

S 1177

Veterans Mental Health Care Capacity Enhancement Act of 2005

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Jun 7, 2005

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Provisions of measure incorporated into measure S. 1182, as amended,

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Provisions of measure incorporated into measure S. 1182, as amended, ordered to be reported. (Sep 15, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/1177>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Akaka, Daniel K. [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** HI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 8, 2005
Sen. Salazar, Ken [D-CO]	D · CO		Jun 8, 2005
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 9, 2005
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Jun 9, 2005

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 9, 2005

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 S 1182	Procedurally related	Jan 19, 2006: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Veterans Mental Health Care Capacity Enhancement Act of 2005 - Requires the Under Secretary for Health for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include as goals in performance contracts for prioritizing mental health services to veterans: (1) establishing appropriate staff-patient ratio levels; (2) fostering collaborative environments for providers; and (3) encouraging clinicians to conduct mental health consultations during primary care visits.

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that not less than 90 percent of Department community-based outpatient clinics have the capacity to provide on-site, contract-referral, or tele-mental health services for at least: (1) ten percent of all clinic visits by no later than September 30, 2006; and (2) 15 percent of all clinic visits by no later than September 30, 2007.

Directs the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure interdepartmental cooperation on mental health awareness and mental illness prevention.

Requires the Under Secretary to establish system-wide guidelines for screening primary care patients for mental health disorders and illnesses.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 15, 2005:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Provisions of measure incorporated into measure S. 1182, as amended, ordered to be reported.
- **Jun 9, 2005:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 109-217.
- **Jun 7, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 7, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S6157-6158)
- **Jun 7, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6158-6159)