

## HR 1022

PAWS Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Feb 11, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health. (Mar 22, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1022>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Rutherford, John H. [R-FL-4]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

**Cosponsors** (43 total)

<b>Cosponsor</b>	<b>Party / State</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>
Rep. Lawson, Al, Jr. [D-FL-5]	D · FL		Feb 11, 2021
Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Feb 11, 2021
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Feb 11, 2021
Rep. Waltz, Michael [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Feb 11, 2021
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3]	R · WA		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21]	R · CA		Mar 2, 2021
Rep. Delgado, Antonio [D-NY-19]	D · NY		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. McBath, Lucy [D-GA-6]	D · GA		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Van Drew, Jefferson [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Mar 11, 2021
Rep. Strickland, Marilyn [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Mar 11, 2021
Rep. Herrell, Yvette [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Mar 18, 2021
Rep. Larsen, Rick [D-WA-2]	D · WA		Mar 18, 2021
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Mar 18, 2021
Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Gaetz, Matt [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Murphy, Stephanie N. [D-FL-7]	D · FL		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Apr 1, 2021
Rep. Franklin, C. Scott [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. Garbarino, Andrew R. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. Taylor, Van [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Apr 15, 2021
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 19, 2021
Rep. Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" [R-TN-3]	R · TN		May 11, 2021
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		May 11, 2021
Rep. Malliotakis, Nicole [R-NY-11]	R · NY		May 11, 2021
Rep. Pence, Greg [R-IN-6]	R · IN		May 11, 2021
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		May 11, 2021
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		May 11, 2021
Rep. Harder, Josh [D-CA-10]	D · CA		May 14, 2021
Rep. Reed, Tom [R-NY-23]	R · NY		May 14, 2021
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Sep 17, 2021

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Crow, Jason [D-CO-6]	D · CO		Dec 8, 2021
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Dec 8, 2021

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 22, 2021

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Feb 11, 2021)

### Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act of 2021 or the PAWS Act of 2021

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 must 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

- **Mar 22, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Feb 11, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 11, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.