

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2022

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 27, 2019

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for improvements to the specially adapted housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Paul Benne Specially
5 Adaptive Housing Improvement Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRIORITY IN AWARD OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED**
2 **HOUSING GRANTS TO SERIOUSLY ILL VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2101 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(d) PRIORITY FOR SERIOUSLY ILL VETERANS.—(1)
8 In providing assistance under this section, the Secretary
9 shall give priority to seriously ill veterans.
10 “(2) In this section, the term ‘seriously ill veteran’
11 shall have the meaning given such term by the Sec-
12 retary.”.

13 (b) DEFINITION OF SERIOUSLY ILL VETERAN.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—By not later than 90 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Veterans Affairs shall—

17 (A) determine the meaning of the term
18 “seriously ill veteran” for purposes of sub-
19 section (d) of section 2101 of title 38, United
20 States Code, as added by subsection (a); and

21 (B) submit to the Committees on Veterans’
22 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
23 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representa-
24 tives the meaning of such term as so deter-
25 mined.

1 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The definition of “seri-
 2 ously ill veteran” as determined under paragraph (1)
 3 shall apply for purposes of such subsection (d) be-
 4 ginning on the date that is 30 days after the date
 5 on which the Secretary submits to the Committees
 6 on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of
 7 Representatives the definition of such term as so de-
 8 termined.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 10 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2020, and
 11 apply with respect to assistance provided on or after that
 12 date.

13 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.**

14 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF GRANTS PER VET-
 15 ERAN.—Section 2102(d)(3) of title 38, United States
 16 Code, is amended by striking “three” and inserting “six”.

17 (b) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AU-
 18 THORIZED TO BE APPROVED.—Section 2101(a)(4) of
 19 such title is amended by striking “30 applications” and
 20 inserting “120 applications”.

21 (c) INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE
 22 FOR ADAPTATION TO VETERAN’S RESIDENCE.—Section
 23 2102(b)(2) of such title is amended by striking “\$12,000”
 24 and inserting “\$19,733”.

1 (d) INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSIST-
 2 ANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF HOUSING WITH SPECIAL
 3 FEATURES.—Section 2102(d)(1) of such title is amended
 4 by striking “\$63,780” and inserting “\$98,492”.

5 (e) INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSIST-
 6 ANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS TO VETERANS’ RESIDENCES.—
 7 Section 2102(d)(2) of such title is amended by striking
 8 “\$12,756” and inserting “\$19,733”.

9 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The
 10 amendments made by this section shall take effect on Oc-
 11 tober 1, 2020. The amendments made by subsections (c)
 12 and (d) shall apply with respect to individuals who have
 13 not received the maximum amount of assistance under
 14 section 2101 of title 38, United States Code, before such
 15 date.

16 **SEC. 4. PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF SPE-**
 17 **CIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR**
 18 **CERTAIN VETERANS.**

19 Section 2102 of such title is amended by adding at
 20 the end the following new subsection:

21 “(f)(1) Notwithstanding the aggregate amounts spec-
 22 ified in subsection (d), a covered veteran may apply for
 23 and receive an additional amount of assistance under sub-
 24 section (a) or (b) of section 2101 of this title in an amount

1 that does not exceed half of the amount specified in sub-
2 section (d).

3 “(2) In this subsection, a covered veteran is a veteran
4 who—

5 “(A) is described in section 2101(a)(2) of this
6 title;

7 “(B) first receives assistance under this chapter
8 on or after October 1, 2020;

9 “(C) as of the date of the veteran’s application
10 for assistance under paragraph (1), most recently
11 received assistance under this chapter more than ten
12 years before such date; and

13 “(D) lives in a home that the Secretary deter-
14 mines does not have adaptations that are reasonably
15 necessary because of the veteran’s disability.”.

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