

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 8

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, 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 “Preserving Our Com-
5 mitment to Homeless Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STAFFING OF PROGRAM MANAGERS FOR SUP-**
2 **PORTED HOUSING PROGRAM OF DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) STAFFING.—Section 2003(b) of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

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

7 and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraph:

10 “(2) The Secretary shall provide case management
11 support whenever requested by a local housing authority
12 under the supported housing program administered under
13 such section.

14 “(3)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the
15 Secretary shall ensure that in each fiscal year no case
16 manager is concurrently assigned to more than 35 vet-
17 erans under this subsection.

18 “(B) The Secretary may waive the requirement of
19 subparagraph (A) for a particular case manager in a par-
20 ticular fiscal year as the Secretary considers appropriate.

21 “(C) Not less frequently than once each fiscal year,
22 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the
23 waivers made by the Secretary under subparagraph (B)
24 in the previous fiscal year. Each report shall include a de-
25 scription of the circumstances under which each waiver
26 was made.

1 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that each veteran to
2 whom a case manager is assigned under this subsection
3 is located within such distance of the case manager as the
4 Secretary considers reasonable.

5 “(5)(A) In any case in which a position within the
6 Veterans Health Administration for a case manager de-
7 scribed in paragraph (1) is vacant for a period of 180 days
8 or more, the Secretary shall seek to enter into a contract
9 with a local service provider with knowledge and expertise
10 applicable to a case manager in such position to furnish
11 the case management services that would otherwise be
12 provided by a case manager in such position.

13 “(B) The requirement in subparagraph (A) to seek
14 to enter into a contract shall cease to apply if the Sec-
15 retary fills the vacancy referred to in such subpara-
16 graph.”.

17 (b) LIMITATION ON CONVERSION OF FUNDS.—The
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not convert any of the
19 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in a fis-
20 cal year to carry out section 8(o)(19) of the United States
21 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) from a
22 specific purpose program to a general purpose program
23 unless the Secretary included a proposal to do so in the
24 budget justification materials submitted to Congress in
25 support of the Department of Veterans Affairs budget for

1 such fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the
2 President for such fiscal year under section 1105(a) of
3 title 31, United States Code).

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