AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–57
OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF
MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle D of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 7 WOUNDED WARRIOR SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a program, to be known as the “Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program”, to award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in the planning, designing, establishing, or operating (or any combination thereof) of programs to provide assistance dogs to covered members and veterans. The awarding of such grants is subject to the availability of appropriations provided for such purpose.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out programs that provide assistance dogs to covered members and veterans who have a disability described in paragraph (2).
(2) DISABILITY.—A disability described in this paragraph is any of the following:

(A) Blindness or visual impairment.
(B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or other significant mobility issues.
(C) Loss of hearing.
(D) Traumatic brain injury.
(E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.
(F) Any other disability that the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate.

(3) TIMING OF AWARD.—The Secretary may not award a grant under this section to reimburse a recipient for costs previously incurred by the recipient in carrying out a program to provide assistance dogs to covered members and veterans unless the recipient elects for the award to be such a reimbursement.

(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Such application shall include—

(1) a proposal for the evaluation required by subsection (d); and
(2) a description of—
(A) the training that will be provided by
the organization to covered members and vet-
erans;

(B) the training of dogs that will serve as
assistance dogs;

(C) the aftercare services that the organi-
ization will provide for such dogs and covered
members and veterans;

(D) the plan for publicizing the availability
of such dogs through a targeted marketing
campaign to covered members and veterans;

(E) the recognized expertise of the organi-
ization in breeding and training such dogs;

(F) the commitment of the organization to
humane standards for animals; and

(G) the experience of the organization with
working with military medical treatment facili-
ties or medical facilities of the Department of
Veterans Affairs; and

(3) a statement certifying that the organiza-
tion—

(A) is accredited by Assistance Dogs Inter-
national, the International Guide Dog Federa-
tion, or another similar widely recognized ac-
creditation organization that the Secretary de-
termines has accreditation standards that meet
or exceed the standards of Assistance Dogs
International and the International Guide Dog
Federation; or

(B) is a candidate for such accreditation or
otherwise meets or exceeds such standards, as
determined by the Secretary.

(d) Evaluation.—The Secretary shall require each
recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made
available through the grant to conduct an evaluation of
the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the
grant by such recipient.

(e) Coordination.—The Secretary of Defense shall
coordinate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
awarding grants under this section.

(f) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Assistance dog.—The term “assistance
dog” means a dog specifically trained to perform
physical tasks to mitigate the effects of a disability
described in subsection (b)(2), except that the term
does not include a dog specifically trained for com-
fort or personal defense.

(2) Covered members and veterans.—The
term “covered members and veterans” means—
(A) with respect to a member of the Armed Forces, such member who is—

(i) receiving medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code;

(ii) in medical hold or medical hold-over status; or

(iii) covered under section 1202 or 1205 of title 10, United States Code; and

(B) with respect to a veteran, a veteran who is enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.