HR 3103

PAWS Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security
Introduced: Jun 5, 2019
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Jun 17, 2019)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/3103

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]
Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (33 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cisneros, Gilbert Ray, Jr. [D-CA-39]	D · CA		Jun 5, 2019
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Jun 5, 2019
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Jun 5, 2019
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Jun 5, 2019
Rep. Higgins, Brian [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Jun 13, 2019
Rep. Joyce, John [R-PA-13]	R · PA		Jun 13, 2019
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Jul 2, 2019
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Jul 2, 2019
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Jul 2, 2019
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Jul 9, 2019
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Jul 15, 2019
Rep. Slotkin, Elissa [D-MI-8]	D · MI		Jul 15, 2019
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Jul 30, 2019
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		Jul 30, 2019
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Jul 30, 2019
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Aug 6, 2019
Rep. Lee, Susie [D-NV-3]	D · NV		Aug 6, 2019
Rep. Rose, Max [D-NY-11]	D · NY		Aug 6, 2019
Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]	R · IL		Sep 10, 2019
Rep. Luria, Elaine G. [D-VA-2]	D · VA		Sep 10, 2019
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Sep 18, 2019
Rep. Cunningham, Joe [D-SC-1]	D · SC		Sep 19, 2019
Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]	D · NY		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Price, David E. [D-NC-4]	D · NC		Oct 23, 2019
Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]	R · WA		Oct 29, 2019
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Oct 29, 2019
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Nov 18, 2019
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Dec 16, 2019
Rep. Steil, Bryan [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Dec 16, 2019
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Jan 7, 2020
Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]	D · GA		Sep 15, 2020
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Nov 19, 2020
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Dec 2, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 17, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 2949	Related bill	**Nov 21, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Summary (as of Jun 5, 2019)

Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2019 or the PAWS Act of 2019

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to implement a grant program for the purpose of pairing service dogs with eligible veterans. Organizations that receive grants shall provide veterinary health insurance coverage, hardware, and travel expenses for each service dog and veteran participating in the program.

Eligible veterans are those who (1) are enrolled in the VA health care system, (2) have been evaluated and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) but remain diagnosed with PTSD, (3) may benefit from a service dog, and (4) agree to successfully complete training provided by an eligible organization. Veterans are required to see a VA health care provider at least once every six months to determine whether the veteran continues to benefit from a service dog.

Eligible organizations are nonprofit organizations that

- provide service dogs to veterans with PTSD,
- meet publicly available standards set forth by the Association of Service Dog Providers for Military Veterans,
- have expertise in the needs of veterans with PTSD,
- agree to cover all costs in excess of the grant amount to guarantee the benefits of the program,
- agree to reaccept or replace a service dog provided to a veteran, and
- submit an application to the VA.

Any improvement in PTSD symptoms as a result of the provision of a service dog shall not affect the veteran's eligibility for any other VA benefits.

The Government Accountability Office must report on the grant program.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 17, 2019:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 5, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 5, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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