

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2134

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Mr. BLUMENTHAL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, care, and recognition of military 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 “Canine Members of
5 the Armed Forces Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Each of the Armed Forces and other Gov-
 2 ernment agencies, including the Secret Service, the
 3 Central Intelligence Agency, and the Transportation
 4 Security Administration, use military working dogs
 5 (MWDs) in service to the country.

6 (2) Since September 11, 2011, military working
 7 dogs have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and have
 8 been trained in explosive detection, narcotic detec-
 9 tion, sentry, patrol, tracking, and other specific du-
 10 ties.

11 (3) Military working dogs, through their train-
 12 ing, have prevented injuries and saved the lives of
 13 thousands of United States citizens.

14 (4) Military working dogs perform critical and
 15 varied roles that go far beyond their current des-
 16 ignation as “equipment.”

17 **SEC. 3. RETIREMENT AND ADOPTION OF MILITARY WORK-**
 18 **ING DOGS.**

19 (a) RETIREMENT AND RECLASSIFICATION OF MILI-
 20 TARY WORKING DOGS.—Section 2583 of title 10, United
 21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as
 23 subsection (h) and (i), respectively; and

24 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
 25 lowing new subsections:

1 “(f) CLASSIFICATION OF MILITARY WORKING
 2 DOGS.—The Secretary of Defense shall classify military
 3 working dogs as canine members of the armed forces.
 4 Such dogs shall not be classified as equipment.

5 “(g) TRANSFER OF RETIRED MILITARY WORKING
 6 DOGS.—If the Secretary of the military department con-
 7 cerned determines that a military working dog should be
 8 retired, and no suitable adoption is available at the mili-
 9 tary facility where the dog is located, the Secretary may
 10 transfer the dog—

11 “(1) to the 341st Training Squadron; or
 12 “(2) to another location for adoption under this
 13 section.”.

14 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF FREQUENT TRAVELER
 15 MILES.—Section 2613(d) of such title is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “; or” and
 17 inserting a semicolon;

18 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
 19 the end and inserting “; or”; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new
 21 paragraph:

22 “(3) facilitating the adoption of a military
 23 working dog under section 2583 of this title.”.

1 **SEC. 4. VETERINARY CARE FOR RETIRED MILITARY WORK-**
 2 **ING DOGS.**

3 (a) VETERINARY CARE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 50 of title 10,
 5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 993. Military working dogs: veterinary care for re-**
 8 **tired military working dogs**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
 10 establish and maintain a system to provide for the veteri-
 11 nary care of retired military working dogs.

12 “(b) ELIGIBLE DOGS.—(1) A retired military work-
 13 ing dog eligible for veterinary care under this section is
 14 any military working dog adopted under section 2583 of
 15 this title.

16 “(2) The veterinary care provided a military working
 17 dog under this section shall be provided during the life
 18 of the dog beginning on the date on which the dog is
 19 adopted under such section 2583.

20 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) The Secretary shall ad-
 21 minister the system required by this section under a con-
 22 tract awarded by the Secretary for that purpose.

23 “(2)(A) The contract under this subsection shall be
 24 awarded to a private non-profit entity selected by the Sec-
 25 retary from among such entities submitting an application
 26 therefor that have such experience and expertise as the

1 Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of this sub-
2 section.

3 “(B) An entity seeking the award of a contract under
4 this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an applica-
5 tion therefor in such form, and containing such informa-
6 tion, as the Secretary shall require.

7 “(3) The term of any contract under this subsection
8 shall be such duration as the Secretary shall specify.

9 “(d) STANDARDS OF CARE.—(1) The veterinary care
10 provided under the system required by this section shall
11 meet such standards as the Secretary shall establish and
12 from time to time update.

13 “(2) The standards required by this subsection shall
14 include the following:

15 “(A) Provisions regarding the types of care to
16 be provided to retired military working dogs.

17 “(B) Provisions regarding the entities (includ-
18 ing private veterinarians and entities) qualified to
19 provide the care.

20 “(C) Provisions regarding the facilities, includ-
21 ing military installations, government facilities, and
22 private facilities, in which the care may be provided.

23 “(D) A requirement that complete histories be
24 maintained on the health and use in research of re-
25 tired military working dogs.

1 “(E) Such other matters as the Secretary con-
2 siders appropriate.

3 “(3) The Secretary shall consult with the board of
4 directors of the non-profit private entity awarded the con-
5 tract under subsection (c) in establishing and updating
6 standards of care under this subsection.

7 “(e) COVERAGE OF COSTS.—(1) Except as provided
8 in paragraph (2), any costs of operation and administra-
9 tion of the system required by this section, and of any
10 veterinary care provided under the system, shall be cov-
11 ered by such combination of the following as the Secretary
12 and the non-profit entity awarded the contract under sub-
13 section (c) jointly consider appropriate:

14 “(A) Contributions from the non-profit entity.

15 “(B) Payments for such care by owners or
16 guardians of the retired military working dogs re-
17 ceiving such care.

18 “(C) Other appropriate non-Federal sources of
19 funds.

20 “(2) Funds provided by the Federal Government—

21 “(A) may not be used—

22 “(i) to provide veterinary care under the
23 system required by this section; or

1 “(ii) to pay for the normal operation of the
 2 non-profit entity awarded the contract under
 3 subsection (c); and

4 “(B) may be used to carry out the duties of the
 5 Secretary under subsections (a), (c), (d), and (f).

6 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
 7 regulations for the discharge of the requirements and au-
 8 thorities in this section, including regulations on the
 9 standards of care required by subsection (d).”.

10 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 11 tions at the beginning of chapter 50 of such title is
 12 amended by adding at the end the following new
 13 item:

“993. Military working dogs: veterinary care for retired military working dogs.”.

14 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall
 15 prescribe the regulations required by subsection (f) of sec-
 16 tion 993 of title 10, United States Code (as added by sub-
 17 section (a) of this section), not later than 180 days after
 18 the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 5. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF MILITARY WORKING**
 20 **DOGS.**

21 Section 1125 of title 10, United States Code, is
 22 amended—

23 (1) by inserting “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—
 24 ” before “The Secretary of Defense”; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(b) RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF MILITARY WORK-
4 ING DOGS.—The Secretary of Defense shall create a deco-
5 ration or other appropriate recognition to recognize mili-
6 tary working dogs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
7 that are killed in action or perform an exceptionally meri-
8 torious or courageous act in service to the United States.”.

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