

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6332

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve long-term care provided to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2021

Mr. KILMER (for himself and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve long-term care provided to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Planning for Aging
5 Veterans Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY FOR LONG-TERM CARE FOR AGING VET-**
7 **ERANS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall develop a strategy for the long-term care of veterans.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under sub-
2 section (a) shall—

3 (1) identify current and future needs for the
4 long-term care of veterans based on demographic
5 data and availability of services both from Depart-
6 ment of Veterans Affairs and from non-Department
7 providers in the community, include other Federal
8 Government, non-Federal Government, nonprofit, for
9 profit, and other entities;

10 (2) identify the current and future needs of vet-
11 erans for both institutional and non-institutional
12 long-term care (for example, home-based and com-
13 munity-based services), taking into account the
14 needs of growing veteran population groups, includ-
15 ing women veterans, veterans with traumatic brain
16 injury, veterans with memory loss, and other popu-
17 lation groups with unique needs; and

18 (3) address new and different care delivery
19 models, including by—

20 (A) assessing the implications of such mod-
21 els for the design of facilities and how those fa-
22 cilities may need to change;

23 (B) examining the workforce needed to
24 support aging populations of veterans as they

1 grow and receive long-term care through dif-
2 ferent trends of care delivery; and

3 (C) considering the feasibility and advis-
4 ability of implementing a veteran-focused inde-
5 pendent provider model for non-institutional
6 care.

7 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
9 to Congress a report on the strategy developed under sub-
10 section (a).

11 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT OF STATE VETERANS HOMES.**

12 (a) STANDARDIZED SHARING AGREEMENTS.—The
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a standardized
14 process throughout the Department of Veterans Affairs
15 for entering into sharing agreements between State homes
16 and medical centers of the Department.

17 (b) PROVISION OF MEDICATION TO CATASTROPH-
18 ICALLY DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 1745(b) of title
19 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
20 the following new paragraph:

21 “(3) Any veteran who has been determined by
22 the Secretary to be catastrophically disabled, as de-
23 fined in section 17.36(e) of title 38, Code of Federal
24 Regulations, or successor regulations, and on whose
25 behalf the Secretary is paying a per diem for nurs-

1 ing home or domiciliary care in a State home under
2 this chapter.”.

3 (c) OVERSIGHT OF INSPECTIONS.—

4 (1) MONITORING.—The Secretary shall monitor
5 any contractor used by the Department to conduct
6 inspections of State homes, including by reviewing
7 the inspections conducted by each such contractor
8 for quality not less frequently than quarterly.

9 (2) REPORTING OF DEFICIENCIES.—The Sec-
10 retary shall require that any deficiencies of a State
11 home noted during the inspection of the State home
12 be reported to the Secretary.

13 (3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary shall pub-
14 lish the results of any inspection of a State home,
15 and any associated corrective actions planned by the
16 State home, on a publicly available internet website
17 of the Department.

18 (d) STATE HOME DEFINED.—In this section, the
19 term “State home” has the meaning given that term in
20 section 101(19) of title 38, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 4. GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY PILOT PROGRAM AT**
22 **STATE VETERANS HOMES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
25 erans Affairs shall commence the conduct of a pilot pro-

1 gram under which the Secretary shall provide geriatric
2 psychiatry assistance to eligible veterans at State homes.

3 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
4 pilot program under this section for a two-year period.

5 (c) TYPE OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance provided
6 under the pilot program under this section may include—

7 (1) direct provision of geriatric psychiatry serv-
8 ices, including health care if feasible;

9 (2) payments to non-Department of Veterans
10 Affairs providers in the community to provide such
11 services;

12 (3) collaboration with other Federal agencies to
13 provide such services; or

14 (4) such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
15 retary considers appropriate.

16 (d) CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL AREA NEEDS.—In
17 providing assistance under the pilot program under this

18 section, the Secretary shall consider the geriatric psychi-
19 atry needs of the local area, including by considering—

20 (1) State homes with a high proportion of resi-
21 dents with unmet mental health needs;

22 (2) State homes located in mental health care
23 health professional shortage areas designated under
24 section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42
25 U.S.C. 254e); or

1 (3) State homes located in rural or highly rural
2 areas.

3 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “State
4 home” and “veteran” have the meanings given those
5 terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR AGING VETERANS AT RISK OF OR EX-**
7 **PERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall work with public housing authorities and local orga-
10 nizations to assist aging homeless veterans in accessing
11 existing housing and supportive services, including health
12 services like home-based and community-based services
13 from the Department of Veterans Affairs or from non-De-
14 partment providers in the community.

15 (b) PAYMENT FOR SERVICES.—The Secretary may,
16 and is encouraged to, pay for services for aging homeless
17 veterans described in subsection (a).

○