

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5213

To direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans.

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 “Justice Involved Vet-  
5 erans Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Approximately 181,000 veterans are incar-  
2           cerated in the United States.

3           (2) More than half of all veterans involved in  
4           the criminal justice system suffer from a mental  
5           health condition or substance abuse disorder.

6           (3) Such veterans may be at a greater risk for  
7           suicide.

8           (4) Veterans released from incarceration have  
9           specialized needs and face different issues relating to  
10          reentry into society.

11 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE DOCUMENTATION OF**  
12 **INCARCERATED VETERANS.**

13          (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Attorney General, in  
14 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall  
15 carry out a pilot program to provide grants and technical  
16 assistance to State prisons and local jails to improve docu-  
17 mentation of whether inmates of such institutions are vet-  
18 erans.

19          (b) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of the pilot program  
20 are the following:

21               (1) To assist the Secretary in providing benefits  
22               to incarcerated veterans under laws administered by  
23               the Secretary.

1           (2) To assist veterans affairs offices of States  
2           in providing benefits to incarcerated veterans under  
3           laws administered by such offices.

4           (3) To increase the number of veterans involved  
5           in the criminal justice system whose cases are di-  
6           verted to veterans treatment courts.

7           (c) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under  
8           the pilot program, the Attorney General shall give priority  
9           to State prisons and local jails located in—

10           (1) States that contain the greatest populations  
11           of veterans per capita;

12           (2) States with the highest rates of veterans liv-  
13           ing in poverty; and

14           (3) jurisdictions that contain a veterans treat-  
15           ment court or veterans diversion program.

16           (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “vet-  
17           erans treatment court” and “veterans diversion program”  
18           mean a State or local court that is participating in the  
19           veterans treatment court program (as defined in section  
20           2991(i)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets  
21           Act of 1968; 34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(1)).

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