

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9050

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2024

Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. HORSFORD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR**
4 **THE TRANSPORTATION OF VETERANS WHO**
5 **RESIDE IN HIGHLY RURAL AREAS TO MED-**
6 **ICAL FACILITIES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting, after section 111A,
9 the following new section:

1 **“§ 111B. Grants for the transportation of veterans**
2 **who reside in highly rural areas to med-**
3 **ical facilities**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall award
5 grants to entities that provide transportation of veterans
6 who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

7 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following may be
8 awarded a grant under this section:

9 “(1) A State veterans service agency.

10 “(2) A veterans service organization.

11 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section
12 may be used to—

13 “(1) assist a veteran who resides in a highly
14 rural area to travel to a medical facility of the De-
15 partment; or

16 “(2) otherwise assist in providing transpor-
17 tation in connection with the provision of health care
18 to a veteran who resides in highly rural area.

19 “(d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant
20 under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

21 “(e) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An entity
22 awarded a grant under this section shall not be required
23 to provide matching funds as a condition for receiving
24 such grant.

1 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 2 is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of
 3 fiscal years 2025 through 2030 to carry out this section.

4 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) The term ‘highly rural area’ means an
 6 area located in—

7 “(A) a county in which fewer than seven
 8 individuals reside per square mile; or

9 “(B) Guam, American Samoa, the Com-
 10 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
 11 the United States Virgin Islands, or Puerto
 12 Rico (not including the San Juan Census Des-
 13 ignated Place), that the Secretary determines is
 14 not urban in character.

15 “(2) The term ‘veterans service organization’
 16 means an organization recognized by the Secretary
 17 under section 5902 of this title.”.

18 (b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at
 19 the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting,
 20 after the item relating to section 111A, the following new
 21 item:

“111B. Grants for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural
 areas to medical facilities.”.

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