

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4035

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 28, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Real Justice for Our
3 Veterans Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. EQUAL ACCESS TO VETERANS COURT TREATMENT**
5 **PROGRAMS FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MI-**
6 **NORITIES AND WOMEN.**

7 Section 2991(i)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and
8 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(2)) is
9 amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
11 after the date of enactment of this subpara-
12 graph, the Attorney General shall submit to
13 Congress a report on the effectiveness of vet-
14 erans treatment court programs. In preparing
15 such a report, the Attorney General shall con-
16 duct a national multi-site evaluation of such
17 programs, including an assessment of—

18 “(i) the population served by such
19 programs;

20 “(ii) whether such programs use evi-
21 dence-based treatments for substance use
22 and mental health, including medication
23 for addiction treatment;

24 “(iii) recidivism rates of participants
25 in such programs;

26 “(iv) program completion rates; and

“(v) whether racial and ethnic minorities and women have equal access to such programs and an equal opportunity to complete such programs, including by collecting and analyzing data related to admission in such programs and completion of such programs, to ensure there are not disparities related to race, ethnicity, or sex.”.

SEC. 3. VETERANS PILOT PROGRAM ON PROMISING RETENTION MODELS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, shall carry out a pilot program to make grants to eligible units of local government to improve retention in veterans treatment court programs (as such term is defined in section 2991 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651)) and drug court programs.

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

(c) APPLICATION.—A unit of local government seeking a grant through the pilot program under subsection (a) shall submit to the Attorney General an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-

1 mation as the Attorney General may reasonably require,
2 including—

3 (1) a description of the therapeutic or treat-
4 ment modality that the unit of local government
5 plans to implement and data to support the use of
6 the therapeutic or treatment modality, including in-
7 formation showing how the therapeutic or treatment
8 modality will promote retention in and completion of
9 veterans treatment court programs and drug court
10 programs; and

11 (2) detailed plans on how the applicant would
12 test the efficacy of the therapeutic or treatment mo-
13 dality.

14 (d) REPORTING METRICS.—Not later than 180 days
15 after receiving a grant under subsection (a), a unit of local
16 government shall submit to the Attorney General a report,
17 which includes demographic information of participants in
18 the veterans treatment court program, and completion
19 rates of such participants. The Attorney General shall de-
20 velop guidelines for the report required under this sub-
21 section.

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

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

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

Passed the House of Representatives October 27,
2021.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.