

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2555

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit veterans service organizations to upgrade the community facilities of such organizations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit veterans service organizations to upgrade the community facilities of such organizations.

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 “Veteran Wellness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON TRANSFORMATION OF VET-**
2 **ERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS FACILI-**
3 **TIES INTO VETERAN HEALTH AND WELLNESS**
4 **CENTERS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program under which
8 the Secretary makes grants to nonprofit veterans
9 services organizations (hereinafter in this section re-
10 ferred to as “VSOs”) recognized by the Secretary in
11 accordance with section 5902 of title 38, United
12 States Code, to upgrade, through construction and
13 repair, VSO community facilities into health and
14 wellness centers and to promote and expand com-
15plementary and integrative wellness programs.

16 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant
17 under this section shall use the grant—

18 (A) to carry out the repair of a facility
19 owned by the recipient or to construct a facility
20 on property owned by the recipient; or

21 (B) to provide complementary and integra-
22 tive medicine or wellness programs, to veterans
23 and family members as such term is defined in
24 section 1712A(h)(3) of title 38, United States
25 Code.

1 (3) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The re-
2 recipient of a grant under this section may not use the
3 grant to purchase real estate or to carry out repair
4 of facilities leased by the recipient or to construct fa-
5 cilities on property leased by the recipient.

6 (4) FACILITY OPERATION.—As a condition of
7 the receipt of a grant under this section, a VSO
8 shall agree to carry out the operation and mainte-
9 nance of the facility that is repaired or constructed
10 using grant funds for the three-year period begin-
11 ning on the date of the completion of the repair or
12 construction.

13 (b) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-
14 gram shall be carried out during the two-year period be-
15 ginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot pro-
16 gram.

17 (c) LOCATIONS.—In selecting the recipients of grants
18 under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the
19 grant recipients use grant funds to construct or repair fa-
20 cilities located in at least ten different geographic loca-
21 tions. The Secretary shall give priority to locations in eco-
22 nomically depressed areas that are not in close proximity
23 to Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

24 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
25 under this section, a VSO shall submit to the Secretary

1 an application in such form and in such manner as the
2 Secretary may require.

3 (e) REPORTS.—

4 (1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
6 days after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, and every 180 days thereafter for the du-
8 ration of the pilot program, the Secretary shall
9 submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
10 gram.

11 (B) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Each report re-
12 quired by subparagraph (A) shall include the
13 following:

14 (i) The findings and conclusions of
15 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
16 gram during the 180-day period covered by
17 the report.

18 (ii) An assessment of the benefits of
19 the pilot program to veterans and either
20 family members during the 180-day period
21 covered by the report.

22 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
23 after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Sec-
24 retary shall submit to Congress a report detailing
25 the recommendations of the Secretary as to the ad-

1 visability of continuing or expanding the pilot pro-
2 gram.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums
5 as may be necessary to carry out this section.

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