

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1947

To amend chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, to enhance adaptive housing assistance for disabled veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

Mr. SUNUNU (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. PRYOR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code, to enhance adaptive housing assistance for disabled veterans.

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 “Specially Adapted
5 Housing Grants Improvements Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADAPTIVE HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR DISABLED**
2 **VETERANS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN**
3 **HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.**

4 (a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—Chapter 21 of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after sec-
6 tion 2102 the following new section:

7 **“§ 2102A. Assistance for veterans residing tempo-
8 rarily in housing owned by a family mem-
9 ber**

10 “(a) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—If a disabled vet-
11 eran described in subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) of section
12 2101 of this title resides, but does not intend to perma-
13 nently reside, in a residence owned by a member of such
14 veteran’s family, the Secretary may assist the veteran in
15 acquiring such adaptations to such residence as are deter-
16 mined by the Secretary to be reasonably necessary because
17 of the veteran’s disability.

18 “(b) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—
19 Subject to section 2102(d) of this title, the assistance au-
20 thorized under subsection (a) may not exceed—

21 “(1) \$10,000, in the case of a veteran described
22 in section 2101(a)(2) of this title; or
23 “(2) \$2,000, in the case of a veteran described
24 in section 2101(b)(2) of this title.

25 “(c) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF RESIDENCES SUB-
26 JECT TO ASSISTANCE.—A veteran eligible for assistance

1 authorized under subsection (a) may only be provided such
2 assistance with respect to 1 residence.

3 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Assistance under this section
4 shall be provided in accordance with such regulations as
5 the Secretary may prescribe.

6 “(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority
7 to provide assistance under subsection (a) shall expire at
8 the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of en-
9 actment of the Specially Adapted Housing Grants Im-
10 provements Act of 2005.”.

11 (b) LIMITATIONS ON ADAPTIVE HOUSING ASSIST-
12 ANCE.—Section 2102 of such title is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The assist-
14 ance authorized by section 2101(a)” and all that fol-
15 lows through “any one case—” and inserting “Sub-
16 ject to subsection (d), the assistance authorized
17 under section 2101(a) of this title shall be afforded
18 under 1 of the following plans, at the election of the
19 veteran—”;

20 (2) by amending subsection (b) to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(b) Subject to subsection (d), and except as provided
23 in section 2104(b) of this title, the assistance authorized
24 by section 2101(b) of this title may not exceed the actual
25 cost, or in the case of a veteran acquiring a residence al-

1 ready adapted with special features, the fair market value,
2 of the adaptations determined by the Secretary under such
3 section 2101(b) to be reasonably necessary.”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(d)(1) The aggregate amount of assistance available
7 to a veteran under sections 2101(a) and 2102A of this
8 title shall be limited to \$50,000.

9 “(2) The aggregate amount of assistance available to
10 a veteran under sections 2101(b) and 2102A of this title
11 shall be limited to the lesser of—

12 “(A) the sum of the cost or fair market value
13 described in section 2102(b) of this title and the ac-
14 tual cost of acquiring the adaptations described in
15 subsection (a); and

16 “(B) \$10,000.

17 “(3) No veteran may receive more than 3 grants of
18 assistance under this chapter.”.

19 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
20 at the beginning of such chapter of such title is amended
21 by inserting after the item relating to section 2102 the
22 following:

“2102A. Assistance for veterans residing temporarily in housing owned by fam-
ily member.”.

1 **SEC. 3. GAO REPORTS.**

2 (a) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
4 of the United States shall submit to Congress an interim
5 report on the implementation of section 2102A of title 38,
6 United States Code (as added by section 2(a)), by the De-
7 partment of Veterans Affairs.

8 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
10 of the United States shall submit to Congress a final re-
11 port on the implementation of such section 2102A by the
12 Department of Veterans Affairs.

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