

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1739

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for veterinary care for retired military working dogs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for veterinary care for retired military working dogs, and for other purposes.

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 “Support Our Military
5 Working Dogs Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROVISION OF VETERI-**
7 **NARY CARE FOR RETIRED MILITARY WORK-**
8 **ING DOGS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 994 of title 10, United
10 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a);

2 (A) by striking “establish and maintain a
3 system to”;

4 (B) by striking “for the veterinary care of”
5 and inserting “veterinary care for”; and

6 (C) by striking the second sentence;

7 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “that the
8 Secretary of the military department concerned de-
9 termines is suitable for adoption or is” before
10 “adopted”; and

11 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “the system
12 authorized by”.

13 (b) MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER ENTI-
14 TIES.—Such section is further amended by adding at the
15 end the following new subsection:

16 “(d) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATED FUNDS.—

17 (1) The Secretary of Defense may accept donations of
18 funds, gifts, and in-kind contributions for the purpose of
19 providing long-term care for any military working dog
20 adopted under section 2583 of this title. Any amount so
21 accepted shall be available without further appropriation
22 and without fiscal year limitation.

23 “(2) The Secretary of Defense may enter into a
24 multi-year agreement with a veterans service organization
25 or appropriate nonprofit entity under which—

1 “(A) the organization or entity may solicit and
 2 accept donations of funds on behalf of the Depart-
 3 ment of Defense pursuant to paragraph (1); and

4 “(B) the organization or entity agrees to trans-
 5 fer any funds accepted pursuant to such an agree-
 6 ment to the Department of Defense.

7 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘veterans service or-
 8 ganization’ means an organization recognized by the Sec-
 9 retary of Veterans Affairs for the representation of vet-
 10 erans under section 5902 of title 38.”.

11 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CHARGE FOR ADOPTION OF MILI-**
 12 **TARY ANIMALS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d) of section 2583 of
 14 title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking
 15 “may” and inserting “shall”.

16 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subsection (g)(2)(A)
 17 of such section is amended by inserting “or” after the
 18 semicolon.

19 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH UNDER JOINT TRAU-**
 20 **MA EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIREC-**
 21 **TORATE AND INCLUSION OF MILITARY**
 22 **WORKING DOGS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 708 of
 24 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

1 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is
2 amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “of members
4 of the Armed Forces” and inserting “with respect to
5 both members of the Armed Forces and military
6 working dogs”; and

7 (2) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the
8 following new paragraph:

9 “(9) To inform and advise the conduct of re-
10 search on the leading causes of morbidity and mor-
11 tality of members of the Armed Forces and military
12 working dogs in combat.”.

13 (b) VETERINARIANS IN PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
14 PLAN.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended—

15 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
16 paragraph (G); and

17 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
18 lowing new subparagraph:

19 “(F) Veterinary care.”.

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