

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1987

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain individuals items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2025

Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. JAMES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LANDSMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain individuals items used for the secure storage of firearms, 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 “Saving Our Veterans
5 Lives Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **TO FURNISH TO VETERANS AND CERTAIN**
3 **FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
4 **ITEMS USED FOR SECURE STORAGE OF FIRE-**
5 **ARMS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
7 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following new section:

9 **“§ 1720M. Program to furnish to veterans and certain**
10 **former members of the Armed Forces**
11 **items intended to be used for the secure**
12 **storage of firearms**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out
14 a program to provide to an eligible individual, upon the
15 request of such eligible individual—

16 “(A) a covered item, or a redeemable voucher to
17 aid in the distribution of a covered item; and

18 “(B) information with respect to the benefits
19 of, and options for, secure firearm storage.

20 “(2) In distributing covered items to eligible individ-
21 uals pursuant to such program, the Secretary is author-
22 ized to work with eligible entities that have expertise and
23 business knowledge with respect to secure firearm storage
24 and secure firearm storage devices.

25 “(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
26 after the date of the enactment of the Saving Our Vet-

1 erans Lives Act of 2025, and on an annual basis there-
2 after, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate con-
3 gressional committees a report that includes, with respect
4 to the period covered by the report—

5 “(1) a description of the how the program—

6 “(A) functions; and

7 “(B) promotes the secure storage of fire-
8 arms;

9 “(2) the number of—

10 “(A) covered items distributed pursuant to
11 the program;

12 “(B) redeemable vouchers distributed pur-
13 suant to the program; and

14 “(C) such redeemable vouchers redeemed
15 for a covered item;

16 “(3) efforts made to increase the outreach with
17 respect to such program to veterans not enrolled in
18 the system of annual patient enrollment established
19 and operated under section 1705 of this title;

20 “(4) a description of any obstacles, if any, to
21 increasing such outreach; and

22 “(5) a description of additional steps, if any,
23 the Secretary intends to implement during the one-
24 year period beginning on the date of the submission
25 of the report to improve the processes by which eligi-

1 ble individuals receive a covered item pursuant to
2 the program.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees’ means—

6 “(A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs
7 of the House of Representatives and the Sen-
8 ate; and

9 “(B) the Committees on Appropriations of
10 the House of Representatives and the Senate.

11 “(2) The term ‘covered item’ means a lockbox
12 that—

13 “(A) is used for the secure storage of a
14 firearm and ammunition;

15 “(B) is designed, intended, and marketed
16 to prevent unauthorized access to a firearm or
17 ammunition;

18 “(C) may be unlocked only by means of a
19 key, combination, or other similar means;

20 “(D) is in compliance with the applicable
21 standard of American Society for Testing and
22 Materials F2456–20;

23 “(E) is manufactured in the United States;
24 and

1 “(F) is not eligible or intended for com-
2 mercial or individual resale.

3 “(3) The term ‘eligible individual’ means—

4 “(A) a veteran; and

5 “(B) an eligible individual described in
6 subsection (b) of section 1720I of this title.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
9 after the item relating to section 1720L the following new
10 item:

“1720M. Program to furnish to eligible individuals items intended to be
used for the secure storage of firearms.”.

11 (c) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of
12 Veterans Affairs shall—

13 (1) in consultation with representatives of orga-
14 nizations and agencies that are subject to a memo-
15 randum of understanding with the Secretary with
16 respect to the prevention of suicide among former
17 members of the Armed Forces (including the reserve
18 components) and other such entities as the Secretary
19 determines appropriate—

20 (A) develop an informational video on se-
21 cure storage of firearms as a suicide prevention
22 strategy; and

23 (B) publish such informational video on an
24 internet website of the Department; and

(2) publish information to inform individuals who participate in the program under section 1720M of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)) that any item intended to be used for the secure storage of a firearm furnished pursuant to such program is not eligible or intended for commercial or individual resale.

(d) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design and carry out a public education campaign to educate individuals eligible to participate in the program under section 1720M of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), to inform such individuals—

(A) of the availability of items intended to be used for the secure storage of a firearms under such program; and

(B) that participation in such program does not affect the rights of an individual with respect to the lawful ownership of a firearm.

(2) COLLABORATION AUTHORIZED.—In carrying out such campaign, the Secretary may collaborate with organizations that have expertise with respect to secure firearm storage and secure firearm storage devices.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2036
4 to carry out—

5 (1) this section; and

6 (2) the program under section 1720M of title
7 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)).

8 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act,
9 or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed
10 to—

11 (1) collect personally identifiable information of
12 an individual who participates in the program under
13 section 1720M of title 38, United States Code (as
14 added by subsection (a)) for the purposes of track-
15 ing firearm ownership;

16 (2) require any such individual to register a
17 firearm with the Department of Veterans Affairs, or
18 any other Federal, state, tribal or local unit of Gov-
19 ernment;

20 (3) require mandatory firearm storage for any
21 such individual;

22 (4) prohibit any such individual from pur-
23 chasing, owning, or possessing a firearm under sec-
24 tion 922 of title 18, United States Code;

- 1 (5) discourage the lawful ownership of firearms;
- 2 or
- 3 (6) create or maintain a list of individuals that
- 4 participate in such program.

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