

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2605
OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Service Dogs Assisting
3 Veterans Act” or the “SAVES Act”.

4 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-
5 GRAM TO AWARD GRANTS FOR THE PROVI-
6 SION OF SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS.

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 24 months after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
9 Veterans Affairs shall establish a pilot program under
10 which the Secretary shall award grants, on a competitive
11 basis, to nonprofit entities to provide service dogs to eligi-
12 ble veterans.

13 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

3 (A) A proposal for the provision of service
4 dogs to eligible veterans, including how the non-
5 profit entity will communicate with the Sec-
6 retary to ensure that the use of the grant funds
7 results in an increased number of eligible vet-
8 erans who are provided with service dogs.

9 (B) A description of the following services
10 or commitments to be provided by the nonprofit
11 entity:

12 (i) The training that will be provided
13 to eligible veterans who receive service dogs
14 under the pilot program.

15 (ii) The training of dogs that will
16 serve as service dogs provided to eligible
17 veterans under the program.

18 (iii) Any support or services other
19 than training under clauses (i) and (ii)
20 that will be provided for such dogs and eli-
21 gible veterans.

22 (iv) The plan for publicizing the avail-
23 ability of such service dogs through a mar-
24 keting campaign that targets eligible vet-
25 erans.

1 (v) The commitment to humane treat-
2 ment standards for service dogs.

3 (C) Documentation that demonstrates that
4 the nonprofit entity has experience in training
5 dogs as service dogs.

6 (D) Documentation certifying that the or-
7 ganization is accredited by Assistance Dogs
8 International or the International Guide Dog
9 Federation.

10 (c) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—If the Secretary ap-
11 proves an application submitted by a nonprofit entity
12 under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall require the
13 entity, as a condition of the receipt of a grant under the
14 pilot program to enter into an agreement under which the
15 entity agrees to—

16 (1) notify each veteran who receives a service
17 dog provided using grant funds that the service dog
18 is being paid for, in whole or in part, by the Depart-
19 ment of Veterans Affairs;

20 (2) inform each such veteran of the benefits
21 and services available from the Secretary for the vet-
22 eran and the service dog;

23 (3) not charge a fee to a veteran receiving a
24 service dog provided using grant funds; and

1 (4) adhere to such other terms, conditions, and
2 limitations as the Secretary determines appropriate.

3 (d) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make
4 a grant in an amount that does not exceed \$2,000,000
5 to each entity that enters into an agreement with the Sec-
6 retary under subsection (c). The Secretary shall establish
7 intervals of payment for the administration of each such
8 grant.

9 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under
11 this section shall use the grant to plan, develop, im-
12 plement, and manage one or more programs that
13 provide service dogs to eligible veterans.

14 (2) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may estab-
15 lish—

16 (A) a maximum amount that can be used
17 by a grant recipient to cover administrative ex-
18 penses for each grant awarded under this sec-
19 tion; and

20 (B) other conditions or limitations on the
21 use of grant amounts under this section.

22 (f) VETERINARY INSURANCE.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (3), the Secretary may provide to each vet-
25 eran who receives a service dog through a grant

1 under this section a commercially available veteri-
2 nary insurance policy for the service dog.

3 (2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary provides
4 a veterinary insurance policy to a veteran under
5 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall continue to pro-
6 vide the policy to the veteran without regard to the
7 continuation or termination of the pilot program, ex-
8 cept as provided in paragraph (3).

9 (3) DISCONTINUATION.—The Secretary shall
10 discontinue the provision of a veterinary insurance
11 policy under paragraph (1) if the Secretary deter-
12 mines doing so would be in the best interest of the
13 veteran, the service dog, or the Federal Government.

14 (g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
15 Secretary may provide training and technical assistance
16 related to grant application and administration to appli-
17 cants for and recipients of grants under this section.

18 (h) OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

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

1 (B) may take such actions as the Secretary
2 determines necessary to address any issues
3 identified through the enforcement of such re-
4 quirements.

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

12 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
14 eran who—

15 (A) is enrolled in the system of annual pa-
16 tient enrollment of the Department of Veterans
17 Affairs established and operated under section
18 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, or is
19 otherwise entitled to receive such care and serv-
20 ices under subsection (c)(2) of such section;

21 (B) has been prescribed a service dog by
22 the Secretary; and

23 (C) has one or more covered conditions.

24 (2) The term “covered condition” means any of
25 the following disabilities, conditions, or diagnoses for

1 which the Secretary determines, based upon medical
2 judgment, that it is optimal for the veteran to man-
3 age the disability, condition, or diagnosis and live
4 independently through the assistance of a trained
5 service dog:

6 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

7 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
8 other significant mobility issue, including men-
9 tal health mobility.

10 (C) Loss of hearing.

11 (D) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

12 (E) Traumatic brain injury.

13 (F) Any other disability, condition, or di-
14 agnosis for which the Secretary determines,
15 based on medical judgment, that it is optimal
16 for the veteran to manage the disability, condi-
17 tion, or diagnosis, and live independently
18 through the assistance of a service dog.

19 (3) The term “service dog” means a dog that
20 is individually trained to do work or perform tasks
21 for the benefit of an individual with a disability, in-
22 cluding a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual,
23 or other mental disability.

1 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

4 (k) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
5 pilot program under this section shall terminate on Sep-
6 tember 30, 2031.

7 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
8 **PENSION.**

9 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
10 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
11 ing “February 28, 2033”.

