

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6307
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Tiny Homes for Home-
3 less Veterans Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON TINY HOMES FOR HOMELESS
5 VETERANS.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) In 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 announced a plan to end veteran homelessness by
9 the end of fiscal year 2015.

10 (2) While the Department of Veterans Affairs
11 did not reach such goal, the Department continues
12 to focus on reducing the number of veterans experi-
13 encing homelessness.

14 (3) As of January 2020, the Department of
15 Housing and Urban Development estimated there to
16 be 37,252 homeless veterans.

1 (4) At the start of January 2020, 21 out of
2 every 10,000 veterans in the United States were ex-
3 perienceing homelessness.

4 (5) Veterans constitute about six percent of the
5 population of the United States but eight percent of
6 the country’s homeless population.

7 (6) Factors related to homelessness among vet-
8 erans include post-traumatic stress disorder, social
9 isolation, unemployment, and substance abuse.

10 (7) Individual transitional housing units im-
11 prove personal safety for veterans and reduce risks
12 associated with close quarters living in a shelter.

13 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter VII of chap-
15 ter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
16 by adding at the end the following new section:

17 **“§ 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless**
18 **veterans.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry
20 out a pilot program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
21 gram’) to make grants to facilitate the creation of five vil-
22 lages of tiny homes—

23 “(1) across the United States with associated
24 supportive services to allow veterans to build and
25 live in the homes, maintain social connections with

1 each other, learn skills, and receive critical coun-
2 seling; and

3 “(2) to build the homes such that the homes
4 are energy efficient with low carbon footprints.

5 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—(1) The Secretary may
6 award a grant under the Program to any entity eligible
7 for grants and per diem payments under sections 2011
8 and 2012 of this title, including—

9 “(A) a non-profit organization described in sec-
10 tion 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(19) of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986; and

12 “(B) a State or local government.

13 “(2) To be eligible for a grant under the Program,
14 an entity specified in paragraph (1) shall submit to the
15 Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and
16 containing such information as the Secretary determines
17 appropriate, including the following:

18 “(A) A description of the long-term goals and
19 objectives for the proposed project.

20 “(B) A description of the village that the entity
21 intends to build under the grant.

22 “(C) A list of all supportive services that the
23 entity intends to provide under the grant.

24 “(D) The number of veterans that the village
25 will be capable of housing at any given time.

1 “(E) A description of factors that an entity will
2 use to screen veterans who will build and reside in
3 the housing.

4 “(F) A description of how the entity will evalu-
5 ate the performance of such entity under the grant.

6 “(c) ELIGIBLE USES.—A recipient of a grant award-
7 ed under the Program shall use grant funds for the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(1) Construction of the village.

10 “(2) Supportive job skills services, including—

11 “(A) reading and comprehending blue-
12 prints;

13 “(B) preparing foundation, framing, and
14 exterior siding;

15 “(C) learning general tiny home design
16 concepts;

17 “(D) installing finish woods, windows,
18 doors, trim, baseboards, and stairs;

19 “(E) creating custom multifunctional fur-
20 niture specifically designed for tiny home living;
21 and

22 “(F) cooking skills.

23 “(3) Supportive counseling services, located in
24 the village or in the local community with transpor-

1 tation to the community provided to the veterans, in-
2 cluding—

3 “(A) case management services (pursuant
4 to section 2022 of this title);

5 “(B) financial management;

6 “(C) counseling for addiction issues;

7 “(D) educational opportunities;

8 “(E) anger management; and

9 “(F) career and employment resources.

10 “(4) Any other use the Secretary determines
11 appropriate.

12 “(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall publish a Notice
13 of Funding Opportunity on the internet website
14 Grants.gov, or such successor website, for the Program.

15 “(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the Pro-
16 gram, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity speci-
17 fied in subsection (c) that proposes to carry out the project
18 facilitated with grant funds to create LEED-certified
19 units.

20 “(f) REPORTING.—(1) During each year beginning in
21 the second year after being awarded a grant, each grantee
22 shall submit to the Department a report on the activities
23 of the grantee under the Program during the calendar
24 year preceding the report, including the following:

1 “(A) The degree to which the grantee made
2 progress toward meeting the long-term goals and ob-
3 jectives described in the application of the grantee
4 and the performance by the grantee of the covered
5 benchmarks described in the application.

6 “(B) The demographic data of veterans partici-
7 pating in the Program.

8 “(C) The details regarding the progress of such
9 veterans toward achieving the ability to maintain
10 housing and live independently, increasing skill levels
11 and income, and obtaining greater self-determina-
12 tion.

13 “(D) Any other matter the Secretary deter-
14 mines appropriate.

15 “(2) During the fourth year of the Program, the Sec-
16 retary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations
17 and Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
18 resentatives a report comparing the outcomes of grantees
19 under the Program to the outcomes of grantees under
20 other grant and per diem payment programs that do not
21 contain individual homes and a community center with
22 supportive services, including the following:

23 “(A) The average amount of time a veteran
24 stayed in a tiny home.

1 “(B) The percentage of veterans who exit the
2 village to permanent housing.

3 “(C) The percentage of veterans who exit the
4 village with competitive employment.

5 “(D) The percentage of veterans who have a
6 negative exit from the village.

7 “(E) Any other matter the Secretary deter-
8 minates appropriate.

9 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
10 amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
11 for grant and per diem payments for each of fiscal years
12 2022 through 2027, \$20,000,000 may be used to carry
13 out the program, of which \$5,000,000 may be used for
14 operating costs.

15 “(h) SUNSET.—The Secretary may not award a grant
16 under the Program after the day that is six years after
17 the date of the enactment of the Tiny Homes for Homeless
18 Veterans Act.

19 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) The term ‘community center’ means a
21 building of approximately 2,000 square feet where
22 the veterans can gather for socialization and to re-
23 ceive supportive services.

1 “(2) The term ‘cross-laminated timber’ means a
2 thermally modified wood product that is mildew-,
3 rot-, and bug-resistant.

4 “(3) The term ‘negative exit’, with respect to a
5 veteran participating in the Program, means an in-
6 stance under which a veteran leaves the Program be-
7 cause such veteran violated the rules of the Program
8 (excluding exits because of threatened or actual vio-
9 lence to self or others), failed to comply with the re-
10 quirements of the Program, or left the Program
11 without consulting staff.

12 “(4) The term ‘State’ means each State of the
13 United States, the District of Columbia, each com-
14 monwealth, territory or possession of the United
15 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

16 “(5) The term ‘tiny home’ means an individual
17 housing unit for one person of approximately 240
18 square feet or an individual housing unit for a fam-
19 ily of approximately 340 square feet.

20 “(6) The term ‘village’ means the community of
21 tiny homes and the community center.”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
23 tents at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is
24 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
25 tion 2067 the following new item:

“Sec. 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless veterans.”.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall carry
2 out section 2068 of such title, as added by subsection (b),
3 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment
4 of this section.

