

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on grants for care for elderly homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____, _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on grants for care for elderly 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 GRANTS FOR HEALTH**
4 **CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than one
6 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence carrying out a
8 pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of

1 awarding grants to eligible entities to meet the health care
2 needs of—

3 (1) veterans who are homeless;

4 (2) veterans who were previously homeless and
5 are transitioning to permanent housing; and

6 (3) veterans who are at risk of becoming home-
7 less.

8 (b) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
9 pilot program at not fewer than five locations selected by
10 the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

11 (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot
13 program, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible
14 entities for the purpose described in subsection (a).

15 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this
16 section, an eligible entity is any organization that is
17 successfully providing transitional housing services
18 to veterans as of the date on which the entity applies
19 for a grant under this section.

20 (3) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under
21 this section, the Secretary shall give preference to el-
22 ible entities that are successfully providing transi-
23 tional housing services using amounts provided by
24 the Secretary under sections 2012 and 2061 of title

1 38, United States Code, as of the date on which the
2 entity applies for a grant under this section.

3 (4) INTERVALS OF PAYMENT AND MAXIMUM
4 GRANT AMOUNT.—The Secretary may establish in-
5 tervals of payment for the administration of grants
6 under this section and a maximum grant amount to
7 be awarded, in accordance with the services being
8 provided by staff hired using grant amounts and the
9 duration of such services.

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

15 (d) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—The recipient of a
16 grant under the pilot program—

17 (1) shall use grant amounts for the hiring of
18 nursing staff to care for veterans described in sub-
19 section (a) who require assistance with activities of
20 daily living or need consistent medical attention and
21 monitoring; and

22 (2) may use such amounts for supplies and in-
23 frastructure needs associated with the duties of such
24 staff and the needs of such veterans.

1 (e) REPORT ON SERVICES PROVIDED.—The Sec-
2 retary shall require each eligible entity awarded a grant
3 under this section to submit to the Secretary a report that
4 describes the services provided or coordinated with
5 amounts under such grant.

6 (f) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
7 pilot program during the five-year period beginning on the
8 date on which the pilot program commences.

9 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
11 after the date on which the first grants are awarded
12 under this section, and annually thereafter until the
13 program terminates, the Secretary shall submit to
14 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
15 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
16 House of Representatives a report on the effective-
17 ness of the program.

18 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
19 graph (1) shall include the number of veterans
20 served by the pilot program under the care of a staff
21 member the funding for whom is provided by a
22 grant under the program, disaggregated by—

23 (A) geographic location;

24 (B) gender;

25 (C) age;

1 (D) race and ethnicity;

2 (E) whether or not a veteran received
3 health care from the Department during the
4 two-year period preceding the date on which the
5 veteran began participating in the program;

6 (F) the number of veterans who
7 transitioned into permanent housing as a result
8 of participation in the program; and

9 (G) with respect to veterans who did not
10 transition into permanent housing as a result of
11 participation in the program, the main reasons
12 for not so transitioning.