

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2605

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 2025

Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HUNT, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CROW, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. MACE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. RULLI, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, Ms. KING-HINDS, and Mr. LALOTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Service Dogs Assisting
5 Veterans Act” or the “SAVES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM TO AWARD GRANTS FOR THE PROVI-**
3 **SION OF SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—

5 (1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later
6 than 24 months after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall es-
8 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
9 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to non-
10 profit entities to provide service dogs to eligible vet-
11 erans.

12 (2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
13 the pilot program during the five-year period begin-
14 ning on the date on which the first grant is awarded
15 under this section.

16 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
18 grant under this section, a nonprofit entity shall
19 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
20 in such manner, and containing such commitments
21 and information as the Secretary may require.

22 (2) ELEMENTS.—An application submitted
23 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

24 (A) A proposal for the provision of service
25 dogs to eligible veterans, including how the non-
26 profit entity will communicate with the Sec-

1 retary to ensure an increasing number of serv-
2 ice dogs are provided to veterans.

3 (B) A description of the following:

4 (i) The training that will be provided
5 by the nonprofit entity to eligible veterans.

6 (ii) The training of dogs that will
7 serve as service dogs.

8 (iii) Any additional support or services
9 the nonprofit entity will provide for such
10 dogs and eligible veterans.

11 (iv) The plan for publicizing the avail-
12 ability of such dogs through a marketing
13 campaign that targets eligible veterans.

14 (v) The commitment of the nonprofit
15 entity to have humane standards for ani-
16 mals.

17 (C) Documentation that demonstrates that
18 the nonprofit entity has experience in training
19 dogs as service animals.

20 (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a
22 grant to each nonprofit entity for which the Sec-
23 retary has approved an application submitted under
24 subsection (b)(1).

1 (2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Before the provi-
2 sion of any grant amounts to a nonprofit entity se-
3 lected to receive a grant under this section, the Sec-
4 retary shall enter into an agreement, containing
5 such terms, conditions, and limitations as the Sec-
6 retary determines appropriate, with such entity.

7 (3) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under
8 this section may not exceed \$2,000,000.

9 (4) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish
10 intervals of payment for the administration of each
11 grant awarded under this section.

12 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under
14 this section shall use the grant amounts to plan, de-
15 velop, implement, or manage (or any combination
16 thereof) one or more programs that provide service
17 dogs to eligible veterans.

18 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Sec-
19 retary may establish a maximum amount for each
20 grant awarded under this section that may be used
21 by the recipient of the grant to cover administrative
22 expenses.

23 (3) OTHER CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—
24 The Secretary may establish other conditions or lim-

1 itations on the use of grant amounts under this sec-
2 tion.

3 (e) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

4 (1) NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION.—A re-
5 cipient of a grant under this section shall—

6 (A) notify each veteran who receives a
7 service dog through such grant that the service
8 dog is being paid for, in whole or in part, by
9 the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

10 (B) inform each such veteran of the bene-
11 fits and services available from the Secretary
12 for the veteran and the service dog.

13 (2) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FEES.—A recipi-
14 ent of a grant under this section may not charge a
15 fee to a veteran receiving a service dog through such
16 grant.

17 (f) VETERINARY INSURANCE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
19 to each veteran who receives a service dog through
20 a grant under this section a commercially available
21 veterinary insurance policy for the service dog.

22 (2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary provides
23 a veterinary insurance policy to a veteran under
24 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall continue to pro-

1 vide the policy to the veteran without regard to the
2 continuation or termination of the pilot program.

3 (g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
4 Secretary may provide training and technical assistance
5 to recipients of grants under this section.

6 (h) OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

8 (A) shall establish such oversight and mon-
9 itoring requirements as the Secretary deter-
10 mines appropriate to ensure that grant amounts
11 awarded under this section are used appro-
12 priately; and

13 (B) may take such actions as the Secretary
14 determines necessary to address any issues
15 identified through the enforcement of such re-
16 quirements.

17 (2) REPORTS AND ANSWERS.—The Secretary
18 may require each recipient of a grant under this sec-
19 tion to provide, in such form as may be prescribed
20 by the Secretary, such reports or answers in writing
21 to specific questions, surveys, or questionnaires as
22 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the
23 pilot program.

24 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
2 eran who has a covered condition=.

3 (2) The term “covered condition” means any of
4 the following:

5 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

6 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
7 other significant mobility issue, including men-
8 tal health mobility.

9 (C) Loss of hearing.

10 (D) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

11 (E) Traumatic brain injury.

12 (F) Any other disability, condition, or di-
13 agnosis for which the Secretary determines,
14 based on medical judgment, that it is optimal
15 for the veteran to manage the disability, condi-
16 tion, or diagnosis, and live independently
17 through the assistance of a service dog.

18 (3) The term “service animal” has the meaning
19 given such term in section 36.104 of title 28, Code
20 of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation).

21 (4) The term “service dog” means any dog that
22 is individually trained to do work or perform tasks
23 that are—

24 (A) for the benefit of a veteran with a cov-
25 ered condition; and

1 (B) directly related to the covered condi-
2 tion of the veteran.

3 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 \$10,000,000 for each of the five consecutive fiscal years
6 following the fiscal year in which the pilot program is es-
7 tablished under subsection (a).

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