

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3083

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve 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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROVISION OF VETERI-**
 2 **NARY CARE FOR RETIRED MILITARY WORK-**
 3 **ING DOGS.**

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

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) by striking “establish and maintain a
 8 system to”;

9 (B) by striking “for the veterinary care of”
 10 and inserting “veterinary care for”; and

11 (C) by striking the second sentence;

12 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting “that the
 13 Secretary of the military department concerned de-
 14 termines is suitable for adoption or is” before
 15 “adopted”; and

16 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “the system
 17 authorized by”.

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

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

22 (1) The Secretary of Defense may accept donations of
 23 funds, gifts, and in-kind contributions for the purpose of
 24 providing long-term care for any military working dog
 25 adopted under section 2583 of this title. Any amount so

1 accepted shall be available without further appropriation
2 and without fiscal year limitation.

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

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CHARGE FOR ADOPTION OF MILI-**
17 **TARY ANIMALS.**

18 Section 2583(d) of title 10, United States Code, is
19 amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

1 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION OF RESEARCH UNDER JOINT TRAUMA**
 2 **EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIRECTORATE AND INCLUSION OF MILITARY**
 3 **WORKING DOGS AND VETERINARY CARE.**
 4

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (b) of section 708 of
 6 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
 7 2017 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “of members
 9 of the Armed Forces” and inserting “with respect to
 10 members of the Armed Forces and military working
 11 dogs”; and

12 (2) by striking paragraph (9) and inserting the
 13 following new paragraph:

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

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

20 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
 21 paragraph (G); and

22 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
 23 lowing new subparagraph:

24 “(F) Veterinary care.”.

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