

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7904

To require the Attorney General to establish a grant program to assist with the medical expenses of qualified working dogs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Mr. JAMES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To require the Attorney General to establish a grant program to assist with the medical expenses of qualified working dogs, 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 “Protecting America’s  
5 Working Dogs Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Department of Defense utilizes ap-  
2           proximately 1,600 military working dogs to protect  
3           our nation and keep United States military per-  
4           sonnel out of harm's way.

5           (2) Military working dogs have played an inte-  
6           gral role in the success of numerous operations and  
7           missions, including the raids which resulted in the  
8           deaths of Osama bin Laden, the founder of al-  
9           Qaeda, and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of  
10          ISIS.

11          (3) Working dogs play a critical role in assist-  
12          ing our Armed Forces and Federal and local law en-  
13          forcement in protecting Americans and defending  
14          freedom at home and abroad.

15          (4) Within the Federal Government, working  
16          dogs assist the U.S. Capitol Police, the Bureau of  
17          Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the  
18          Transportation Security Administration, the Depart-  
19          ment of Defense, U.S. Customs and Border Protec-  
20          tion, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
21          amongst other Federal departments and agencies.

22          (5) Almost all working dogs work in tandem  
23          with our Armed Forces and law enforcement officers  
24          until they are no longer medically able, at which  
25          point they are medically separated.

1           (6) The future of retired working dogs with re-  
2           spect to ownership and provision of medical services  
3           is often unclear after the working dog is retired.

4           (7) The medical treatment required by many  
5           former working dogs is significant enough that it  
6           creates a hardship for the individuals, often former  
7           partners, who take in these canine heroes and be-  
8           come responsible for their medical costs.

9   **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND COVERED MEDICAL EX-**  
10                           **PENSES FOR QUALIFIED WORKING DOGS.**

11           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 fiscal year  
12           after the date of enactment of this Act, and each fiscal  
13           year thereafter for 4 fiscal years, the Attorney General  
14           shall carry out a program under which the Attorney Gen-  
15           eral may award grants, each in amounts not to exceed  
16           \$575,000, to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist with  
17           the covered medical expenses of qualified working dogs.

18           (b) ELIGIBILITY.—A nonprofit organization is eligi-  
19           ble to receive a grant under this section if the organiza-  
20           tion—

21                   (1) primarily exists to care for qualified work-  
22           ing dogs;

23                   (2) provides medically related financial assist-  
24           ance to owners of qualified working dogs;

1           (3) allocates not less than 70 percent of its  
2           spending towards program expenses directly related  
3           to assisting with the covered medical expenses of  
4           qualified working dogs; and

5           (4) separately states the veterinary expenses of  
6           such organization on the Internal Revenue Service  
7           Form 990 filed by such organization with the Inter-  
8           nal Revenue Service.

9           (c) APPLICATION.—To receive a grant under this sec-  
10          tion, a nonprofit organization shall submit to the Attorney  
11          General an application at such time, in such manner, and  
12          containing such information as the Attorney General may  
13          require, including information that demonstrates that the  
14          nonprofit organization meets the eligibility requirements  
15          under subsection (b).

16          (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A recipient of a grant under  
17          this section shall use such grant to pay for covered medical  
18          expenses of qualified working dogs.

19          (e) GRANT AMOUNT REDUCTION.—A grant amount  
20          awarded to an eligible nonprofit organization for a fiscal  
21          year pursuant to this section shall be reduced by an  
22          amount equal to the total amount of unexpended grant  
23          funds awarded under this section in previous fiscal years.

24          (f) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall submit to  
25          Congress a report that details—

1           (1) the number of qualified working dogs as-  
2           sisted pursuant to a grant awarded under this sec-  
3           tion; and

4           (2) the average medical expenses for each quali-  
5           fied working dog assisted pursuant to a grant  
6           awarded under this section.

7           (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

8           (1) the term “covered medical expenses” means  
9           any expenses related to medical treatment and care  
10          of qualified working dogs, including veterinarian of-  
11          fice visits, medical procedures, diagnostic tests, and  
12          medications or medically necessary supplements;

13          (2) the term “qualified working dog” means—

14                (A) a retired dog that worked for the Fed-  
15                eral Government, including the Armed Forces,  
16                to carry out military, security, or law enforce-  
17                ment activity; and

18                (B) a service dog that works for an indi-  
19                vidual who is a veteran or a retired Federal law  
20                enforcement officer; and

21          (3) the term “veteran” has the meaning given  
22          the term in section 101 of title 38, United States  
23          Code.

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