

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6307

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pilot program to build tiny homes for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Mr. KILMER (for himself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pilot program to build tiny homes for homeless veterans, 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 “Tiny Homes for Home-
5 less Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON TINY HOMES FOR HOMELESS**
7 **VETERANS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
2 announced a plan to end veteran homelessness by
3 the end of fiscal year 2015.

4 (2) While the Department of Veterans Affairs
5 did not reach such goal, the Department continues
6 to focus on reducing the number of veterans experi-
7 encing homelessness.

8 (3) As of January 2020, the Department of
9 Housing and Urban Development estimated there to
10 be 37,252 homeless veterans.

11 (4) At the start of January 2020, 21 out of
12 every 10,000 veterans in the United States were ex-
13 periencing homelessness.

14 (5) Veterans constitute about six percent of the
15 population of the United States but eight percent of
16 the country's homeless population.

17 (6) The leading causes of homelessness among
18 veterans are post-traumatic stress disorder, social
19 isolation, unemployment, and substance abuse.

20 (7) Individual transitional housing units im-
21 prove personal safety for veterans and reduce risks
22 associated with close quarters living in a shelter.

23 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter VII of chap-
2 ter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
3 by adding at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless**
5 **veterans.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry
7 out a pilot program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
8 gram’) to make grants to facilitate the creation of five vil-
9 lages of tiny homes—

10 “(1) across the United States with associated
11 supportive services to allow veterans to build and
12 live in the homes, maintain social connections with
13 each other, learn skills, and receive critical coun-
14 seling; and

15 “(2) to build the homes such that the homes
16 are energy efficient with low carbon footprints.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—(1) The Secretary may
18 award a grant under the Program to any entity eligible
19 for grants and per diem payments under sections 2011
20 and 2012 of this title, including—

21 “(A) a non-profit organization described in sec-
22 tion 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(19) of the Internal
23 Revenue Code of 1986; and

24 “(B) a State or local government.

1 “(2) To be eligible for a grant under the Program,
2 an entity specified in paragraph (1) shall submit to the
3 Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary determines
5 appropriate, including the following:

6 “(A) A description of the long-term goals and
7 objectives for the proposed project.

8 “(B) A description of the village that the entity
9 intends to build under the grant.

10 “(C) A list of all supportive services that the
11 entity intends to provide under the grant.

12 “(D) The number of veterans that the village
13 will be capable of housing at any given time.

14 “(E) A description of factors that an entity will
15 use to screen veterans who will build and reside in
16 the housing.

17 “(F) A description of how the entity will evalu-
18 ate the performance of such entity under the grant.

19 “(c) ELIGIBLE USES.—A recipient of a grant award-
20 ed under the Program shall use grant funds for the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(1) Construction of the village.

23 “(2) Supportive job skills services, including—

24 “(A) reading and comprehending blue-
25 prints;

1 “(B) preparing foundation, framing, and
2 exterior siding;

3 “(C) learning general tiny home design
4 concepts;

5 “(D) installing finish woods, windows,
6 doors, trim, baseboards, and stairs;

7 “(E) creating custom multifunctional fur-
8 niture specifically designed for tiny home living;
9 and

10 “(F) cooking skills.

11 “(3) Supportive counseling services, located in
12 the village or in the local community with transpor-
13 tation to the community provided to the veterans, in-
14 cluding—

15 “(A) case management services (pursuant
16 to section 2022 of this title);

17 “(B) financial management;

18 “(C) counseling for addiction issues;

19 “(D) educational opportunities;

20 “(E) anger management; and

21 “(F) career and employment resources.

22 “(4) Any other use the Secretary determines
23 appropriate.

1 “(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall publish a Notice
2 of Funding Opportunity on the internet website
3 Grants.gov, or such successor website, for the Program.

4 “(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
5 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity speci-
6 fied in subsection (c) that proposes to carry out the project
7 facilitated with grant funds to create LEED-certified
8 units.

9 “(f) REPORTING.—(1) During each year beginning in
10 the second year after being awarded a grant, each grantee
11 shall submit to the Department a report on the activities
12 of the grantee under the Program during the calendar
13 year preceding the report, including the following:

14 “(A) The degree to which the grantee made
15 progress toward meeting the long-term goals and ob-
16 jectives described in the application of the grantee
17 and the performance by the grantee of the covered
18 benchmarks described in the application.

19 “(B) The demographic data of veterans partici-
20 pating in the Program.

21 “(C) The details regarding the progress of such
22 veterans toward achieving the ability to maintain
23 housing and live independently, increasing skill levels
24 and income, and obtaining greater self-determina-
25 tion.

1 “(D) Any other matter the Secretary deter-
2 mines appropriate.

3 “(2) During the fourth year of the Program, the Sec-
4 retary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations
5 and Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
6 resentatives a report comparing the outcomes of grantees
7 under the Program to the outcomes of grantees under
8 other grant and per diem payment programs that do not
9 contain individual homes and a community center with
10 supportive services, including the following:

11 “(A) The average amount of time a veteran
12 stayed in a tiny home.

13 “(B) The percentage of veterans who exit the
14 village to permanent housing.

15 “(C) The percentage of veterans who exit the
16 village with competitive employment.

17 “(D) The percentage of veterans who have a
18 negative exit from the village.

19 “(E) Any other matter the Secretary deter-
20 minates appropriate.

21 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
22 amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
23 for grant and per diem payments for each of fiscal years
24 2022 through 2027, \$10,000,000 may be used to carry
25 out the program.

1 “(h) SUNSET.—The Secretary may not award a grant
2 under the Program after the day that is six years after
3 the date of the enactment of the Tiny Homes for Homeless
4 Veterans Act.

5 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) The term ‘community center’ means a
7 building of approximately 2,000 square feet where
8 the veterans can gather for socialization and to re-
9 ceive supportive services.

10 “(2) The term ‘cross-laminated timber’ means a
11 thermally modified wood product that is mildew-,
12 rot-, and bug-resistant.

13 “(3) The term ‘negative exit’, with respect to a
14 veteran participating in the Program, means an in-
15 stance under which a veteran leaves the Program be-
16 cause such veteran violated the rules of the Program
17 (excluding exits because of threatened or actual vio-
18 lence to self or others), failed to comply with the re-
19 quirements of the Program, or left the Program
20 without consulting staff.

21 “(4) The term ‘State’ means each State of the
22 United States, the District of Columbia, each com-
23 monwealth, territory or possession of the United
24 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

1 “(5) The term ‘tiny home’ means an individual
2 housing unit for one person of approximately 240
3 square feet or an individual housing unit for a fam-
4 ily of approximately 340 square feet.

5 “(6) The term ‘village’ means the community of
6 tiny homes and the community center.”.

7 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
8 tents at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is
9 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
10 tion 2067 the following new item:

“Sec. 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless veterans.”.

11 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall carry
12 out section 2068 of such title, as added by subsection (b),
13 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
14 of this section.

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