

S 1014

PAWS Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 3, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (May 3, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1014>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]

Party: Republican • State: NE • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 3, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jun 6, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 6, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jun 14, 2017
Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 27, 2017
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Jul 24, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 24, 2017
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Oct 16, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Nov 2, 2017
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 7, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 3, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2327	Related bill	Sep 25, 2018: ASSUMING FIRST SPONSORSHIP - Mr. Stivers asked unanimous consent that he may hereafter be the first sponsor of H.R. 2327, a bill originally introduced by Representative DeSantis, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII. Agreed to without objection.

## **Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2017 or the PAWS Act of 2017**

This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a five-year pilot program under which it awards grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to provide service dogs to veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder after completing other evidence-based treatment.

An organization that receives a grant shall provide for each participating service dog and veteran:

- coverage by a commercially available veterinary health insurance policy,
- hardware clinically determined to be required by the dog to perform the tasks necessary to assist the veteran,
- payments for travel expenses to obtain the dog, and
- travel expenses required to obtain a replacement service dog.

To be eligible for a grant, an organization must: (1) agree to cover all costs in excess of the grant amount to guarantee such benefits, (2) be certified by Assistance Dogs International, (3) provide one-on-one training for each service dog and recipient for 30 hours or more during a period of 90 days or more, and (4) provide an in-house residential facility or other accommodations nearby in which service dog recipients stay for a minimum of 10 days while receiving at least 30 hours of training.

The VA shall develop metrics to measure the improvement in psychosocial function and therapeutic compliance and changes independence on prescription narcotics and psychotropic medication of veterans participating in the program.

The Government Accountability Office must provide to Congress a briefing on the methodology established for, and a report on, the pilot program.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 3, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 3, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.