

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3743

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. ROSKAM, Mr. TURNER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. MICHAUD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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 2013” or the “HAVEN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO REHABILITATE AND MODIFY**
2 **HOMES OF DISABLED AND LOW-INCOME VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) DISABLED.—The term “disabled” means an
6 individual with a disability, as defined by section
7 12102 of title 42, United States Code.

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

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

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

22 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
23 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
24 is—

1 (A) described in section 501(c)(3) or
2 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of
3 1986; and

4 (B) exempt from tax under section 501(a)
5 of such Code.

6 (6) PRIMARY RESIDENCE.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “primary res-
8 idence” means a single family house, a duplex,
9 or a unit within a multiple-dwelling structure
10 that is the principal dwelling of an eligible vet-
11 eran and is owned by such veteran or a family
12 member of such veteran.

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

16 (i) a spouse, child, grandchild, parent,
17 or sibling;

18 (ii) a spouse of such a child, grand-
19 child, parent, or sibling; or

20 (iii) any individual related by blood or
21 affinity whose close association with a vet-
22 eran is the equivalent of a family relation-
23 ship.

24 (7) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—The term
25 “qualified organization” means a nonprofit organiza-

1 tion that provides nationwide or statewide programs
2 that primarily serve veterans or low-income individ-
3 uals.

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

6 (9) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
7 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
8 United States Code.

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

14 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM.—

15 (1) GRANT.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
17 tablish a pilot program to award grants to
18 qualified organizations to rehabilitate and mod-
19 ify the primary residence of eligible veterans.

20 (B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall
21 work in conjunction with the Secretary of Vet-
22 erans Affairs to establish and oversee the pilot
23 program and to ensure that such program
24 meets the needs of eligible veterans.

1 (C) MAXIMUM GRANT.—A grant award
2 under the pilot program to any one qualified or-
3 ganization shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any
4 one fiscal year, and such an award shall remain
5 available until expended by such organization.

6 (2) APPLICATION.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each qualified organi-
8 zation that desires a grant under the pilot pro-
9 gram shall submit an application to the Sec-
10 retary at such time, in such manner, and, in
11 addition to the information required under sub-
12 paragraph (B), accompanied by such informa-
13 tion as the Secretary may reasonably require.

14 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
15 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

16 (i) a plan of action detailing outreach
17 initiatives;

18 (ii) the approximate number of vet-
19 erans the qualified organization intends to
20 serve using grant funds;

21 (iii) a description of the type of work
22 that will be conducted, such as interior
23 home modifications, energy efficiency im-
24 provements, and other similar categories of
25 work; and

1 (iv) a plan for working with the De-
2 partment of Veterans Affairs and veterans
3 service organizations to identify veterans
4 who are not eligible for programs under
5 chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code,
6 and meet their needs.

7 (C) PREFERENCES.—In awarding grants
8 under the pilot program, the Secretary shall
9 give preference to a qualified organization—

10 (i) with experience in providing hous-
11 ing rehabilitation and modification services
12 for disabled veterans; or

13 (ii) that proposes to provide housing
14 rehabilitation and modification services for
15 eligible veterans who live in rural, includ-
16 ing tribal, areas (the Secretary, through
17 regulations, shall define the term “rural
18 areas”).

19 (3) CRITERIA.—In order to receive a grant
20 award under the pilot program, a qualified organiza-
21 tion shall meet the following criteria:

22 (A) Demonstrate expertise in providing
23 housing rehabilitation and modification services
24 for disabled or low-income individuals for the
25 purpose of making the homes of such individ-

1 uals accessible, functional, and safe for such in-
2 dividuals.

3 (B) Have established outreach initiatives
4 that—

5 (i) would engage eligible veterans and
6 veterans service organizations in projects
7 utilizing grant funds under the pilot pro-
8 gram;

9 (ii) ensure veterans who are disabled
10 receive preference in selection for assist-
11 ance under this program; and

12 (iii) identify eligible veterans and their
13 families and enlist veterans involved in
14 skilled trades, such as carpentry, roofing,
15 plumbing, or HVAC work.

16 (C) Have an established nationwide or
17 statewide network of affiliates that are—

18 (i) nonprofit organizations; and

19 (ii) able to provide housing rehabilita-
20 tion and modification services for eligible
21 veterans.

22 (D) Have experience in successfully car-
23 rying out the accountability and reporting re-
24 quirements involved in the proper administra-
25 tion of grant funds, including funds provided by

1 private entities or Federal, State, or local gov-
2 ernment entities.

3 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant award under the
4 pilot program shall be used—

5 (A) to modify and rehabilitate the primary
6 residence of an eligible veteran, and may in-
7 clude—

8 (i) installing wheelchair ramps, wid-
9 ening exterior and interior doors,
10 reconfiguring and re-equipping bath-
11 rooms (which includes installing new fix-
12 tures and grab bars), removing doorway
13 thresholds, installing special lighting, add-
14 ing additional electrical outlets and elec-
15 trical service, and installing appropriate
16 floor coverings to—

17 (I) accommodate the functional
18 limitations that result from having a
19 disability; or

20 (II) if such residence does not
21 have modifications necessary to reduce
22 the chances that an elderly, but not
23 disabled person, will fall in their
24 home, reduce the risks of such an el-
25 derly person from falling;

1 (ii) rehabilitating such residence that
2 is in a state of interior or exterior dis-
3 repair; and

4 (iii) installing energy efficient features
5 or equipment if—

6 (I) an eligible veteran's monthly
7 utility costs for such residence is more
8 than 5 percent of such veteran's
9 monthly income; and

10 (II) an energy audit of such resi-
11 dence indicates that the installation of
12 energy efficient features or equipment
13 will reduce such costs by 10 percent
14 or more; and

15 (B) in connection with modification and re-
16 habilitation services provided under the pilot
17 program, to provide technical, administrative,
18 and training support to an affiliate of a quali-
19 fied organization receiving a grant under such
20 pilot program.

21 (5) OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall direct the
22 oversight of the grant funds for the pilot program so
23 that such funds are used efficiently until expended
24 to fulfill the purpose of addressing the adaptive
25 housing needs of eligible veterans.

1 (6) MATCHING FUNDS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—A qualified organiza-
3 tion receiving a grant under the pilot program
4 shall contribute towards the housing modifica-
5 tion and rehabilitation services provided to eligi-
6 ble veterans an amount equal to not less than
7 50 percent of the grant award received by such
8 organization.

9 (B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In order to
10 meet the requirement under subparagraph (A),
11 such organization may arrange for in-kind con-
12 tributions.

13 (7) LIMITATION COST TO THE VETERANS.—A
14 qualified organization receiving a grant under the
15 pilot program shall modify or rehabilitate the pri-
16 mary residence of an eligible veteran at no cost to
17 such veteran (including application fees) or at a cost
18 such that such veteran pays no more than 30 per-
19 cent of his or her income in housing costs during
20 any month.

21 (8) REPORTS.—

22 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary
23 shall submit to Congress, on an annual basis, a
24 report that provides, with respect to the year
25 for which such report is written—

- 1 (i) the number of eligible veterans
2 provided assistance under the pilot pro-
3 gram;
- 4 (ii) the socioeconomic characteristics
5 of such veterans, including their gender,
6 age, race, and ethnicity;
- 7 (iii) the total number, types, and loca-
8 tions of entities contracted under such pro-
9 gram to administer the grant funding;
- 10 (iv) the amount of matching funds
11 and in-kind contributions raised with each
12 grant;
- 13 (v) a description of the housing reha-
14 bilitation and modification services pro-
15 vided, costs saved, and actions taken under
16 such program;
- 17 (vi) a description of the outreach ini-
18 tiatives implemented by the Secretary to
19 educate the general public and eligible en-
20 tities about such program;
- 21 (vii) a description of the outreach ini-
22 tiatives instituted by grant recipients to
23 engage eligible veterans and veteran service
24 organizations in projects utilizing grant
25 funds under such program;

1 (viii) a description of the outreach ini-
2 tiatives instituted by grant recipients to
3 identify eligible veterans and their families;
4 and

5 (ix) any other information that the
6 Secretary considers relevant in assessing
7 such program.

8 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6
9 months after the completion of the pilot pro-
10 gram, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
11 report that provides such information that the
12 Secretary considers relevant in assessing the
13 pilot program.

14 (C) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not
15 later than March 31, 2019, the Inspector Gen-
16 eral of the Department of Housing and Urban
17 Development shall submit to the Chairmen and
18 Ranking Members of the Committee on Bank-
19 ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate
20 and the Committee on Financial Services of the
21 House of Representatives a report containing a
22 review of—

23 (i) the use of appropriated funds by
24 the Secretary and by grantees under the
25 pilot program; and

1 (ii) oversight and accountability of
2 grantees under the pilot program.

3 (9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There are authorized to be appropriated for carrying
5 out this section \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2015 through 2019.

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