

Union Calendar No. 264

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2605

[Report No. 119–310]

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

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. YAKYM, Mrs. SYKES, Ms. MORRISON, Ms. GOODLANDER, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. WIED, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MANNION, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CRANE, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GRAY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BELL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. STRONG, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. EZELL, Mr. BABIN, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 2, 2025]

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 eligi-
ble 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”.*

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

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24 months after the*
 10 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans*
 11 *Affairs shall establish a pilot program under which the Sec-*
 12 *retary shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to non-*
 13 *profit entities to provide service dogs to eligible veterans.*

14 *(b) APPLICATIONS.—*

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

20 *(2) ELEMENTS.—An application submitted*
 21 *under paragraph (1) shall include the following:*

22 *(A) A proposal for the provision of service*
 23 *dogs to eligible veterans, including how the non-*
 24 *profit entity will communicate with the Sec-*
 25 *retary to ensure that the use of the grant funds*

1 *results in an increased number of eligible vet-*
2 *erans who are provided with service dogs.*

3 *(B) A description of the following services*
4 *or commitments to be provided by the nonprofit*
5 *entity:*

6 *(i) The training that will be provided*
7 *to eligible veterans who receive service dogs*
8 *under the pilot program.*

9 *(ii) The training of dogs that will serve*
10 *as service dogs provided to eligible veterans*
11 *under the program.*

12 *(iii) Any support or services other than*
13 *training under clauses (i) and (ii) that will*
14 *be provided for such dogs and eligible vet-*
15 *erans.*

16 *(iv) The plan for publicizing the avail-*
17 *ability of such service dogs through a mar-*
18 *keting campaign that targets eligible vet-*
19 *erans.*

20 *(v) The commitment to humane treat-*
21 *ment standards for service dogs.*

22 *(C) Documentation that demonstrates that*
23 *the nonprofit entity has experience in training*
24 *dogs as service dogs.*

1 (D) *The demonstrated experience of the non-*
2 *profit entity in training service dogs in compli-*
3 *ance with the requirements of the Americans*
4 *with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101*
5 *et seq.).*

6 (c) *AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—If the Secretary ap-*
7 *proves an application submitted by a nonprofit entity*
8 *under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall require the enti-*
9 *ty, as a condition of the receipt of a grant under the pilot*
10 *program to enter into an agreement under which the entity*
11 *agrees to—*

12 (1) *notify each veteran who receives a service dog*
13 *provided using grant funds that the service dog is*
14 *being paid for, in whole or in part, by the Depart-*
15 *ment of Veterans Affairs;*

16 (2) *inform each such veteran of the benefits and*
17 *services available from the Secretary for the veteran*
18 *and the service dog;*

19 (3) *not charge a fee to a veteran receiving a serv-*
20 *ice dog provided using grant funds; and*

21 (4) *adhere to such other terms, conditions, and*
22 *limitations as the Secretary determines appropriate.*

23 (d) *AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make*
24 *a grant in an amount that does not exceed \$2,000,000 to*
25 *each entity that enters into an agreement with the Secretary*

1 *under subsection (c). The Secretary shall establish intervals*
 2 *of payment for the administration of each such grant.*

3 *(e) USE OF FUNDS.—*

4 *(1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under*
 5 *this section shall use the grant to plan, develop, im-*
 6 *plement, and manage one or more programs that pro-*
 7 *vide service dogs to eligible veterans.*

8 *(2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may estab-*
 9 *lish—*

10 *(A) a maximum amount that can be used*
 11 *by a grant recipient to cover administrative ex-*
 12 *penses for each grant awarded under this section;*
 13 *and*

14 *(B) other conditions or limitations on the*
 15 *use of grant amounts under this section.*

16 *(f) VETERINARY INSURANCE.—*

17 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-*
 18 *graph (3), the Secretary may provide to each veteran*
 19 *who receives a service dog through a grant under this*
 20 *section a commercially available veterinary insurance*
 21 *policy for the service dog.*

22 *(2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary provides a*
 23 *veterinary insurance policy to a veteran under para-*
 24 *graph (1), the Secretary shall continue to provide the*
 25 *policy to the veteran without regard to the continu-*

1 *ation or termination of the pilot program, except as*
2 *provided in paragraph (3).*

3 *(3) DISCONTINUATION.—The Secretary shall dis-*
4 *continue the provision of a veterinary insurance pol-*
5 *icy under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines*
6 *doing so would be in the best interest of the veteran,*
7 *the service dog, or the Federal Government.*

8 *(g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Sec-*
9 *retary may provide training and technical assistance re-*
10 *lated to grant application and administration to appli-*
11 *cants for and recipients of grants under this section.*

12 *(h) OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING.—*

13 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—*

14 *(A) shall establish such oversight and moni-*
15 *toring requirements as the Secretary determines*
16 *appropriate to ensure that grant amounts*
17 *awarded under this section are used appro-*
18 *priately; and*

19 *(B) may take such actions as the Secretary*
20 *determines necessary to address any issues iden-*
21 *tified through the enforcement of such require-*
22 *ments.*

23 *(2) REPORTS AND ANSWERS.—The Secretary*
24 *may require each recipient of a grant under this sec-*
25 *tion to provide, in such form as may be prescribed by*

1 *the Secretary, such reports or answers in writing to*
2 *specific questions, surveys, or questionnaires as the*
3 *Secretary determines necessary to carry out the pilot*
4 *program.*

5 *(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

6 *(1) The term “eligible veteran” means a veteran*
7 *who—*

8 *(A) is enrolled in the system of annual pa-*
9 *tient enrollment of the Department of Veterans*
10 *Affairs established and operated under section*
11 *1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, or is oth-*
12 *erwise entitled to receive such care and services*
13 *under subsection (c)(2) of such section;*

14 *(B) has been prescribed a service dog by the*
15 *Secretary; and*

16 *(C) has one or more covered conditions.*

17 *(2) The term “covered condition” means any of*
18 *the following disabilities, conditions, or diagnoses for*
19 *which the Secretary determines, based upon medical*
20 *judgment, that it is optimal for the veteran to man-*
21 *age the disability, condition, or diagnosis and live*
22 *independently through the assistance of a trained*
23 *service dog:*

24 *(A) Blindness or visual impairment.*

1 (B) *Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or*
2 *other significant mobility issue, including men-*
3 *tal health mobility.*

4 (C) *Loss of hearing.*

5 (D) *Post-traumatic stress disorder.*

6 (E) *Traumatic brain injury.*

7 (F) *Any other disability, condition, or diag-*
8 *nosis for which the Secretary determines, based*
9 *on medical judgment, that it is optimal for the*
10 *veteran to manage the disability, condition, or*
11 *diagnosis, and live independently through the as-*
12 *sistance of a service dog.*

13 (3) *The term “service dog” means a dog that is*
14 *individually trained to do work or perform tasks for*
15 *the benefit of an individual with a disability, includ-*
16 *ing a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or*
17 *other mental disability.*

18 (j) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
19 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
20 *\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.*

21 (k) *TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a pilot*
22 *program under this section shall terminate on September*
23 *30, 2031.*

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
2 **PENSION.**

3 *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*
4 *amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting*
5 *“February 28, 2033”.*

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