

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 3286

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the award of grants to State and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to veterans with their submittal of claims to the Veterans Benefits Administration, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2010

Mr. SPECTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the award of grants to State and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations to provide assistance to veterans with their submittal of claims to the Veterans Benefits Administration, 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 GRANTS TO STATE AND**  
2 **LOCAL AGENCIES AND NONPROFIT ORGANI-**  
3 **ZATIONS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VET-**  
4 **ERANS WITH SUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS FOR**  
5 **VETERANS BENEFITS.**

6 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days  
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
9 retary of Veterans Affairs shall commence a pilot  
10 program to assess the feasibility and advisability of  
11 awarding grants to eligible entities to provide assist-  
12 ance to veterans with their submittal of claims to  
13 the Veterans Benefits Administration for purposes  
14 of facilitating reduction in the amount of time re-  
15 quired by the Veterans Benefits Administration to  
16 process such claims.

17 (2) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-  
18 gram shall be carried out during the two-year period  
19 beginning on the date of the commencement of the  
20 pilot program.

21 (3) AMOUNT OF GRANT AWARDS.—The amount  
22 of a grant awarded to an eligible entity under the  
23 pilot program shall be such amount as the Secretary  
24 considers appropriate after considering the number  
25 of veterans expected to receive assistance from the  
26 eligible entity under the pilot program.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this sec-  
2 tion, an eligible entity is any State or local government  
3 agency or nonprofit organization that the Secretary con-  
4 siders appropriate to provide assistance under the pilot  
5 program.

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

10 (d) ASSISTANCE.—The assistance provided to a vet-  
11 eran by an eligible entity under the pilot program shall  
12 include assistance with the following:

13 (1) Collecting evidence in support of the claim  
14 of a veteran.

15 (2) Submitting a claim to the Veterans Benefits  
16 Administration.

17 (3) Such other matters as the Secretary con-  
18 siders

19 (e) MODEL.—To the degree practicable, the Sec-  
20 retary shall model the pilot program on the comprehensive  
21 service programs under subchapter II of chapter 20 of title  
22 38, United States Code.

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