

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4081

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, and recognition of military working dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. GARBARINO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for certain requirements relating to the retirement, adoption, and recognition of military working dogs, 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 “Canine Members of
5 the Armed Forces Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Each of the Armed Forces and other Gov-
2 ernment agencies, including the Secret Service, the
3 Central Intelligence Agency, and the Transportation
4 Security Administration, use military working dogs
5 in service to the country.

6 (2) Since September 11, 2011, military working
7 dogs have served in Iraq and Afghanistan and have
8 been trained in explosive detection, narcotic detec-
9 tion, sentry, patrol, tracking, and other specific du-
10 ties.

11 (3) Military working dogs, through their train-
12 ing, have prevented injuries and saved the lives of
13 thousands of United States citizens.

14 (4) Military working dogs perform critical and
15 varied roles that go far beyond their current des-
16 ignation as “equipment”.

17 **SEC. 3. RETIREMENT AND ADOPTION OF MILITARY WORK-**
18 **ING DOGS.**

19 (a) RETIREMENT AND RECLASSIFICATION OF MILI-
20 TARY WORKING DOGS.—Section 2583 of title 10, United
21 States Code, is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), (h),
23 and (i) as subsections (h), (i), (j), and (k), respec-
24 tively; and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
2 lowing new subsections:

3 “(f) CLASSIFICATION OF MILITARY WORKING
4 DOGS.—The Secretary of Defense shall classify military
5 working dogs as canine members of the Armed Forces.
6 Such dogs shall not be classified as equipment.

7 “(g) TRANSFER OF RETIRED MILITARY WORKING
8 DOGS.—If the Secretary of the military department con-
9 cerned determines that a military working dog should be
10 retired, and no suitable adoption is available at the mili-
11 tary facility where the dog is located, the Secretary may
12 transfer the dog—

13 “(1) to the 341st Training Squadron; or

14 “(2) to another location for adoption under this
15 section.”.

16 (b) ACCEPTANCE OF FREQUENT TRAVELER
17 MILES.—Section 2613(d) of such title is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “; or” and
19 inserting a semicolon;

20 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
21 the end and inserting “; or”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new
23 paragraph:

24 “(3) facilitating the adoption of a military
25 working dog under section 2583 of this title.”.

1 **SEC. 4. RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF MILITARY WORKING**
2 **DOGS.**

3 Section 1125 of title 10, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) by inserting “(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—
6 ” before “The Secretary of Defense”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(b) RECOGNITION OF SERVICE OF MILITARY WORK-
10 ING DOGS.—The Secretary of Defense shall create a deco-
11 ration or other appropriate recognition to recognize mili-
12 tary working dogs under the jurisdiction of the Secretary
13 that are killed in action or perform an exceptionally meri-
14 torious or courageous act in service to the United States.”.

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