

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3905

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants for the establishment of veterans gardens that are operated by veterans and designed to produce food that can be sold to individuals, schools, and restaurants.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2012

Mr. BACA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to award grants for the establishment of veterans gardens that are operated by veterans and designed to produce food that can be sold to individuals, schools, and restaurants.

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 “Veterans Gardens Em-
5 ployment and Opportunity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS**
7 **GARDENS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) According to the Department of Labor, vet-
2 eran unemployment has increased to more than
3 twice the national average, with disabled veteran un-
4 employment being even higher.

5 (2) Nearly 70 percent of all farmers in the
6 United States are over the age of 55, while only four
7 percent are under the age of 35.

8 (3) It is estimated that the United States will
9 need at least one million new farmers in the next
10 decade to meet the agricultural demands of the
11 United States.

12 (4) Programs that train returning veterans with
13 farming and gardening skills have proven effective at
14 providing employment opportunities for veterans,
15 while also enabling many veterans to become suc-
16 cessful, sustainable farmers.

17 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall
18 award grants to eligible entities for the establishment of
19 gardens that are fully operated by veterans and are de-
20 signed to produce food that can be sold to individuals,
21 schools, and restaurants through farmers markets or oth-
22 erwise.

23 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an
24 eligible entity is a nonprofit organization, corporation, or
25 group of veterans that submits an application containing

1 such information and assurances as the Secretary of Agri-
2 culture may require.

3 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary of Agriculture, after consultation with
5 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall give priority to
6 eligible entities seeking to establish a garden—

7 (1) in a location that is on the grounds of a De-
8 partment of Veterans Affairs medical facility; or

9 (2) at another location that the Secretary of
10 Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of
11 Veterans Affairs, determines is convenient for the
12 transportation of patients of a Department of Vet-
13 erans Affairs medical facility from such facility to
14 the proposed garden at such location for purposes of
15 operating or tending such garden.

16 (e) MATCHING FUNDS.—As a condition of receiving
17 a grant under this section, the Secretary of Agriculture
18 shall require the recipient of the grant to provide funds
19 or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount
20 that is at least equal to the amount provided by the Fed-
21 eral Government.

22 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

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