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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program for grants to improve access to public transportation services for veterans, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. LARSEN of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program for grants to improve access to public transportation services for veterans, 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 “Veterans Access to  
5       Transit Act” or the “VA Transit Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GRANTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC**  
2                   **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
4   date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-  
5   portation, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans  
6   Affairs, shall establish a pilot program to award grants  
7   for the improvement of public transportation services for  
8   veterans.

9           (b) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot  
11   program, the Secretary of Transportation may  
12   award grants to eligible recipients for eligible public  
13   transportation projects.

14           (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary  
15   of Transportation shall ensure that, to the extent  
16   practicable, grants awarded under this section are  
17   equitably distributed across geographic regions, in-  
18   cluding rural and Tribal communities.

19           (3) GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS.—A  
20   grant under this section shall be subject to the re-  
21   quirements of—

22           (A) section 5307 of title 49, United States  
23   Code, for eligible recipients of grants made in  
24   urbanized areas; and

25           (B) section 5311 of such title for eligible  
26   recipients of grants made in rural areas.

1           (4) ALLOCATION TO SUBRECIPIENTS.—A recipi-  
2           ent of a grant under this section may allocate  
3           amounts provided under the grant to a subrecipient.

4           (5) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall award  
5           grants under the pilot program to eligible recipients  
6           at not fewer than 5 eligible locations.

7           (c) GRANT APPLICATION.—An eligible recipient seek-  
8           ing the award of a grant under this section shall submit  
9           to the Secretary of Transportation an application in such  
10          form, in such manner, and containing such commitments  
11          and information as the Secretary considers necessary to  
12          carry out this section, including the following:

13           (1) A description of the public transportation  
14           services that the eligible recipient intends to provide  
15           with such grant.

16           (2) A list of all sites to be served by such serv-  
17           ices, including any sites that are facilities and orga-  
18           nizations that serve veterans.

19           (3) The frequency and hours of operation of  
20           such services.

21           (4) An estimate of the number of veterans that  
22           would use such services.

23           (5) Evidence that the eligible recipient has the  
24           legal, technical, and financial capacity to carry out

1 the project proposed to be carried out with such  
2 grant.

3 (d) NOTIFICATION TO VETERANS.—Each recipient  
4 awarded a grant under this section shall publicize and con-  
5 duct outreach targeted to veterans regarding the transpor-  
6 tation services funded under this section.

7 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established  
8 under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5  
9 years after the date on which the pilot program com-  
10 mences.

11 (f) DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 90 days after  
12 the termination date described in subsection (e), each re-  
13 cipient of a grant under this section shall submit to the  
14 Secretary of Transportation a report containing informa-  
15 tion on the projects carried out with such grant, includ-  
16 ing—

17 (1) a description of the effects of expanded geo-  
18 graphic coverage, improved service quality, increased  
19 frequency, or other activities funded with such grant  
20 on public transportation services for veterans;

21 (2) a description of any accessibility improve-  
22 ments made as a result of such projects;

23 (3) a description of changes in ridership due to  
24 such projects, including estimates or data regarding

1       both general ridership and the number of veterans  
2       served;

3           (4) a description of the size and type of public  
4       transportation vehicles used in services funded with  
5       a grant awarded under this section;

6           (5) information on whether the use of facilities  
7       or organizations that serve veterans has increased  
8       due to such projects; and

9           (6) any other information the Secretary re-  
10      quires.

11      (g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days the date on  
12      which the reports required under subsection (f) are sub-  
13      mitted, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit to  
14      the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of  
15      the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
16      Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, a re-  
17      port on the results of the pilot program carried out under  
18      this section based on the information provided in the re-  
19      ports required under subsection (f).

20      (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-  
21      nitions shall apply:

22           (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible  
23      recipient” means—

24           (A) a State or local governmental entity;  
25           and

1 (B) a Tribe or Tribal governmental entity.

2 (2) ELIGIBLE LOCATION.—The term “eligible  
3 location” means—

4 (A) a rural area, as defined in section  
5 5302 of title 49, United States Code; or

6 (B) an urbanized area, as defined in sec-  
7 tion 5302 of title 49, United States Code, that  
8 has a population of fewer than 200,000 individ-  
9 uals.

10 (3) ELIGIBLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.—

11 The term “eligible transportation project” means—

12 (A) a project planned, designed, and car-  
13 ried out to expand, modify, retain, or establish  
14 public transportation services that provide vet-  
15 erans access to locations of facilities or organi-  
16 zations that serve veterans that is—

17 (i) a capital project; or

18 (ii) a project to acquire such public  
19 transportation services, including entering  
20 into service agreements with private pro-  
21 viders of public transportation; or

22 (B) operating costs associated with such  
23 project.

1           (4) FACILITY OR ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES  
2       VETERANS.—The term “facility or organization that  
3       serves veterans” means—

4           (A) a facility of the Department of Vet-  
5       erans Affairs;

6           (B) an organization or facility that pro-  
7       vides services to veterans using funds provided  
8       by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

9           (C) and organization or facility proven to  
10      serve a significant number or percentage of the  
11      local population of veterans.

12          (5) NET PROJECT COST.—The term “net  
13      project cost” has the meaning given such term in  
14      section 5302 of title 49, United States Code.

15          (6) SUBRECIPIENT.—The term “subrecipient”  
16      means a State or local governmental authority, a  
17      private nonprofit organization, or an operator of  
18      public transportation services.