

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-5
OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert
the following new section:

1 SEC. 4____.

2 (a) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT
3 PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANTS FOR THE PROVISION OF
4 SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS.—

5 (1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later
6 than 24 months after the date of the enactment of
7 this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall es-
8 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
9 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to non-
10 profit entities to provide service dogs to eligible vet-
11 erans.

12 (2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
13 the pilot program during the five-year period begin-
14 ning on the date on which the first grant is awarded
15 under this section.

16 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
18 grant under this section, a nonprofit entity shall

1 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
2 in such manner, and containing such commitments
3 and information as the Secretary may require.

4 (2) ELEMENTS.—An application submitted
5 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

6 (A) A proposal for the provision of service
7 dogs to eligible veterans, including how the non-
8 profit entity will communicate with the Sec-
9 retary to ensure an increasing number of serv-
10 ice dogs are provided to veterans.

11 (B) A description of the following:

12 (i) The training that will be provided
13 by the nonprofit entity to eligible veterans.

14 (ii) The training of dogs that will
15 serve as service dogs.

16 (iii) Any additional support or services
17 the nonprofit entity will provide for such
18 dogs and eligible veterans.

19 (iv) The plan for publicizing the avail-
20 ability of such dogs through a marketing
21 campaign that targets eligible veterans.

22 (v) The commitment of the nonprofit
23 entity to have humane standards for ani-
24 mals.

1 (C) Documentation that demonstrates that
2 the nonprofit entity has experience in training
3 dogs as service animals.

4 (c) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award a
6 grant to each nonprofit entity for which the Sec-
7 retary has approved an application submitted under
8 subsection (b)(1).

9 (2) AGREEMENT REQUIRED.—Before the provi-
10 sion of any grant amounts to a nonprofit entity se-
11 lected to receive a grant under this section, the Sec-
12 retary shall enter into an agreement, containing
13 such terms, conditions, and limitations as the Sec-
14 retary determines appropriate, with such entity.

15 (3) MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under
16 this section may not exceed \$2,000,000.

17 (4) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish
18 intervals of payment for the administration of each
19 grant awarded under this section.

20 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of a grant under
22 this section shall use the grant amounts to plan, de-
23 velop, implement, or manage (or any combination
24 thereof) one or more programs that provide service
25 dogs to eligible veterans.

1 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The Sec-
2 retary may establish a maximum amount for each
3 grant awarded under this section that may be used
4 by the recipient of the grant to cover administrative
5 expenses.

6 (3) OTHER CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS.—
7 The Secretary may establish other conditions or lim-
8 itations on the use of grant amounts under this sec-
9 tion.

10 (e) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

11 (1) NOTIFICATIONS AND INFORMATION.—A re-
12 cipient of a grant under this section shall—

13 (A) notify each veteran who receives a
14 service dog through such grant that the service
15 dog is being paid for, in whole or in part, by
16 the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

17 (B) inform each such veteran of the bene-
18 fits and services available from the Secretary
19 for the veteran and the service dog.

20 (2) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FEES.—A recipi-
21 ent of a grant under this section may not charge a
22 fee to a veteran receiving a service dog through such
23 grant.

24 (f) VETERINARY INSURANCE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
2 to each veteran who receives a service dog through
3 a grant under this section a commercially available
4 veterinary insurance policy for the service dog.

5 (2) CONTINUATION.—If the Secretary provides
6 a veterinary insurance policy to a veteran under
7 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall continue to pro-
8 vide the policy to the veteran without regard to the
9 continuation or termination of the pilot program.

10 (g) TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
11 Secretary may provide training and technical assistance
12 to recipients of grants under this section.

13 (h) OVERSIGHT AND MONITORING.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary—

15 (A) shall establish such oversight and mon-
16 itoring requirements as the Secretary deter-
17 mines appropriate to ensure that grant amounts
18 awarded under this section are used appro-
19 priately; and

20 (B) may take such actions as the Secretary
21 determines necessary to address any issues
22 identified through the enforcement of such re-
23 quirements.

24 (2) REPORTS AND ANSWERS.—The Secretary
25 may require each recipient of a grant under this sec-

1 tion to provide, in such form as may be prescribed
2 by the Secretary, such reports or answers in writing
3 to specific questions, surveys, or questionnaires as
4 the Secretary determines necessary to carry out the
5 pilot program.

6 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “eligible veteran” means a vet-
8 eran who has a covered condition=.

9 (2) The term “covered condition” means any of
10 the following:

11 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

12 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
13 other significant mobility issue, including men-
14 tal health mobility.

15 (C) Loss of hearing.

16 (D) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

17 (E) Traumatic brain injury.

18 (F) Any other disability, condition, or di-
19 agnosis for which the Secretary determines,
20 based on medical judgment, that it is optimal
21 for the veteran to manage the disability, condi-
22 tion, or diagnosis, and live independently
23 through the assistance of a service dog.

1 (3) The term “service animal” has the meaning
2 given such term in section 36.104 of title 28, Code
3 of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation).

4 (4) The term “service dog” means any dog that
5 is individually trained to do work or perform tasks
6 that are—

7 (A) for the benefit of a veteran with a cov-
8 ered condition; and

9 (B) directly related to the covered condi-
10 tion of the veteran.

11 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$10,000,000 for each of the five consecutive fiscal years
14 following the fiscal year in which the pilot program is es-
15 tablished under subsection (a).

