

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3504

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2019

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. LEVIN of California) introduced the following bill; which was 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 “Ryan Kules 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 House of Representa-
23 tives the meaning of such term as so deter-
24 mined.

25 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The definition of “seri-
26 ously ill veteran” as determined under paragraph (1)

1 shall apply for purposes of such subsection (d) be-
2 ginning on the date that is 30 days after the date
3 on which the Secretary submits to the Committees
4 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of
5 Representatives the definition of such term as so de-
6 termined.

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

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

12 (a) INCREASE OF NUMBER OF GRANTS PER VET-
13 ERAN.—Section 2102(d)(3) of such title is amended by
14 striking “three” and inserting “six”.

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

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

23 (d) INCREASE IN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF ASSIST-
24 ANCE FOR ACQUISITION OF HOUSING WITH SPECIAL

1 FEATURES.—Section 2102(d)(1) of such title is amended
2 by striking “\$63,780” and inserting “\$98,492”.

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

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

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

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

19 “(f)(1) Notwithstanding the aggregate amounts spec-
20 ified in subsection (d), a covered veteran may apply for
21 and receive an additional amount of assistance under sub-
22 section (a) or (b) of section 2101 of this title in an amount
23 that does not exceed half of the amount specified in sub-
24 section (d).

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

3 “(A) is described in section 2101(a)(2) of this
4 title;

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

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

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

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