

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8560

To amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937, to make certain improvements to the supported housing program for veterans commonly known as “HUD-VASH”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937, to make certain improvements to the supported housing program for veterans commonly known as “HUD-VASH”.

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 “End Veteran Home-
5 lessness Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF STAFFING NEEDS FOR CASE**
2 **MANAGERS OF THE VETERANS HEALTH AD-**
3 **MINISTRATION WITH REGARDS TO HOME-**
4 **LESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF**
5 **HOMELESSNESS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2003(b) of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “The Secretary”;

9 (2) by inserting “, and who is determined to re-
10 quire case management,” before “is assigned”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(2) In assigning case managers and providing serv-
14 ices under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize
15 vulnerable homeless veterans, including veterans who are
16 homeless and who have disabilities (including chronic men-
17 tal illness, chronic substance abuse disorders, or chronic
18 physical disabilities).”.

19 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and
21 Urban Development, shall submit to Congress an annual
22 report on the program under section 8(o)(19) of the
23 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
24 1437f(o)(19)), as amended by section 3 of this Act and
25 commonly known as the “HUD-VASH program”, which
26 shall include, for the year covered by the report, each of

1 the following, disaggregated by locality and by demo-
2 graphics (if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines
3 it appropriate):

4 (1) An identification of the number and demo-
5 graphic characteristics of veterans served by the
6 HUD-VASH program.

7 (2) The number, qualifications, and demo-
8 graphics of case managers described in section
9 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, as amended
10 by subsection (a).

11 (3) An assessment of the standard and scope of
12 care provided by such case managers to such vet-
13 erans, including factors such as—

14 (A) staffing ratios;

15 (B) practices used in case management;

16 (C) frequency with which a case manager
17 contacts a veteran;

18 (D) whether a case manager successfully
19 connects a veteran to a requested resource or
20 support; and

21 (E) professional licenses or certifications
22 possessed by case managers.

23 (4) An assessment of the types of services pro-
24 vided by such case managers to such veterans.

1 (5) With regard to vouchers made available
2 under the HUD-VASH program—

3 (A) the number requested;

4 (B) the number allocated;

5 (C) the number used;

6 (D) the number assigned but unused; and

7 (E) the average time between such assign-
8 nation and such use.

9 (6) The percentage of such veterans who used
10 such a voucher and received case management from
11 such a case manager.

12 (7) An identification of barriers that prevented
13 the use of such vouchers by such veterans.

14 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO HUD-VASH PROGRAM.**

15 Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act
16 of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

18 (A) in the first sentence—

19 (i) by striking “subparagraph (C)”
20 and inserting “subparagraph (B)”; and

21 (ii) by striking “the amounts specified
22 in subparagraph (B)” and inserting
23 “amounts”;

1 (B) by striking the second sentence and in-
2 serting “In the course of administering such
3 program—”; and

4 (C) by adding at the end the following new
5 clauses:

6 “(i) the Secretary shall provide rental
7 assistance on behalf of a veteran who is—

8 “(I) homeless;

9 “(II) at risk of homelessness; or

10 “(III) receiving assistance under

11 another housing assistance program if

12 the Secretary determines a voucher

13 under this paragraph is a more appro-

14 priate form of assistance for such vet-

15 eran;

16 “(ii) subject to subparagraph (D), the
17 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish

18 case management to a veteran described in

19 clause (i) whom such Secretary (acting

20 through an appropriately licensed or other-

21 wise qualified employee of the Department

22 of Veterans Affairs or an entity that par-

23 ticipates in a centralized or coordinated

24 entry system (as defined in section 578.3

25 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or

1 successor regulation) of the Department of
2 Housing and Urban Development) deter-
3 mines requires case management;

4 “(iii) in the case of a veteran de-
5 scribed in clause (ii) who refuses case man-
6 agement—

7 “(I) the Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall—

9 “(aa) make recurring at-
10 tempts to engage and build a re-
11 lationship with the veteran, in
12 order to provide such case man-
13 agement to the veteran, solicit
14 feedback from the veteran, and
15 promote the veteran’s housing
16 stability and opportunities to ac-
17 cess health care and other bene-
18 fits under laws administered by
19 the Secretary; and

20 “(bb) provide case manage-
21 ment to such veteran if the vet-
22 eran subsequently requests case
23 management;

24 “(II) the Secretary of Housing
25 and Urban Development may not re-

1 voke such rental assistance on behalf
2 of the veteran solely on the basis of
3 such refusal;

4 “**(III)** a public housing authority
5 may not revoke rental assistance pro-
6 vided by such authority on behalf of
7 the veteran solely on the basis of such
8 refusal; and

9 “**(IV)** the owner may not evict or
10 otherwise penalize the veteran solely
11 on the basis of such refusal; and

12 “**(iv)** in the case of a veteran de-
13 scribed in clause **(ii)** whose case manage-
14 ment is suspended for the health and safe-
15 ty of the veteran or the case manager, the
16 owner may not evict or otherwise penalize
17 the veteran solely on the basis of such sus-
18 pension.”;

19 (2) by striking subparagraph **(B)**;

20 (3) by redesignating subparagraphs **(C)** and
21 **(D)** as subparagraphs **(B)** and **(E)**, respectively;

22 (4) by inserting after subparagraph **(B)**, as re-
23 designated the following new subparagraphs:

24 “**(C) VETERANS WHO DO NOT REQUIRE**
25 **CASE MANAGEMENT.—A voucher made available**

1 under this paragraph may be used for a home-
2 less veteran, or a veteran at risk of homeless-
3 ness, whom the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 determines does not require case management if
5 such use is included in the notice of operating
6 requirements of such program.

7 “(D) ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated such sums as
9 may be necessary for administrative fee pay-
10 ments to public housing agencies for costs of
11 administering vouchers under this paragraph
12 and other eligible expenses, as shall be defined
13 by notice issued by the Secretary, to facilitate
14 the leasing of the vouchers, such as security de-
15 posit assistance and other costs related to re-
16 tention and support of participating owners.”.

17 **SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON HOMELESS VETERANS.**

18 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-
20 troller General of the United States shall submit to the
21 appropriate congressional committees a report containing
22 the following, disaggregated by demographics (if the
23 Comptroller General determines it appropriate)—

24 (1) a description of the demographic character-
25 istics of veterans served by the HUD-VASH pro-

1 gram, disaggregated by whether the veteran is re-
2 ceiving services from a case manager described in
3 section 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, as
4 amended by section 2 of this Act;

5 (2) the number, qualifications, and demographic
6 characteristics of such case managers;

7 (3) an assessment of the types and quality of
8 case management services provided to veterans by
9 case managers described in section 2003(b) of title
10 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2,
11 disaggregated by locality;

12 (4) an assessment of recruitment and retention
13 of such case managers, disaggregated by locality and
14 demographic characteristics; and

15 (5) metrics regarding housing stability and re-
16 tention for veterans participating in Federal housing
17 assistance programs, including veterans who have
18 participated in more than one such program and
19 reasons why veterans ceased to so participate.

20 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
21 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
22 gressional committees” means the following:

23 (1) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
24 House of Representatives.

1 (2) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
2 Senate.

3 (3) The Committee on Financial Services of the
4 House of Representatives.

5 (4) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and
6 Urban Affairs of the Senate.

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