

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4428

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain the existing capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide specialized services to disabled veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 1994

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to maintain the existing capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide specialized services to disabled veterans.

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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SPECIAL-**
4 **IZED TREATMENT CAPACITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Chapter 73 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 7318
7 the following new section:

1 **“§ 7319. Specialized treatment services: preservation**
2 **of Department capacities**

3 “(a) The Secretary shall ensure that the Department
4 maintains the capacity to provide for the specialized treat-
5 ment and rehabilitative needs of disabled veterans (includ-
6 ing veterans with spinal cord dysfunction, blindness, and
7 mental illness) within distinct programs or facilities of the
8 Department that are dedicated to the specialized needs of
9 those veterans in a manner that affords those veterans
10 reasonable access to care and services for those specialized
11 needs.

12 “(b) The Secretary shall ensure that overall capacity
13 of the Department to provide such specialized services is
14 not reduced below the capacity of the Department, nation-
15 wide, to provide those services, as of the date of the enact-
16 ment of this section. Nothing in this section precludes the
17 Secretary from expanding the number or type of facilities
18 or programs that provide treatment and rehabilitation
19 services for the specialized needs of such veterans, includ-
20 ing provision of specialized services on an outpatient
21 basis.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
24 after the item relating to section 7318 the following new
25 item:

“7319. Specialized treatment services: preservation of Department capacities.”.

