

113<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5333

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a service animal of a patient receiving inpatient medical care at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs is able to access the room of the patient.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2014

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

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a service animal of a patient receiving inpatient medical care at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs is able to access the room of the patient.

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 “Expanding Access for  
5 Veterans’ Service Animals Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS OF SERVICE ANIMALS AT MEDICAL FACILI-**  
2 **TIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
5 gress that—

6 (1) certified therapeutic animals should be pro-  
7 vided the same access to facilities of the Department  
8 of Veterans Affairs as service animals; and

9 (2) to ensure such access, the Secretary of Vet-  
10 erans Affairs should create and implement a certifi-  
11 cation process for therapeutic animals that mitigate  
12 the effects of a medically diagnosed mental health  
13 condition.

14 (b) ACCESS OF SERVICE ANIMALS TO MEDICAL FA-  
15 CILITIES.—Section 901(f) of title 38, United States Code,  
16 is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
18 graph (3); and

19 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
20 lowing new paragraph (2):

21 “(2)(A) Except as provided by subparagraph (B), the  
22 Secretary may not prohibit a covered service dog, or any  
23 other service animal that is allowed to access medical fa-  
24 cilities of the Department, of a patient who is receiving  
25 inpatient care at a medical facility of the Department from

1 accessing the room of the patient, including with respect  
2 to staying overnight.

3 “(B) In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary  
4 may prescribe regulations to ensure the safety and health  
5 of employees of the Department, patients, and the public,  
6 including by requiring that a patient maintain responsi-  
7 bility for the covered service dog or service animal.”.

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