

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3280

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to assist veterans in highly rural areas by providing transportation to medical centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to assist veterans in highly rural areas by providing transportation to medical centers.

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. TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR RURAL VET-**
4 **ERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**

5 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall establish a grant program to provide in-
8 novative transportation options to veterans in highly
9 rural areas.

1 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under
2 this section may be used by State veterans service
3 agencies and veterans service organizations to—

4 (A) assist veterans in highly rural areas to
5 travel to Department of Veterans Affairs med-
6 ical centers; and

7 (B) otherwise assist in providing medical
8 care to veterans in highly rural areas.

9 (3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
10 grant under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

11 (4) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The recipi-
12 ent of a grant under this section may not be re-
13 quired to provide matching funds as a condition for
14 receiving such grant.

15 (5) RECOVERY OF UNUSED GRANT FUNDS.—If
16 a recipient of a grant does not use the full amount
17 of funds received under this section by not later
18 than September 30 of the fiscal year in which such
19 grant was awarded, the United States shall be enti-
20 tled to recover from such recipient the total of all
21 unused grant amounts made under this section to
22 such recipient.

23 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
24 regulations for—

1 (1) evaluating grant applications under this sec-
2 tion; and

3 (2) otherwise administering the program estab-
4 lished by this section.

5 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than February 1 of each
6 year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report con-
7 taining information related to each grant awarded under
8 this section during the preceding year, including—

9 (1) the name of the grant recipient; and

10 (2) the amount of the grant.

11 (d) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINI-
12 TION.—In this section, the term “veterans service organi-
13 zation” means any organization recognized by the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of vet-
15 erans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of
18 fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to carry out this section.

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