

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3266

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida (for himself and Mr. WHITFIELD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on 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

A BILL

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and 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. WOUNDED WARRIOR K-9 CORPS.**

4 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
5 ability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the
6 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall jointly establish a program, to be known as the
8 “Wounded Warrior K-9 Corps”, to award competitive

1 grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organiza-
2 tions in planning, designing, establishing, and operating
3 programs to provide assistance dogs to covered members
4 and veterans.

5 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
7 under this section shall use the grant to carry out
8 programs that provide assistance dogs to covered
9 members and veterans who have a disability de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2).

11 (2) DISABILITY.—A disability described in this
12 paragraph is any of the following:

13 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

14 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
15 other significant mobility issues.

16 (C) Loss of hearing.

17 (D) Traumatic brain injury.

18 (E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

19 (F) Any other disability that the Secretary
20 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
21 fairs consider appropriate.

22 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
23 under this title, a nonprofit organization shall submit an
24 application to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary
25 of Veterans Affairs at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary of Defense and
2 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require. Such appli-
3 cation shall include—

4 (1) a proposal for the evaluation required by
5 subsection (d); and

6 (2) a description of—

7 (A) the training that will be provided by
8 the organization to covered members and vet-
9 erans;

10 (B) the training of dogs that will serve as
11 assistance dogs;

12 (C) the aftercare services that the organi-
13 zation will provide for such dogs and covered
14 members and veterans;

15 (D) the plan for publicizing the availability
16 of such dogs through a targeted marketing
17 campaign to covered members and veterans;

18 (E) the recognized expertise of the organi-
19 zation in breeding and training such dogs;

20 (F) the commitment of the organization to
21 comparable standards as that of the Inter-
22 national Guide Dog Federation or Assistance
23 Dogs International;

24 (G) the commitment of the organization to
25 humane standards for animals; and

1 (H) the experience of the organization with
2 working with military medical treatment facili-
3 ties or medical facilities of the Department of
4 Veterans Affairs.

5 (d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall require each
6 recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made
7 available through the grant to conduct an evaluation of
8 the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the
9 grant by such recipient.

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

11 (1) The term “assistance dog” means a dog
12 specifically trained to perform physical tasks to miti-
13 gate the effects of a disability described in sub-
14 section (b)(2), except that the term does not include
15 a dog specifically trained for comfort or personal de-
16 fense.

17 (2) The term “covered members and veterans”
18 means—

19 (A) with respect to a member of the
20 Armed Forces, such member who is—

21 (i) receiving medical treatment, recu-
22 peration, or therapy under chapter 55 of
23 title 10, United States Code;

24 (ii) in medical hold or medical hold-
25 over status; or

1 (iii) covered under section 1202 or
2 1205 of title 10, United States Code; and
3 (B) with respect to a veteran, a veteran
4 who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
5 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
6 States Code.

7 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
9 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

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