time to time under subsection (c)*

1 *of that section if the Secretary notifies Congress of such*
2 *waiver.*

3 “(iv) *The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii),*
4 *waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more*
5 *than 50 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities*
6 *in a fiscal year.”; and*

7 *(B) by adding at the end the following new*
8 *paragraph:*

9 “(4) *The Secretary may not provide more than 12,000*
10 *per diem payments under this section in a fiscal year.”;*
11 *and*

12 *(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-*
13 *section:*

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

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

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

4 “(3) *The average length of stay by a veteran par-*
5 *ticipating in a program described in section 2012(a)*
6 *of this title.”.*

7 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**
8 **FAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS FOR IM-**
9 **PROVED FLEXIBILITY IN ASSISTANCE TO**
10 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

11 *(a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
12 *fairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made*
13 *available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry*
14 *out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United*
15 *States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Sec-*
16 *retary determines necessary—*

17 *(1) food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene*
18 *items required for the safety and survival of the vet-*
19 *eran;*

20 *(2) transportation required to support the sta-*
21 *bility and health of the veteran for appointments with*
22 *service providers, the conduct of housing searches, and*
23 *the obtainment of food and supplies; and*

24 *(3) tablets, smartphones, disposable phones, and*
25 *related service plans required to support the stability*

1 *and health of the veteran through the maintenance of*
2 *contact with service providers, prospective landlords,*
3 *and family members.*

4 *(b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-*
5 *ERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—*

6 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collabo-*
7 *rate, to the extent practicable, with one or more orga-*
8 *nizations to manage the use of land of the Depart-*
9 *ment of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans for liv-*
10 *ing and sleeping.*

11 *(2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration*
12 *under paragraph (1) may include the provision by ei-*
13 *ther the Secretary or the head of the organization con-*
14 *cerned of food services and security for property,*
15 *buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by*
16 *the Department of Veterans Affairs.*

17 *(c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than six months*
18 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six*
19 *months thereafter until the date specified in subsection (d),*
20 *the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that in-*
21 *cludes, with respect to the period covered by such report—*

22 *(1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical*
23 *center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the*
24 *amount of funds under this section—*

1 (A) each such medical center requested from
2 the Secretary; and

3 (B) to which the Secretary provided each
4 such medical center;

5 (2) data, disaggregated by each such medical
6 center, relating to how each such medical center used
7 amounts provided by the Secretary under this section;

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

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

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

17 (6) the number of covered veterans who received
18 such assistance; and

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

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

1 (9) *the amount of funds used to make available*
2 *Department land for covered veterans to live and*
3 *sleep;*

4 (10) *the number of Department employees whose*
5 *primary responsibilities involved providing services*
6 *for covered veterans living or sleeping on Department*
7 *land;*

8 (11) *the average length of time a covered veteran*
9 *lived or slept on Department land, and*

10 (12) *the period of time the Secretary expects De-*
11 *partment land will be made available for covered vet-*
12 *erans to live and sleep.*

13 (d) *SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall*
14 *terminate on September 30, 2024.*

15 (e) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered*
16 *veteran” means—*

17 (1) *a homeless veteran; and*

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

21 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

22 *The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,*
23 *United States Code, is amended by striking “November 14,*
24 *2031” each place it appears and inserting “May 18, 2032”.*