

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1154

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prevent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from prohibiting the use of service dogs on Department of Veterans Affairs property.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2011

Mr. CARTER (for himself, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. CULBERSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLORES, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KISSELL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MICA, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prevent the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from prohibiting the use of service dogs on Department of Veterans Affairs property.

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 Equal Treat-
5 ment for Service Dogs Act” or the “VETS Dogs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The usage of medical service dogs among
4 veterans is increasing.

5 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs cur-
6 rently allows seeing-eye dogs in Department facili-
7 ties.

8 (3) The Department does not place any limita-
9 tions on the access of seeing-eye dogs to Department
10 facilities.

11 (4) The Americans With Disabilities Act re-
12 quires that a public entity or place of public accom-
13 modation modify its policies, practices, and proce-
14 dures to allow an individual with a disability to use
15 a service animal.

16 **SEC. 3. USE OF SERVICE DOGS ON PROPERTY OF THE DE-**
17 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

18 Section 901 of title 38, United States Code, is
19 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
20 section:

21 “(f) The Secretary may not prohibit the use of service
22 dogs in any facility or on any property of the Department
23 or in any facility or on any property that receives funding
24 from the Secretary.”.

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