

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, 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 “\_\_\_\_\_ Act”.]

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-**  
2 **FAIRS TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN PROVIDING**  
3 **ADDITIONAL VEHICLES ADAPTED FOR OPER-**  
4 **ATION BY DISABLED INDIVIDUALS TO CER-**  
5 **TAIN ELIGIBLE PERSONS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3903(a) of title 38,  
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph  
9 (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
11 paragraph:

12 “(3) The Secretary may provide or assist in providing  
13 an eligible person with an additional automobile or other  
14 conveyance under this chapter if 10 years have elapsed  
15 since the date on which the eligible person received the  
16 immediately previous such automobile, other conveyance,  
17 or assistance under this chapter.”.

18 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Paragraph (3) of subsection  
19 (a) of section 3903 of title 38, United States Code, shall  
20 apply with respect to the provision of an additional auto-  
21 mobile or other conveyance that occurs on or after October  
22 1, 2020.

1 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PROVISION**  
2 **OF AUTOMOBILES AND ADAPTIVE ASSIST-**  
3 **ANCE FOR VETERANS WITH NON-SERVICE-**  
4 **CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 39 of title 38, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing new section:

8 **“§ 3905. Assistance for veterans with non-service-con-**  
9 **nected disabilities**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, under regula-  
11 tions which the Secretary shall prescribe, shall provide or  
12 assist in providing an automobile or other conveyance to  
13 each eligible veteran with a non-service-connected dis-  
14 ability by paying 25 percent of the total purchase price  
15 of the automobile or other conveyance (including all State,  
16 local, and other taxes) or \$5,372.07 (as adjusted from  
17 time to time under subsection (f)), whichever is the lesser,  
18 to the seller from whom the eligible veteran is purchasing  
19 under a sales agreement between the seller and the eligible  
20 person.

21 “(b) ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary, under  
22 regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, shall pro-  
23 vide each eligible veteran with a non-service-connected dis-  
24 ability the adaptive equipment deemed necessary to insure  
25 that the eligible veteran will be able to operate the auto-  
26 mobile or other conveyance in a manner consistent with

1 such veteran's own safety and the safety of others and  
2 so as to satisfy the applicable standards of licensure estab-  
3 lished by the State of such veteran's residency or other  
4 proper licensing authority.

5 “(c) REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT.—  
6 In accordance with regulations which the Secretary shall  
7 prescribe, the Secretary shall—

8 “(1) repair, replace, or reinstall adaptive equip-  
9 ment deemed necessary for the operation of an auto-  
10 mobile or other conveyance acquired in accordance  
11 with the provisions of this chapter; and

12 “(2) provide, repair, replace, or reinstall such  
13 adaptive equipment for any automobile or other con-  
14 veyance which an eligible veteran with a non-service-  
15 connected disability may previously or subsequently  
16 have acquired.

17 “(d) AUTOMOBILES OPERATED BY OTHER PER-  
18 SONS.—If an eligible veteran with a non-service-connected  
19 disability cannot qualify to operate an automobile or other  
20 conveyance, the Secretary shall provide or assist in pro-  
21 viding an automobile or other conveyance to such veteran,  
22 as provided in subsection (a), if the automobile or other  
23 conveyance is to be operated for the eligible veteran by  
24 another person.

1 “(e) ELIGIBLE VETERAN WITH A NON-SERVICE-CON-  
2 NECTED DISABILITY.—In this section, the term ‘eligible  
3 veteran with a non-service-connected disability’ means a  
4 veteran who—

5 “(1) the Secretary determines has—

6 “(A) the loss or permanent loss of use of  
7 one or both feet;

8 “(B) the loss or permanent loss of use of  
9 one or both hands;

10 “(C) the permanent impairment of vision  
11 of both eyes of the following status: central vis-  
12 ual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye,  
13 with corrective glasses, or central visual acuity  
14 of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect  
15 in which the peripheral field has contracted to  
16 such an extent that the widest diameter of vis-  
17 ual field subtends an angular distance no great-  
18 er than twenty degrees in the better eye; or

19 “(D) a severe burn injury (as determined  
20 pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Sec-  
21 retary); and

22 “(2) is not in receipt of compensation under  
23 chapter 11 of this title for a disability referred to in  
24 paragraph (1).

1           “(f) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on October 1  
2 of each year (beginning in 2021), the Secretary shall in-  
3 crease the dollar amount in effect under subsection (a)  
4 by a percentage equal to the percentage by which the Con-  
5 sumer Price Index for all urban consumers (U.S. city aver-  
6 age) increased during the 12-month period ending with  
7 the last month for which Consumer Price Index data is  
8 available. In the event that such Consumer Price Index  
9 does not increase during such period, the Secretary shall  
10 maintain the dollar amount in effect under subsection (a)  
11 during the previous fiscal year.”.

12           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
14 at the end the following new item:

“3905. Assistance for veterans with non-service-connected disabilities.”.

15 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TREATMENT**  
16 **OF CERTAIN VEHICLE MODIFICATIONS AS**  
17 **MEDICAL SERVICES.**

18           Section 1701(6) of title 38, United States Code, is  
19 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-  
20 graph:

21                   “(I) The provision of medically necessary  
22 van lifts, raised doors, raised roofs, air-condi-  
23 tioning, and wheelchair tiedowns for passenger  
24 use.”.