

## S 1155

### Rural Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Jun 12, 2013

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280. (Oct 30, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/1155>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]

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

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Begich, Mark [D-AK]	D · AK		Jul 31, 2013
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 4, 2013
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 6, 2013
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 31, 2014

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Oct 30, 2013

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 3499	Identical bill	Nov 25, 2013: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Rural Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act - Amends appropriations authorities for veterans' benefits to provide advanced appropriations for information technology relating to medical services, support, compliance, and facilities of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to include, as a component of VHA health-care personnel education and training programs, education and training of marriage and family therapists as well as licensed professional mental health counselors.

Amends the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 to require the Secretary, through VA medical centers, to provide mental health services, including outpatient care, to the immediate families of certain veterans returning from Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Requires the Secretary to report to Congress regarding telemedicine services (the use by a health care provider of telecommunications to assist in the diagnosis or treatment of a patient's medical condition) for veterans, including updates on VA teleconsultation and telemedicine initiatives, training, and partnerships with primary care providers.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Oct 30, 2013:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-280.
- **Jun 12, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 12, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.