

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. ISRAEL OF NEW YORK**

Add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. 11. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT GRANT PROGRAM FOR**
2 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In addition to any other pro-
4 grams carried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 regarding providing housing to homeless veterans, not
6 later than one year after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, the Secretary shall commence a pilot grant program
8 to assess the feasibility and advisability of awarding
9 grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate aban-
10 doned homes for homeless veterans.

11 (b) GRANTS.—

12 (1) AWARD.—In carrying out the pilot program
13 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall award
14 grants to eligible entities to purchase and renovate
15 abandoned homes for homeless veterans.

16 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a sin-
17 gle grant awarded under paragraph (1) shall not ex-
18 ceed \$1,000,000.

1 (3) NUMBER.—The Secretary may award to an
2 eligible entity more than one grant under paragraph
3 (1).

4 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may award
5 a grant under subsection (b)(1) to any of the following:

6 (1) A veterans service agency.

7 (2) A veterans service organization.

8 (3) Homeless organizations.

9 (4) Any other nongovernmental organization.

10 (d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

11 (1) APPLICATION.—Any eligible entity seeking
12 a grant under subsection (b)(1) shall submit to the
13 Secretary an application therefore in such form and
14 in such manner as the Secretary considers appro-
15 priate.

16 (2) SELECTION PRIORITY.—

17 (A) COMMUNITIES WITH GREATEST
18 NEED.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in ac-
19 cordance with regulations the Secretary shall
20 prescribe, the Secretary shall give priority in
21 the awarding of grants under subsection (b)(1)
22 to eligible entities who serve communities that
23 the Secretary determines have the greatest need
24 of homeless services.

1 (B) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The
2 Secretary may give priority in the awarding of
3 grants under subsection (b)(1) to achieve a fair
4 distribution, as determined by the Secretary,
5 among homeless veterans in different geo-
6 graphical regions.

7 (C) OTHER AGREEMENTS.—In awarding a
8 grant under subsection (b)(1) to an eligible en-
9 tity in a location determined pursuant to sub-
10 paragraphs (A) and (B), the Secretary shall
11 give preference to eligible entities that are en-
12 tered into an agreement with the Secretary
13 under section 2041 of title 38, United States
14 Code.

15 (D) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Except as pro-
16 vided by subsection (C), the Secretary shall
17 award a grant under subsection (b)(1) without
18 regard to whether the eligible entity has re-
19 ceived any other grant or benefit from the Fed-
20 eral Government relating to providing housing
21 to homeless veterans.

22 (e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

23 (1) PURPOSES.—A grantee may use amounts of
24 a grant awarded to the grantee under subsection

1 (b)(1) to purchase or renovate abandoned homes, in-
2 cluding homes that have been foreclosed.

3 (2) MAXIMUM PURCHASE AMOUNT.—Not more
4 than \$300,000 of the amount of a grant awarded
5 under subsection (b)(1) may be used for the pur-
6 chase of a single home.

7 (3) PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

8 (A) The United States shall not have any
9 ownership interest in a home that is purchased
10 by a grantee using amounts of a grant awarded
11 under subsection (b)(1).

12 (B) Each grantee shall ensure that, begin-
13 ning one year after the date on which a veteran
14 begins to reside in a home purchased or ren-
15 ovated by the grantee using a grant awarded
16 under subsection (b)(1), the veteran makes
17 monthly payments to the grantee in an amount
18 determined appropriate by the grantee that is
19 not less than 85 percent of the fair market rent
20 for such home.

21 (C) Each grantee shall determine whether
22 payments made by a veteran under subpara-
23 graph (B) shall be treated as rent or as a mort-
24 gage for the home for which the veteran is mak-
25 ing such payments. The Secretary, in coordina-

1 tion with the Secretary of Housing and Urban
2 Development, shall determine the requirements
3 for such payments.

4 (D) Each grantee shall pay to the Sec-
5 retary of Veterans Affairs not less than 80 per-
6 cent of each payment received under subpara-
7 graph (B).

8 (E) The Secretary may conduct an audit of
9 any grantee to ensure that the grantee carries
10 out this paragraph.

11 (4) VETERANS HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUND.—

12 (A) There is established in the Treasury a
13 fund to be known as the “Veterans Homeless-
14 ness Grant Fund” (in this paragraph referred
15 to as the “Fund”).

16 (B) The Secretary shall deposit into the
17 Fund the payments collected by the Secretary
18 under paragraph (3)(D).

19 (C) Amounts deposited into the Fund pur-
20 suant to subparagraph (B) shall be available to
21 the Secretary to carry out the pilot program
22 under subsection (a) without further appropria-
23 tion and such amounts shall remain available
24 until expended. The Secretary may not use such

1 amounts from the Fund for any other purpose
2 unless pursuant to a specific provision of law.

3 (f) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY.—In carrying
4 out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary
5 shall ensure the following:

6 (1) Proper oversight.

7 (2) The protection of veterans from returning
8 to homelessness.

9 (3) The ability of the Secretary to respond to
10 disputes.

11 (g) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
12 pilot program under subsection (a) during the three-year
13 period beginning on the date of the commencement of the
14 pilot program.

15 (h) ANNUAL REPORTS.—During each year in which
16 the Secretary carries out the pilot program under sub-
17 section (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
18 port that details, with respect to the year covered by the
19 report, the number of grants awarded, the amounts so
20 awarded, the progress of home purchase and renovation
21 made by eligible entities using such grants, and the num-
22 ber of tenants currently paying rent towards such homes.

23 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary a total of
25 \$25,000,000 to carry out the pilot program under sub-

1 section (a) and any such amounts appropriated shall re-
2 main available until expended.

3 (j) HOMELESS VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
4 the term “homeless veteran” has the meaning given that
5 term in section 2002 of title 38, United States Code.

