

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 943

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2011

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to encourage the use of assistance dogs by certain members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

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 “K–9 Companion Corps
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WOUNDED WARRIOR K-9 CORPS.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—Subject to the avail-
3 ability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the
4 Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
5 fairs shall jointly establish a program, to be known as the
6 “K-9 Companion Corps Program”, to award competitive
7 grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organiza-
8 tions in planning, designing, establishing, and operating
9 programs to provide assistance dogs to covered members
10 and veterans.

11 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
13 under this section shall use the grant to carry out
14 programs that provide assistance dogs to covered
15 members and veterans who have a disability de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2).

17 (2) DISABILITY.—A disability described in this
18 paragraph is any of the following:

19 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

20 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
21 other significant mobility issues.

22 (C) Loss of hearing.

23 (D) Traumatic brain injury.

24 (E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

1 (F) Any other disability that the Secretary
2 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
3 fairs consider appropriate.

4 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
5 under this section, a nonprofit organization shall submit
6 an application to the Secretary of Defense and the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs at such time, in such manner,
8 and containing such information as the Secretary of De-
9 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may require.
10 Such application shall include—

11 (1) a proposal for the evaluation required by
12 subsection (d); and

13 (2) a description of—

14 (A) the training that will be provided by
15 the organization to covered members and vet-
16 erans;

17 (B) the training of dogs that will serve as
18 assistance dogs;

19 (C) the aftercare services that the organi-
20 zation will provide for such dogs and covered
21 members and veterans;

22 (D) the plan for publicizing the availability
23 of such dogs through a targeted marketing
24 campaign to covered members and veterans;

1 (E) the recognized expertise of the organi-
2 zation in breeding and training such dogs;

3 (F) the commitment of the organization to
4 comparable standards as that of the Inter-
5 national Guide Dog Federation or Assistance
6 Dogs International;

7 (G) the commitment of the organization to
8 humane standards for animals; and

9 (H) the experience of the organization with
10 working with military medical treatment facili-
11 ties or medical facilities of the Department of
12 Veterans Affairs.

13 (d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall require each
14 recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made
15 available through the grant to conduct an evaluation of
16 the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the
17 grant by such recipient.

18 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

19 (1) The term “assistance dog” means a dog
20 specifically trained to perform physical tasks to miti-
21 gate the effects of a disability described in sub-
22 section (b)(2), except that the term does not include
23 a dog specifically trained for comfort or personal de-
24 fense.

1 (2) The term “covered members and veterans”
2 means—

3 (A) with respect to a member of the
4 Armed Forces, such member who is—

5 (i) receiving medical treatment, recu-
6 peration, or therapy under chapter 55 of
7 title 10, United States Code;

8 (ii) in medical hold or medical hold-
9 over status; or

10 (iii) covered under section 1202 or
11 1205 of title 10, United States Code; and

12 (B) with respect to a veteran, a veteran
13 who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
14 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
15 States Code.

16 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
18 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016.

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