

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4035

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself and Mr. NADLER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, 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 “Real Justice for Our
5 Veterans Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO VETERANS COURT TREATMENT**
2 **PROGRAMS FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MI-**
3 **NORITIES AND WOMEN.**

4 Section 2991(i)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
5 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(2)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the
9 end;

10 (B) in clause (iii), by striking the period at
11 the end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(iv) include a description of a pro-
14 posal to implement a process to ensure
15 that racial and ethnic minorities and
16 women have equal access to the program,
17 and an equal opportunity to complete the
18 program, including by collecting and ana-
19 lyzing data related to admission in the pro-
20 gram and completion of the program, to
21 ensure there are not disparities related to
22 race, ethnicity, or sex.”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
25 after the date of enactment of this subpara-
26 graph, the Attorney General shall submit to

1 Congress a report on the effectiveness of vet-
2 erans treatment court programs. In preparing
3 such report, the Attorney General shall conduct
4 a national multi-site evaluation of such pro-
5 grams, including an assessment of—

6 “(i) the population served by such
7 programs;

8 “(ii) whether such programs use evi-
9 dence-based treatments for substance use
10 and mental health, including medication
11 for addiction treatment;

12 “(iii) recidivism rates of participants
13 in such programs; and

14 “(iv) program completion rates.”.

15 **SEC. 3. VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM ON PROMISING RETEN-**
16 **TION MODELS.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting
18 through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance,
19 shall carry out a pilot program—

20 (1) to provide training and technical support to
21 local and State conviction review entities; and

22 (2) to make grants to eligible units of local gov-
23 ernment to improve retention in a veterans treat-
24 ment court program (as such term is defined in sec-
25 tion 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe

1 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)) and drug
2 courts.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—In order to be eligible for a grant
4 under subsection (a)(2), a unit of local government shall
5 operate a veterans treatment court program or a drug
6 court.

7 (c) APPLICATION.—A unit of local government seek-
8 ing a grant through the pilot program under subsection
9 (a)(2) shall submit to the Attorney General an application
10 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
11 mation as the Attorney General may reasonably require,
12 and shall contain, including—

13 (1) a description of the therapy model that they
14 plan to implement and data to support the use of
15 the therapy model, including information showing
16 how the therapy will promote retention in and com-
17 pletion of veterans treatment court programs; and

18 (2) detailed plans on how the applicant would
19 test the efficacy of the therapy program.

20 (d) REPORTING METRICS.—Not later than 180 days
21 after receiving a grant under subsection (a)(2), a unit of
22 local government shall submit to the Attorney General a
23 report, which includes demographic information of partici-
24 pants in the veterans treatment court program and com-
25 pletion rates of such participants. The Attorney General

1 shall develop guidelines for the report required under this
2 subsection.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of fis-
5 cal years 2022 through 2027 to carry out this section.

6 **SEC. 4. ADMISSION OF VETERANS TO DRUG COURTS.**

7 In the case of a jurisdiction that does not operate
8 a veterans treatment court program (as such term is de-
9 fined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and
10 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)), but that
11 does operate a drug court under part EE of the Omnibus
12 Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C.
13 10611 et seq.), a veteran who would be eligible to partici-
14 pate in a veterans treatment court program may partici-
15 pate in the drug court, including a veteran who is a violent
16 offender (as such term is defined in section 2953(a) of
17 the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968
18 (34 U.S.C. 10613(a))).

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