

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3614

To establish a pilot program to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income veterans.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish a pilot program to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to nonprofit organizations to rehabilitate and modify homes of disabled and low-income 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 “Housing Assistance  
5       for Veterans Act of 2012” or the “HAVEN Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) DISABLED.—The term “disabled” means an  
2           individual with a disability, as defined by section  
3           12102 of title 42, United States Code.

4           (2) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term “eligible  
5           veteran” means a disabled or low-income veteran.

6           (3) ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES OR EQUIP-  
7           MENT.—The term “energy efficient features or  
8           equipment” means features of, or equipment in, a  
9           primary residence that help reduce the amount of  
10          electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate such resi-  
11          dence, including insulation, weatherstripping, air  
12          sealing, heating system repairs, duct sealing, or  
13          other measures.

14          (4) LOW-INCOME VETERAN.—The term “low-in-  
15          come veteran” means a veteran whose income does  
16          not exceed 80 percent of the median income for an  
17          area, as determined by the Secretary.

18          (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term  
19          “nonprofit organization” means an organization that  
20          is—

21                (A) described in section 501(c)(3) or  
22                501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
23                1986; and

24                (B) exempt from tax under section 501(a)  
25                of such Code.

1 (6) PRIMARY RESIDENCE.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “primary res-  
3 idence” means a single family house, a duplex,  
4 or a unit within a multiple-dwelling structure  
5 that is an eligible veteran’s principal dwelling  
6 and is owned by such veteran or a family mem-  
7 ber of such veteran.

8 (B) FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—For pur-  
9 poses of this paragraph, the term “family mem-  
10 ber” includes—

11 (i) a spouse, child, grandchild, parent,  
12 or sibling;

13 (ii) a spouse of such a child, grand-  
14 child, parent, or sibling; or

15 (iii) any individual related by blood or  
16 affinity whose close association with a vet-  
17 eran is the equivalent of a family relation-  
18 ship.

19 (7) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—The term  
20 “qualified organization” means a nonprofit organiza-  
21 tion that provides nationwide or State-wide pro-  
22 grams that primarily serve veterans or low-income  
23 individuals.

24 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
25 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

1           (9) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the  
2           same meaning as given such term in section 101 of  
3           title 38, United States Code.

4           (10) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The  
5           term “veterans service organization” means any or-  
6           ganization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans  
7           Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-  
8           tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

9   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM.**

10          (a) GRANT.—

11               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
12               a pilot program to award grants to qualified organi-  
13               zations to rehabilitate and modify the primary resi-  
14               dence of eligible veterans.

15               (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall work  
16               in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
17               fairs to establish and oversee the pilot program and  
18               to ensure that such program meets the needs of eli-  
19               gible veterans.

20               (3) MAXIMUM GRANT.—A grant award under  
21               the pilot program to any one qualified organization  
22               shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any one fiscal year,  
23               and such an award shall remain available until ex-  
24               pended by such organization.

25          (b) APPLICATION.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Each qualified organization  
2           that desires a grant under the pilot program shall  
3           submit an application to the Secretary at such time,  
4           in such manner, and, in addition to the information  
5           required under paragraph (2), accompanied by such  
6           information as the Secretary may reasonably re-  
7           quire.

8           (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted  
9           under paragraph (1) shall include—

10                 (A) a plan of action detailing outreach ini-  
11                 tiatives;

12                 (B) the approximate number of veterans  
13                 the qualified organization intends to serve using  
14                 grant funds;

15                 (C) a description of the type of work that  
16                 will be conducted, such as interior home modi-  
17                 fications, energy efficiency improvements, and  
18                 other similar categories of work; and

19                 (D) a plan for working with the Depart-  
20                 ment of Veterans Affairs and veterans service  
21                 organizations to identify veterans and serve  
22                 their needs.

23           (3) PREFERENCES.—In awarding grants under  
24           the pilot program, the Secretary shall give pref-  
25           erence to a qualified organization—

1 (A) with experience in providing housing  
2 rehabilitation and modification services for dis-  
3 abled veterans; or

4 (B) that proposes to provide housing reha-  
5 bilitation and modification services for eligible  
6 veterans who live in rural areas (the Secretary,  
7 through regulations, shall define the term  
8 “rural areas”).

9 (c) CRITERIA.—In order to receive a grant award  
10 under the pilot program, a qualified organization shall  
11 meet the following criteria:

12 (1) Demonstrate expertise in providing housing  
13 rehabilitation and modification services for disabled  
14 or low-income individuals for the purpose of making  
15 the homes of such individuals accessible, functional,  
16 and safe for such individuals.

17 (2) Have established outreach initiatives that—

18 (A) would engage eligible veterans and vet-  
19 erans service organizations in projects utilizing  
20 grant funds under the pilot program; and

21 (B) identify eligible veterans and their  
22 families and enlist veterans involved in skilled  
23 trades, such as carpentry, roofing, plumbing, or  
24 HVAC work.

1           (3) Have an established nationwide or State-  
2       wide network of affiliates that are—

3                   (A) nonprofit organizations; and

4                   (B) able to provide housing rehabilitation  
5       and modification services for eligible veterans.

6           (4) Have experience in successfully carrying out  
7       the accountability and reporting requirements in-  
8       volved in the proper administration of grant funds,  
9       including funds provided by private entities or Fed-  
10      eral, State, or local government entities.

11      (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant award under the pilot  
12     program shall be used—

13           (1) to modify and rehabilitate the primary resi-  
14      dence of an eligible veteran, and may include—

15                   (A) installing wheelchair ramps, widening  
16                   exterior and interior doors, reconfiguring and  
17                   re-equipping bathrooms (which includes install-  
18                   ing new fixtures and grab bars), removing door-  
19                   way thresholds, installing special lighting, add-  
20                   ing additional electrical outlets and electrical  
21                   service, and installing appropriate floor cov-  
22                   erings to—

23                           (i) accommodate the functional limita-  
24                           tions that result from having a disability;  
25                           or

1                   (ii) if such residence does not have  
2                   modifications necessary to reduce the  
3                   chances that an elderly, but not disabled  
4                   person, will fall in their home, reduce the  
5                   risks of such an elderly person from fall-  
6                   ing;

7                   (B) rehabilitating such residence that is in  
8                   a state of interior or exterior disrepair; and

9                   (C) installing energy efficient features or  
10                  equipment if—

11                  (i) an eligible veteran's monthly utility  
12                  costs for such residence is more than 5  
13                  percent of such veteran's monthly income;  
14                  and

15                  (ii) an energy audit of such residence  
16                  indicates that the installation of energy ef-  
17                  ficient features or equipment will reduce  
18                  such costs by 10 percent or more;

19                  (2) in connection with modification and reha-  
20                  bilitation services provided under the pilot program,  
21                  to provide technical, administrative, and training  
22                  support to an affiliate of a qualified organization re-  
23                  ceiving a grant under such pilot program; and

24                  (3) for other purposes as the Secretary may  
25                  prescribe through regulations.



1       (e) OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall direct the over-  
2 sight of the grant funds for the pilot program so that such  
3 funds are used efficiently until expended to fulfill the pur-  
4 pose of addressing the adaptive housing needs of eligible  
5 veterans.

6       (f) MATCHING FUNDS.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—A qualified organization re-  
8 ceiving a grant under the pilot program shall con-  
9 tribute towards the housing modification and reha-  
10 bilitation services provided to eligible veterans an  
11 amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the  
12 grant award received by such organization.

13          (2) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In order to  
14 meet the requirement under paragraph (1), such or-  
15 ganization may arrange for in-kind contributions.

16       (g) LIMITATION COST TO THE VETERANS.—A quali-  
17 fied organization receiving a grant under the pilot pro-  
18 gram shall modify or rehabilitate the primary residence  
19 of an eligible veteran at no cost to such veteran (including  
20 application fees) or at a cost such that such veteran pays  
21 no more than 30 percent of his or her income in housing  
22 costs during any month.

23       (h) REPORTS.—

24           (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall  
25 submit to Congress, on an annual basis, a report

1       that provides, with respect to the year for which  
2       such report is written—

3               (A) the number of eligible veterans pro-  
4       vided assistance under the pilot program;

5               (B) the socioeconomic characteristics of  
6       such veterans, including their gender, age, race,  
7       and ethnicity;

8               (C) the total number, types, and locations  
9       of entities contracted under such program to  
10      administer the grant funding;

11              (D) the amount of matching funds and in-  
12      kind contributions raised with each grant;

13              (E) a description of the housing rehabilita-  
14      tion and modification services provided, costs  
15      saved, and actions taken under such program;

16              (F) a description of the outreach initiatives  
17      implemented by the Secretary to educate the  
18      general public and eligible entities about such  
19      program;

20              (G) a description of the outreach initiatives  
21      instituted by grant recipients to engage eligible  
22      veterans and veteran service organizations in  
23      projects utilizing grant funds under such pro-  
24      gram;

1           (H) a description of the outreach initia-  
2           tives instituted by grant recipients to identify  
3           eligible veterans and their families; and

4           (I) any other information that the Sec-  
5           retary considers relevant in assessing such pro-  
6           gram.

7           (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6 months  
8           after the completion of the pilot program, the Sec-  
9           retary shall submit to Congress a report that pro-  
10          vides such information that the Secretary considers  
11          relevant in assessing the pilot program.

12          (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
13          are authorized to be appropriated for carrying out this Act  
14          \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

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