

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2625

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2017

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. COHEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POLIS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CLAY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

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 “Wounded Warrior
5 Service Dog Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. WOUNDED WARRIOR K-9 CORPS.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
3 ability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the
4 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs shall jointly establish a program, to be known as the
6 “K-9 Service Corps Program”, to award competitive
7 grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organiza-
8 tions in the planning, designing, establishing, or operating
9 (or any combination thereof) of programs to provide as-
10 sistance dogs to covered members and veterans.

11 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
13 under this section shall use the grant to carry out
14 programs that provide assistance dogs to covered
15 members and veterans who have a disability de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2).

17 (2) DISABILITY.—A disability described in this
18 paragraph is any of the following:

19 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

20 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
21 other significant mobility issues.

22 (C) Loss of hearing.

23 (D) Traumatic brain injury.

24 (E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

1 (F) Any other disability that the Secretary
2 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
3 fairs consider appropriate.

4 (3) TIMING OF AWARD.—The Secretaries may
5 not award a grant under this section to reimburse
6 a recipient for costs previously incurred by the re-
7 cipient in carrying out a program to provide assist-
8 ance dogs to covered members and veterans unless
9 the recipient elects for the award to be such a reim-
10 bursement.

11 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
12 under this section, a nonprofit organization shall submit
13 an application to the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs at such time, in such manner,
15 and containing such information as the Secretary of De-
16 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require.
17 Such application shall include—

18 (1) a proposal for the evaluation required by
19 subsection (d); and

20 (2) a description of—

21 (A) the training that will be provided by
22 the organization to covered members and vet-
23 erans;

24 (B) the training of dogs that will serve as
25 assistance dogs;

1 (C) the aftercare services that the organi-
2 zation will provide for such dogs and covered
3 members and veterans;

4 (D) the plan for publicizing the availability
5 of such dogs through a targeted marketing
6 campaign to covered members and veterans;

7 (E) the recognized expertise of the organi-
8 zation in breeding and training such dogs;

9 (F) the commitment of the organization to
10 humane standards for animals; and

11 (G) the experience of the organization with
12 working with military medical treatment facili-
13 ties or medical facilities of the Department of
14 Veterans Affairs; and

15 (3) a statement certifying that the organiza-
16 tion—

17 (A) is accredited by Assistance Dogs Inter-
18 national, the International Guide Dog Federa-
19 tion, or another similar widely recognized ac-
20 creditation organization that the Secretaries de-
21 termine has accreditation standards that meet
22 or exceed the standards of Assistance Dogs
23 International and the International Guide Dog
24 Federation; or

1 (B) is a candidate for such accreditation or
2 otherwise meets or exceeds such standards, as
3 determined by the Secretaries.

4 (d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall require each
5 recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made
6 available through the grant to conduct an evaluation of
7 the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the
8 grant by such recipient.

9 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

10 (1) ASSISTANCE DOG.—The term “assistance
11 dog” means a dog specifically trained to perform
12 physical tasks to mitigate the effects of a disability
13 described in subsection (b)(2), except that the term
14 does not include a dog specifically trained for com-
15 fort or personal defense.

16 (2) COVERED MEMBERS AND VETERANS.—The
17 term “covered members and veterans” means—

18 (A) with respect to a member of the
19 Armed Forces, such member who is—

20 (i) receiving medical treatment, recu-
21 peration, or therapy under chapter 55 of
22 title 10, United States Code;

23 (ii) in medical hold or medical hold-
24 over status; or

1 (iii) covered under section 1202 or
2 1205 of title 10, United States Code; and
3 (B) with respect to a veteran, a veteran
4 who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
5 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
6 States Code.

7 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
9 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

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