

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4609

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain misconduct and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to notify local law enforcement agencies of allegations of a missing patient or of certain misconduct and to enable such agencies to investigate such allegations.

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 Personal Se-  
5       curity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NOTIFICATION TO AND INVESTIGATION BY LOCAL**  
2 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF REPORTS**  
3 **OF A MISSING PATIENT OR OF CERTAIN MIS-**  
4 **CONDUCT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
5 **AFFAIRS MEDICAL FACILITIES.**

6 Chapter 9 of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 906. Notification to and investigation by local law**  
9 **enforcement agencies of reports of a**  
10 **missing patient or of certain misconduct**

11 “(a) If the Department receives notice of a reportable  
12 allegation described in subsection (b), the Secretary—

13 “(1) shall provide notice of such allegation to  
14 appropriate local law enforcement agencies—

15 “(A) immediately; and

16 “(B) in writing within 48 hours;

17 “(2) shall provide, to any appropriate local law  
18 enforcement agency conducting an independent in-  
19 vestigation of such allegation, access to the Depart-  
20 ment medical facility as the agency reasonably re-  
21 quires; and

22 “(3) shall not impede or impair any appropriate  
23 local law enforcement agency from conducting an  
24 independent investigation of such allegation.

1 “(b) A reportable allegation described in this sub-  
2 section is an allegation that any of the following has oc-  
3 curred at a Department medical facility:

4 “(1) A patient is missing.

5 “(2) A patient or staff member has caused  
6 physical abuse or battery to a patient or staff mem-  
7 ber.

8 “(3) A patient or staff member has unlawfully  
9 possessed or used a controlled substance.

10 “(4) A rape or any other felony or indictable of-  
11 fense has been committed.”.

12 **SEC. 3. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

13 The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 9  
14 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
15 the end the following new item:

“906. Notification to and investigation by local law enforcement agencies of re-  
ports of a missing patient or of certain misconduct.”.

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