

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8887

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a grant program to increase access to medical care for retired Federal working dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. QUIGLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a grant program to increase access to medical care for retired Federal 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 “Honoring our K9 He-
5 roes Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH INCREASED ACCESS TO**
2 **MEDICAL CARE FOR RETIRED FEDERAL**
3 **WORKING DOGS THROUGH CERTAIN HOME-**
4 **LAND SECURITY GRANTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the
6 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603 et seq.)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 2010. GRANTS FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO MEDICAL**
9 **CARE FOR RETIRED FEDERAL WORKING**
10 **DOGS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 grant program under which eligible entities may enter into
13 an agreement with the Secretary to cover a portion of
14 medical care expenses for retired Federal working dogs de-
15 scribed in subsection (d).

16 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to re-
17 ceive a grant under the program established pursuant to
18 subsection (a) if such entity—

19 “(1) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the In-
20 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax-
21 ation under section 501(a) of such Code;

22 “(2) provides assistance for medical care for re-
23 tired Federal law enforcement and military working
24 dogs; and

1 “(3) prior to the date of application, has not
2 less than a two-year history of providing such assist-
3 ance.

4 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
5 under the program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
6 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
7 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
8 quire.

9 “(d) RETIRED FEDERAL WORKING DOGS DE-
10 SCRIBED.—A retired Federal working dog described in
11 this subsection—

12 “(1) has been issued a retirement letter from
13 the Federal department or agency that employed
14 such dog; and

15 “(2) is in the care of its handler.

16 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
18 out this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
19 through 2029.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
22 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
23 2009 the following new item:

 “Sec. 2010. Grants for increased access to medical care for retired Federal
 working dogs.”.

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