

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3165

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to veterans service organizations for upgrading local chapter facilities, including technology at such facilities, in rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 6, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself and Mr. KING of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to veterans service organizations for upgrading local chapter facilities, including technology at such facilities, in rural areas, 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 “Renovate and Enhance
5 Veterans Meeting Halls and Posts Act of 2017” or the
6 “REVAMP Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**
2 **FOR FACILITY REHABILITATION AND TECH-**
3 **NOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs shall carry out a pilot program to award grants to
6 eligible veterans service organizations.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND USES.—An eligible
8 veterans service organization may use a grant made under
9 this section only for—

10 (1) repairs or rehabilitation of a facility in a
11 rural area of an eligible veterans service organiza-
12 tion; and

13 (2) acquiring or upgrading computers and tech-
14 nology for such a facility.

15 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An application for a grant under
16 this section—

17 (1) shall be in such form and submitted in ac-
18 cordance with such procedures as the Secretary shall
19 establish; and

20 (2) shall include a plan for the proposed repair,
21 rehabilitation, or technology upgrading and acquisi-
22 tion activities to be conducted using the grant
23 amounts.

24 (d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall se-
25 lect applications to receive grants under the pilot program

1 pursuant to a competition and using criteria that in-
2 clude—

3 (1) the extent of need for such grants;

4 (2) the quality of the plan proposed for repair
5 or rehabilitation of the facility involved or for acquir-
6 ing or upgrading computers and technology for such
7 a facility;

8 (3) the capacity or potential capacity of the ap-
9 plicant to successfully carry out the plan; and

10 (4) other factors as the Secretary determines
11 appropriate.

12 (e) LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) AMOUNT.—An eligible veterans service or-
14 ganization may not receive a grant under this sec-
15 tion during any fiscal year in an amount exceeding
16 the lesser of—

17 (A) the aggregate cost of the proposed ac-
18 tivities and uses under subsection (b) for which
19 the grant amounts will be used; or

20 (B) \$75,000.

21 (2) TIMING.—An eligible veterans service orga-
22 nization that receives a grant under this section for
23 a fiscal year shall be ineligible for any grant under
24 this section for any of the succeeding five fiscal
25 years.

1 (f) PROHIBITION OF NEW CONSTRUCTION OR ACQUI-
2 SITION.—A grant under this section may not be used for
3 the construction or acquisition of a new facility.

4 (g) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
5 regulations necessary to carry out the pilot program not
6 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act.

8 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
10 out this section—

11 (1) for fiscal year 2018, \$5,000,000; and

12 (2) for subsequent fiscal years, such sums as
13 may be necessary to carry out the pilot program.

14 (i) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
15 term “eligible veterans service organization” means a local
16 or area chapter, post, or other unit—

17 (1) of any organization that is chartered under
18 part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code,
19 and that has as among its primary purposes hon-
20 oring, promoting, advocating for, providing services
21 for, or providing assistance to veterans or any group
22 of veterans, as determined by the Secretary; and

23 (2) that is located in a rural area, as deter-
24 mined by the Secretary.

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