

## S 951

PAWS Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Mar 24, 2021

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 117-231.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 117-231. (Jun 23, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/951>

### Sponsor

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

**Party:** Republican • **State:** NE • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 24, 2021
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 13, 2021
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 20, 2021
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Apr 22, 2021
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 12, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 19, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Dec 16, 2021

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 23, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

## Related Bills

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*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Mar 24, 2021)

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### **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 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 180 days to determine whether the veteran continues to benefit from a service dog.

Eligible organizations are nonprofit organizations that

- are accredited by a widely recognized accreditation organization,
- 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**

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- **Jun 23, 2021:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 117-231.
- **Mar 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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