

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 151

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 25, 2005

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual plan on outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Veterans Benefits Out-
5 reach Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL PLAN ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**

7 (a) ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED.—Subchapter II of
8 chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
9 inserting after section 523 the following new section:

1 **“§ 523A. Annual plan on outreach activities**

2 “(a) ANNUAL PLAN REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
3 prepare each year a plan for the outreach activities of the
4 Department for the following year.

5 “(b) ELEMENTS.—Each annual plan under sub-
6 section (a) shall include the following:

7 “(1) Plans for efforts to identify veterans who
8 are not enrolled or registered with the Department
9 for benefits or services under the programs adminis-
10 tered by the Secretary.

11 “(2) Plans for informing veterans and their de-
12 pendents of modifications of the benefits and serv-
13 ices under the programs administered by the Sec-
14 retary, including eligibility for medical and nursing
15 care and services.

16 “(c) COORDINATION IN DEVELOPMENT.—In devel-
17 oping an annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary
18 shall consult with the following:

19 “(1) Directors or other appropriate officials of
20 organizations recognized by the Secretary under sec-
21 tion 5902 of this title.

22 “(2) Directors or other appropriate officials of
23 State and local education and training programs.

24 “(3) Representatives of non-governmental orga-
25 nizations that carry out veterans outreach programs.

1 “(4) Representatives of State and local veterans
2 employment organizations.

3 “(5) Businesses and professional organizations.

4 “(6) Other individuals and organizations that
5 assist veterans in adjusting to civilian life.

6 “(d) INCORPORATION OF ASSESSMENT OF PREVIOUS
7 ANNUAL PLANS.—In developing an annual plan under
8 subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into account the
9 lessons learned from the implementation of previous an-
10 nual plans under such subsection.

11 “(e) INCORPORATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IM-
12 PROVE OUTREACH AND AWARENESS.—In developing an
13 annual plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall in-
14 corporate the recommendations for the improvement of
15 veterans outreach and awareness activities included in the
16 report submitted to Congress by the Secretary pursuant
17 to section 805 of the Veterans Benefits Improvement Act
18 of 2004 (Public Law 108–454).”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
20 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
21 after the item relating to section 523 the following new
22 item:

“523A. Annual plan on outreach activities.”.

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