

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2702

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program on the provision of assistance to certain military families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 3, 2006

Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program on the provision of assistance to certain military families.

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 “Military Family Assist-
5 ance Act of 2006”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN MILITARY**
7 **FAMILIES.**

8 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense
9 shall carry out a program utilizing non-Federal eligible en-
10 tities to provide assistance to the families of members of

1 the Armed Forces who live more than 180 miles from a
2 military installation where members of the Armed Forces
3 on active duty are stationed.

4 (b) GRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program, the Sec-
6 retary shall award grants to eligible entities de-
7 scribed in subsection (c) for the provision of assist-
8 ance to military families as described in subsection
9 (a).

10 (2) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of
11 any grant awarded under this section may not ex-
12 ceed \$25,000.

13 (3) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GRANTS.—An eligi-
14 ble entity may not be awarded more than three
15 grants this section.

16 (4) APPLICATIONS.—An entity seeking a grant
17 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
18 application therefor containing such information as
19 the Secretary shall require for purposes of this sec-
20 tion.

21 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section,
23 an eligible entity is any nonprofit organization ex-
24 empt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the
25 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 that has the capacity

1 to provide assistance to military families as de-
2 scribed in subsection (a) in a manner that the Sec-
3 retary considers appropriate for purposes of the pro-
4 gram.

5 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An application
6 may not be treated as valid for purposes of this sec-
7 tion unless the eligible entity submitting the applica-
8 tion commits to contribute to activities funded by
9 the grant awarded to the organization under this
10 section an amount equal to the grant amount which
11 is derived from non-Federal sources.

12 (d) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
14 for the review and approval of applications for
15 grants under this section through a board of review
16 consisting of five individuals selected by the Sec-
17 retary from among individuals having the qualifica-
18 tions described in paragraph (2).

19 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An individual selected
20 for the board of review under paragraph (1) shall
21 have at least five years of experience in two of the
22 following areas:

23 (A) Grant writing.

24 (B) The operation of nonprofit organiza-
25 tions identical or similar to eligible entities.

1 (C) Military family support assistance pro-
2 grams.

3 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether
4 to approve an application for a grant under this sec-
5 tion, the board of review shall address the following:

6 (A) Whether the assistance to be provided
7 to military families using the grant amount is
8 appropriate for purposes of the program under
9 this section.

10 (B) The nature of the commitment under
11 subsection (c)(2) of the organization submitting
12 the application.

13 (e) USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving a
15 grant under this section shall use the grant amount,
16 and any amounts committed by the eligible entity
17 under subsection (c)(2), to provide assistance to
18 military families as described in subsection (a) in the
19 manner specified in the application for the grant
20 under this section.

21 (2) LIMITATION.—Amounts under a grant
22 under this section may not be used to purchase,
23 rent, renovate, or construct any facilities.

24 (f) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the obligation of any portion of the amount au-
3 thorized to be appropriated by subsection (i), the
4 Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense
5 committees a report on the program under this sec-
6 tion.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the
8 following:

9 (A) A description of the procedures imple-
10 mented by the Secretary for purposes of the
11 program.

12 (B) A description of the applications sub-
13 mitted under the program, including a descrip-
14 tion of the various types of assistance for mili-
15 tary families proposed to be provided under
16 such applications.

17 (C) A description, current as of the date of
18 the report, of the activities to be funded by
19 grants under the program.

20 (D) A review of the effectiveness of the
21 board of review under subsection (d).

22 (E) An assessment, current as of the date
23 of the report, of the advisability of extending
24 the program or making it permanent.

1 (g) SUNSET.—The program required by this section
2 shall cease upon the earlier of the following:

3 (1) The date of the declaration by the President
4 of the cessation of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

5 (2) The date that is three years after the first
6 obligation of funds for the program under this sec-
7 tion.

8 (h) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
9 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense
10 committees” means—

11 (1) the Committees on Armed Services and Ap-
12 propriations of the Senate; and

13 (2) the Committees on Armed Services and Ap-
14 propriations of the House of Representatives.

15 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Department
17 of Defense for fiscal year 2007, \$10,000,000 for the pur-
18 pose of carrying out the program under this section.

○