

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to nonprofit entities to assist such entities in carrying out programs to provide service dogs to eligible 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 “Service Dogs Assisting
5 Veterans Act of 2025” or the “SAVES Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM TO AWARD GRANTS FOR THE PROVI-**
3 **SION OF SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—

5 (1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later
6 than 24 months after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall es-
8 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
9 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to non-
10 profit entities to provide service dogs to eligible vet-
11 erans.

12 (2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
13 the pilot program during the five-year period begin-
14 ning on the date on which the first grant is awarded
15 under this section.

16 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
18 grant under this section, a nonprofit entity shall
19 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
20 in such manner, and containing such commitments
21 and information as the Secretary may require.

22 (2) ELEMENTS.—An application submitted
23 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

24 (A) A proposal for the provision of service
25 dogs to eligible veterans, including how the non-
26 profit entity will communicate with the Sec-

1 retary to ensure an increasing number of serv-
2 ice dogs are provided to such veterans.

3 (B) A description of the following:

4 (i) The training that will be provided
5 by the nonprofit entity to eligible veterans.

6 (ii) The training of dogs that will
7 serve as service dogs.

8 (iii) Any additional support or services
9 the nonprofit entity will provide for such
10 dogs and eligible veterans.

11 (iv) The plan for publicizing the avail-
12 ability of such dogs through a marketing
13 campaign that targets eligible veterans.

14 (v) The commitment of the nonprofit
15 entity to have humane standards for ani-
16 mals.

17 (vi) The demonstrated experience of
18 the nonprofit entity in training service
19 dogs in compliance with the requirements
20 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of
21 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq).

22 (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a
24 grant to each nonprofit entity for which the Sec-

1 retary has approved an application submitted under
2 subsection (b)(1).

3 (2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Before the provi-
4 sion of any grant amounts to a nonprofit entity se-
5 lected to receive a grant under this section, the Sec-
6 retary shall enter into an agreement, containing
7 such terms, conditions, and limitations as the Sec-
8 retary determines appropriate, with such entity.

9 (3) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant
10 awarded to a nonprofit entity under this section may
11 not exceed \$2,000,000.

12 (4) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish
13 intervals of payment for the administration of each
14 grant awarded under this section.

15 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—

17 (A) REQUIREMENT.—A recipient of a
18 grant under this section shall use the grant
19 amounts to plan, develop, implement, or man-
20 age (or any combination thereof) one or more
21 covered programs.

22 (B) COVERED PROGRAM DEFINED.—In
23 this paragraph, the term “covered program”
24 means a program under which—

1 (i) service dogs are provided to par-
2 ticipants in the program; and

3 (ii) only eligible veterans are allowed
4 to participate in the program.

5 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Sec-
6 retary may establish a maximum amount for each
7 grant awarded under this section that may be used
8 by the recipient of the grant to cover administrative
9 expenses.

10 (3) OTHER CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—
11 The Secretary may establish other conditions or lim-
12 itations on the use of grant amounts under this sec-
13 tion.

14 (e) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

15 (1) NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION.—A re-
16 cipient of a grant under this section shall—

17 (A) notify each veteran who receives a
18 service dog through such grant that the service
19 dog is being paid for, in whole or in part, by
20 the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

21 (B) inform each such veteran of the bene-
22 fits and services available from the Secretary
23 for the veteran and the service dog.

24 (2) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FEES.—A recipi-
25 ent of a grant under this section may not charge a

1 fee to a veteran receiving a service dog through such
2 grant.

3 (f) VETERINARY INSURANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
5 to each veteran who receives a service dog through
6 a grant under this section a commercially available
7 veterinary insurance policy for the service dog.

8 (2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary provides
9 a veterinary insurance policy to a veteran under
10 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall continue to pro-
11 vide the policy to the veteran without regard to the
12 continuation or termination of the pilot program.

13 (g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
14 Secretary may provide training and technical assistance
15 to recipients of grants under this section.

16 (h) OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

18 (A) shall establish such oversight and mon-
19 itoring requirements as the Secretary deter-
20 mines appropriate to ensure that grant amounts
21 awarded under this section are used appro-
22 priately; and

23 (B) may take such actions as the Secretary
24 determines necessary to address any issues

1 identified through the enforcement of such re-
2 quirements.

3 (2) REPORTS AND ANSWERS.—The Secretary
4 may require each recipient of a grant under this sec-
5 tion to provide, in such form as may be prescribed
6 by the Secretary, such reports or answers in writing
7 to specific questions, surveys, or questionnaires as
8 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the
9 pilot program.

10 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “eligible vet-
13 eran” means a veteran (as defined in section
14 101 of title 38, United States Code) who, as de-
15 termined by a physician, has one or more dis-
16 abilities, conditions, or diagnoses described in
17 subparagraph (B).

18 (B) DISABILITY, CONDITION, DIAGNOSIS
19 DESCRIBED.—A disability, condition, or diag-
20 nosis described in this subparagraph is any of
21 the following:

22 (i) Blindness or visual impairment.

23 (ii) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
24 other significant mobility issue, including
25 mental health mobility.

1 (iii) Loss of hearing.

2 (iv) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

3 (v) Traumatic brain injury.

4 (vi) Any other disability, condition, or
5 diagnosis for which the Secretary deter-
6 mines, based on medical judgment, that it
7 is optimal for the veteran to manage the
8 disability, condition, or diagnosis and live
9 independently through the assistance of a
10 service dog.

11 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “pilot pro-
12 gram” means the pilot program required by sub-
13 section (a)(1).

14 (3) SERVICE DOG.—The term “service dog”
15 means any dog that is individually trained to do
16 work or perform tasks that are—

17 (A) for the benefit of a veteran with a dis-
18 ability, condition, or diagnosis described in
19 paragraph (1)(B); and

20 (B) directly related to the disability, condi-
21 tion, or diagnosis of the veteran.

22 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$10,000,000 for each of the five consecutive fiscal years

- 1 following the fiscal year in which the pilot program is es-
- 2 tablished under subsection (a).