

VETERAN HOUSING STABILITY ACT OF 2015

Legislation to Improve VA's Programs for Homeless Veterans and Their Families

Section-by-Section Summary

- **Sec. 1 Short title.**
 - The Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015.

- **Sec. 2 Expansion of definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.**
 - Expands the definition of homeless veteran, for purposes of eligibility for benefits through VA, to conform with the HUD definition for homeless individuals. This would now include a veteran or veteran's family fleeing domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in their current housing situation.

- **Sec. 3 Program on provision of intensive case management interventions to homeless veterans who receive the most health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs.**
 - Requires VA to carry out a program to target homeless veterans who are health care “super-utilizers” for more intensive case management interventions, allowing VA to leverage existing data to improve the efficacy of its assertive community outreach teams. This approach is modeled after a highly successful program run by the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers in Camden, NJ that was able to reduce health care costs in a target “super-utilizer” population.

- **Sec. 4 Program on provision of case management for formerly homeless veterans and veterans at risk of becoming homeless.**
 - Requires VA to carry out program to increase housing stability and retention by providing grants to community organizations that provide after-care to formerly homeless veterans. Priority would be given to organizations with a demonstrated capability to provide these services, particularly to current per diem grantees and those who decide to convert their transitional housing programs into permanent housing for homeless veterans. This provision would allow communities that are reaching critical junctures in the fight to end homelessness to repurpose existing transitional housing capacity for more pressing needs, such as permanent housing opportunities for veterans.

- **Sec. 5 Expansion of housing assistance program of Department of Veterans Affairs.**
 - Modifies VA's acquired property sales for homeless veterans program to allow approved organizations to acquire discount properties from VA's foreclosure inventory for the purpose of increasing the housing stability of veterans who are very low-income, at-risk of becoming homeless, or homeless.

- **Sec. 6 Outreach relating to increasing the amount of housing available to veterans.**
 - Requires VA to collaborate with HUD, Housing Authorities, tribally designated housing entities, and other entities such as realtors, landlords, property managers and developers to encourage more landlords to rent to veterans.

- **Sec. 7 Establishment of National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans.**
 - Codifies the VA's National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans to ensure its continued role in researching the most effective and least costly approaches to ending veteran homelessness and disseminating them to the field.

- **Sec. 8 Administrative improvements to grant and per diem programs of Department of Veterans Affairs**
 - Requires VA to set national performance targets with regard to the permanent housing placement rate and income increase rate for per diem grantees and only renew grants for grantees with successful performance in comparison to these performance targets.