

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2522

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to award grants for the provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. RANGEL, and Ms. SPEIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to award grants for the provision of furniture, household items, and other assistance to homeless veterans to facilitate their transition into permanent housing, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF FUR-**
2 **NITURE, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, AND OTHER AS-**
3 **SISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS MOVING**
4 **INTO PERMANENT HOUSING.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a pilot
9 program to assess the feasibility and advisability of
10 awarding grants to eligible entities to provide fur-
11 niture, household items, and other assistance to cov-
12 ered veterans moving into permanent housing to fa-
13 cilitate the settlement of such covered veterans in
14 such housing.

15 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the
16 pilot program, an eligible entity is any of the fol-
17 lowing:

18 (A) A veterans service agency.

19 (B) A veterans service organization.

20 (C) A nongovernmental organization

21 that—

22 (i) is described in paragraph (3), (4),
23 or (19) of section 501(c) of the Internal
24 Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from
25 taxation under section 501(a) of such code;
26 and

1 (ii) has an established history of pro-
2 viding assistance to veterans or the home-
3 less.

4 (3) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of the
5 pilot program, a covered veteran is any of the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (A) A formerly homeless veteran who is re-
8 ceiving housing, clinical services, and case man-
9 agement assistance under section 8(o)(19) of
10 the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42
11 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).

12 (B) A veteran who is receiving—

13 (i) assistance from, or is the bene-
14 ficiary of a service furnished by, a program
15 that is in receipt of a grant under section
16 2011 of title 38, United States Code; or

17 (ii) services for which per diem pay-
18 ment is received under section 2012 of
19 such title.

20 (C) A veteran who is—

21 (i) a beneficiary of the outreach pro-
22 gram carried out under section 2022(e) of
23 such title; or

1 (ii) in receipt of referral or counseling
2 services from the program carried out
3 under section 2023 of such title.

4 (D) A veteran who is receiving a service or
5 assistance under section 2031 of such title.

6 (E) A veteran who is residing in thera-
7 peutic housing operated under section 2032 of
8 such title.

9 (F) A veteran who is receiving domiciliary
10 services under section 2043 of such title or
11 domiciliary care under section 1710(b) of such
12 title.

13 (G) A veteran who is receiving supportive
14 services under section 2044 of such title.

15 (4) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
16 the pilot program during the three-year period be-
17 ginning on the date of the commencement of the
18 pilot program.

19 (b) GRANTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
21 out the pilot program through the award of grants
22 to eligible entities for the provision of furniture and
23 other household items as described in subsection
24 (a)(1).

1 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
2 grant awarded under the pilot program shall not ex-
3 ceed \$500,000.

4 (c) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

5 (1) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a
6 grant under the pilot program shall submit to the
7 Secretary an application therefor in such form and
8 in such manner as the Secretary considers appro-
9 priate.

10 (2) SELECTION PRIORITY.—

11 (A) COMMUNITIES WITH GREATEST
12 NEED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in ac-
13 cordance with regulations the Secretary shall
14 prescribe, the Secretary shall give priority in
15 the awarding of grants under the pilot program
16 to eligible entities who serve communities which
17 the Secretary determines have the greatest need
18 of homeless services.

19 (B) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The
20 Secretary may give priority in the awarding of
21 grants under the pilot program to achieve a fair
22 distribution, as determined by the Secretary,
23 among eligible entities serving covered veterans
24 in different geographic regions, including in
25 rural communities and tribal lands.

1 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), each eligible entity receiving a grant
4 under the pilot program shall use the grant—

5 (A) to coordinate with the Secretary to fa-
6 cilitate distribution of furniture and other
7 household items to covered veterans moving into
8 permanent housing;

9 (B) to purchase, or otherwise obtain via
10 donation, furniture and household items for use
11 by such covered veterans;

12 (C) to distribute such furniture and house-
13 hold items to such covered veterans; and

14 (D) to pay for background checks, provide
15 security deposits, provide funds for utilities,
16 and provide moving expenses for such covered
17 veterans that are necessary for the settlement
18 of such covered veterans in such housing.

19 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—A re-
20 cipient of a grant awarded under the pilot program
21 may not expend more than \$2,500 of the amount of
22 the grant awarded for the provision to a single cov-
23 ered veteran of assistance under the pilot program.

24 (3) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING.—In
25 the case of an eligible entity receiving a grant under

1 the pilot program that entered into a memorandum
2 of understanding with the Secretary before the date
3 of the enactment of this Act that provides for the
4 provision of furniture and other household items to
5 covered veterans as described in subsection (a) with-
6 out Federal compensation, the eligible entity may
7 use the grant in accordance with the provisions of
8 such memorandum of understanding in lieu of para-
9 graph (1).

10 (4) FULL USE OF FUNDS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant
12 awarded under the pilot program shall use the
13 full amount of the grant by not later than one
14 year after the date on which the Secretary
15 awards such grant.

16 (B) RECOVERY.—The Secretary may re-
17 cover from a recipient of a grant awarded under
18 this section all of the unused amounts of the
19 grant if all of the amounts of the grant are not
20 used—

21 (i) pursuant to paragraph (1) and
22 subparagraph (A) of this paragraph; or

23 (ii) in a case described in paragraph
24 (3), pursuant to an applicable memo-
25 randum of understanding.

1 (e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
2 reach, including under chapter 63 of title 38, United
3 States Code, to inform covered veterans about their eligi-
4 bility to receive household items, furniture, and other as-
5 sistance under the pilot program.

6 (f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
7 regulations for—

8 (1) evaluating an application by an eligible enti-
9 ty for a grant under the pilot program; and

10 (2) otherwise administering the pilot program.

11 (g) REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that
13 is 90 days after the last day of the pilot program,
14 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
15 the pilot program.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
17 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

18 (A) An assessment of the pilot program.

19 (B) The findings of the Secretary with re-
20 spect to the feasibility and advisability of
21 awarding grants to eligible entities as described
22 in subsection (a)(1).

23 (C) Such recommendations as the Sec-
24 retary may have for legislative or administrative

1 action to facilitate the settlement of covered
2 veterans into permanent housing.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
5 out this section \$5,000,000 for each year of the pilot pro-
6 gram.

7 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) OUTREACH.—The term “outreach” has the
9 meaning given such term in section 6301(b)(1) of
10 title 38, United States Code.

11 (2) VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY.—The term
12 “veterans service agency” means a unit of a State
13 government, or a political subdivision thereof, that
14 has primary responsibility for programs and activi-
15 ties of such government or subdivision related to vet-
16 erans benefits.

17 (3) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
18 term “veterans service organization” means any or-
19 ganization recognized by the Secretary for the rep-
20 resentation of veterans under section 5902 of title
21 38, United States Code.

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