

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2518

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for consolidation and improvement of programs to assist homeless veterans, to provide for management by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the Military Personnel Records facility of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for consolidation and improvement of programs to assist homeless veterans, to provide for management by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of the Military Personnel Records facility of the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri, 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 “Veterans Affairs Reor-  
3 ganization Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO**  
5 **MANAGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR HOME-**  
6 **LESS VETERANS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—Chapter 3 of title  
8 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end  
9 the following new section:

10 **“§ 320. Office of Homeless Veterans Assistance Pro-**  
11 **grams**

12 “(a) There is in the Department an Office of Home-  
13 less Veterans Assistance Programs. There is at the head  
14 of the Office a Director.

15 “(b) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law  
16 or by the Secretary, the Secretary shall carry out through  
17 the Director all functions of the Secretary under chapter  
18 20 of this title and under any other program of the De-  
19 partment for the provision of assistance to homeless vet-  
20 erans.

21 “(c) As part of the annual report on assistance to  
22 homeless veterans required under section 2065 of this title  
23 for years beginning with 2004, the Secretary shall include  
24 a description of any function referred to in subsection (b)  
25 that the Secretary has determined (during the year in-

1 volved) to carry out other than through the Director, and  
2 the rationale for that determination.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
5 at the end the following new item:

“320. Office of Homeless Veterans Assistance Programs.”.

6 **SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF HOMELESS VETERAN REINTEGRA-**  
7 **TION PROGRAM FROM DEPARTMENT OF**  
8 **LABOR TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
9 **FAIRS.**

10 (a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the  
11 Secretary of Labor under section 2021 of title 38, United  
12 States Code, are hereby transferred to the Secretary of  
13 Veterans Affairs.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2021 of  
15 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking “of Labor” each place it appears  
17 in subsection (a), (b), and (d);

18 (2) by striking “that Secretary” in subsection  
19 (b)(1) and inserting “the Secretary”; and

20 (3) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the  
21 following:

22 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry  
23 out this section through the Office of Homeless Veterans  
24 Assistance Programs.”.

1 **SEC. 4. TRANSFER OF OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR**  
2 **MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS FACILITY**  
3 **OF NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CEN-**  
4 **TER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Archivist of the United  
6 States shall transfer operational responsibility (including  
7 the management and supervision of the delivery of serv-  
8 ices) for the Military Personnel Records facility of the Na-  
9 tional Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, to  
10 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

11 (b) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—The Archivist  
12 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a  
13 memorandum of agreement as to the manner in which  
14 subsection (a) shall be carried out.

15 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The memorandum of agree-  
16 ment under subsection (b) shall be entered into not later  
17 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The transfer required by  
19 subsection (a) shall be carried out as soon as practicable  
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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