and to grant and per diem providers for the development of programs targeted at meeting the mental health needs of homeless veterans; (2) require certain officials to initiate a plan for joint outreach to veterans at risk of homelessness; (3) carry out two treatment trials for unmet mental health service delivery; (4) ensure that each Department primary care facility has a mental health treatment capacity; and (5) carry out a program of transitional assistance grants to eligible homeless veterans; and (6) make technical assistance grants to aid nonprofit community-based groups in applying for homeless program grants.

e. Extends through FY 2006 the homeless veterans reintegration program.


- a. Modifies the VA Employee Incentive Scholarship Program and Debt Reduction Program;
- b. Mandates that VA provide Saturday premium pay to title 5 title 38 hybrids;
- c. Requires VA’s use of authority to request waivers of the pay reduction for re-employed annuitants;
- d. Gives VA nurses enrolled in the Federal Employees Retirement System the same ability to use unused sick leave as part of the retirement year calculation that VA nurses enrolled in the Civilian Retirement System have;
- e. Requires an evaluation of nurse-managed clinic, including primary care and geriatric clinics;
- f. Requires VA to develop a nationwide policy on staffing standards to ensure that veterans are provided with safe and high quality care. Such staffing standards should consider the numbers and skill mix required of staff in specific medical settings (such as critical care and long-term care);
- g. Requires a report on the use of mandatory overtime by licensed nursing staff and nursing assistants in each facility;
- h. Elevates the office of the Nurse Consultant so that person shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Health;
- i. Exempts registered nurses, physician assistants, and expanded-function dental auxiliary from the requirement that part-time service to the United States end on April 7, 1993 or pro-rated when calculating retirement annuities;
- j. Requires a report on VA’s nurse qualification standards;
- k. Makes technical clarifications to the nurse locality pay authorities.

S. 1160: Authorizes VA to provide certain hearing-impaired veterans and veterans with spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in addition to blind veterans, with service dogs to assist them with everyday activities. Sponsors: Senators Rockefeller.

S. 1042: Provides that within the limits of Department facilities, VA shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and medical services to the United States military veterans and new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as provided for under section 1710 of title 38 USC. Also authorizes VA to furnish care and services to the same veterans for the treatment of the service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities of such veterans and scouts residing in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic. Sponsor: Senator Inouye.

S. Res. 61: Expresses the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should, for the payment of special pay by the Veterans Health Administration, recognize board certifications from the American Association of Physician Specialists. In the same manner that the Secretary recognizes board certification from the American Board of Osteopathic Specialists. Sponsor: Senator Rockefeller.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDENT pro forma. Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations, Calendar Nos. 202, 211, 212, 236 through 240, 242, 243, and 244: that the HELP Committee be discharged from consideration of the following nominations: Laurie Rich, Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; John Hess, Assistant Secretary for Veterans Affairs; Robert Pasternak, Assistant Secretary for Special Education; Joanne Wilson, Commissioner for Rehabilitation Services Administration; Carl D'Amico, Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education; Cari Dominguez, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- Susan Morrissey Livingstone, of Montana, to be Under Secretary of the Navy.
- Alberto Jose Mora, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Navy.
- Stephen A. Cambone, of Virginia, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Kevin Kane, of Wisconsin, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- William Henry Lash, III, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- Brian Carlton Roseboro, of New Jersey, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- Allen Frederick Johnson of Iowa, to be Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- Allan Rutter, of Texas, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- Samuel W. Bodman, of Massachusetts, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- Mark B. McClelland, of California, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers.