

S 852

Veterans' Health Promotion Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Apr 25, 2013

Current Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-203.

Latest Action: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-203. (May 9, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/852>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

Party: Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jun 18, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	May 9, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 3516	Related bill	Jan 24, 2014: Referred to the Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Veterans' Health Promotion Act of 2013 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to designate and operate at least one center of innovation for complementary and alternative medicine in health research, education, and clinical activities in each of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

Directs the Secretary to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of establishing complementary and alternative medicine centers within current VA medical centers in order to promote the use and integration of such services for veterans' mental health diagnoses and pain management. Requires the establishment of at least 15 such centers in 15 different VA medical centers.

Requires the Secretary to establish a three-year pilot program for the award of grants to public or private nonprofit entities to assess the feasibility and advisability of using wellness programs to complement the provision of mental health care to veterans and family members eligible for VA counseling services.

Directs the Secretary to carry out a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of promoting health through the payment of fitness center membership for veterans determined to be overweight or obese and who reside more than 15 minutes' driving distance from a VA fitness facility.

Requires the Secretary to carry out a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability, through the establishment of VA fitness facilities, of promoting the achievement of a healthy weight in veterans enrolled in the VA system of annual patient enrollment. Prohibits the assessment of a user fee for program participants using such facilities.

Directs the Secretary to conduct a comprehensive study of barriers encountered by veterans in receiving complementary and alternative medicine from the VA.

Actions Timeline

- **May 9, 2013:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-203.
- **Apr 25, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 25, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3042-3043)
- **Apr 25, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3043-3045)