

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 251

To transfer the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Office of the Secretary, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2015

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. HONDA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAHN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To transfer the position of Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to the Office of the Secretary, 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 “Homes for Heroes Act
5 of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS IN**
2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN**
3 **DEVELOPMENT.**

4 (a) TRANSFER OF POSITION TO OFFICE OF THE SEC-
5 RETARY.—Section 4 of the Department of Housing and
6 Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(h) SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR VETERANS AF-
9 FAIRS.—

10 “(1) POSITION.—There shall be in the Office of
11 the Secretary a Special Assistant for Veterans Af-
12 fairs, who shall report directly to the Secretary.

13 “(2) APPOINTMENT.—The Special Assistant for
14 Veterans Affairs shall be appointed based solely on
15 merit and shall be covered under the provisions of
16 title 5, United States Code, governing appointments
17 in the competitive service.

18 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special Assist-
19 ant for Veterans Affairs shall be responsible for—

20 “(A) ensuring veterans have fair access to
21 housing and homeless assistance under each
22 program of the Department providing either
23 such assistance;

24 “(B) coordinating all programs and activi-
25 ties of the Department relating to veterans;

1 “(C) serving as a liaison for the Depart-
2 ment with the Department of Veterans Affairs,
3 including establishing and maintaining relation-
4 ships with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

5 “(D) serving as a liaison for the Depart-
6 ment, and establishing and maintaining rela-
7 tionships with the United States Interagency
8 Council on Homelessness and officials of State,
9 local, regional, and nongovernmental organiza-
10 tions concerned with veterans;

11 “(E) providing information and advice re-
12 garding—

13 “(i) sponsoring housing projects for
14 veterans assisted under programs adminis-
15 tered by the Department; or

16 “(ii) assisting veterans in obtaining
17 housing or homeless assistance under pro-
18 grams administered by the Department;

19 “(F) coordinating with the Secretary of
20 Housing and Urban Development and the Sec-
21 retary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out sec-
22 tion 3 of the Homes for Heroes Act of 2015;
23 and

1 “(G) carrying out such other duties as may
2 be assigned to the Special Assistant by the Sec-
3 retary or by law.”.

4 (b) **TRANSFER OF POSITION IN OFFICE OF DEPUTY**
5 **ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.**—On the
6 date that the initial Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs
7 is appointed pursuant to section 4(h)(2) of the Depart-
8 ment of Housing and Urban Development Act, as added
9 by subsection (a) of this section, the position of Special
10 Assistant for Veterans Programs in the Office of the Dep-
11 uty Assistant Secretary for Special Needs of the Depart-
12 ment of Housing and Urban Development shall be termi-
13 nated.

14 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON VETERANS**
15 **HOMELESSNESS.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Housing and
17 Urban Development and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
18 fairs, in coordination with the United States Interagency
19 Council on Homelessness, shall submit annually to the
20 Committees of the Congress specified in subsection (b),
21 together with the annual reports required by such Secre-
22 taries under section 203(c)(1) of the McKinney-Vento
23 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11313(c)(1)), a sup-
24 plemental report that includes the following information
25 with respect to the preceding year:

1 (1) The same information, for such preceding
2 year, that was included with respect to 2010 in the
3 report by the Secretary of Housing and Urban De-
4 velopment and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs en-
5 titled “Veterans Homelessness: A Supplemental Re-
6 port to the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Re-
7 port to Congress”.

8 (2) Information regarding the activities of the
9 Department of Housing and Urban Development re-
10 lating to veterans during such preceding year, as fol-
11 lows:

12 (A) The number of veterans provided as-
13 sistance under the housing choice voucher pro-
14 gram for Veterans Affairs supported housing
15 (VASH) under section 8(o)(19) of the United
16 States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
17 1437f(o)(19)), the socioeconomic characteristics
18 of such homeless veterans, and the number,
19 types, and locations of entities contracted under
20 such section to administer the vouchers.

21 (B) A summary description of the special
22 considerations made for veterans under public
23 housing agency plans submitted pursuant to
24 section 5A of the United States Housing Act of
25 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437e–1) and under com-

1 prehensive housing affordability strategies sub-
2 mitted pursuant to section 105 of the Cranston-
3 Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42
4 U.S.C. 12705).

5 (C) A description of the activities of the
6 Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs of the
7 Department of Housing and Urban Develop-
8 ment.

9 (D) A description of the efforts of the De-
10 partment of Housing and Urban Development
11 and the other members of the United States
12 Interagency Council on Homelessness to coordi-
13 nate the delivery of housing and services to vet-
14 erans.

15 (E) The cost to the Department of Hous-
16 ing and Urban Development of administering
17 the programs and activities relating to veterans.

18 (F) Any other information that the Sec-
19 retary of Housing and Urban Development and
20 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs consider rel-
21 evant in assessing the programs and activities
22 of the Department of Housing and Urban De-
23 velopment relating to veterans.

24 (b) COMMITTEES.—The Committees of the Congress
25 specified in this subsection are as follows:

1 (1) The Committee on Banking, Housing, and
2 Urban Affairs of the Senate.

3 (2) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
4 Senate.

5 (3) The Committee on Appropriations of the
6 Senate.

7 (4) The Committee on Financial Services of the
8 House of Representatives.

9 (5) The Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
10 House of Representatives.

11 (6) The Committee on Appropriations of the
12 House of Representatives.

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