

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6451

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program for grants to improve access to public transportation services for veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. LARSEN of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program for grants to improve access to public transportation services for veterans, 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 “Veterans Access to
5 Transit Act” or the “VA Transit Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GRANTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC**
2 **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
5 portation, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs, shall establish a pilot program to award grants
7 for the improvement of public transportation services for
8 veterans.

9 (b) AWARD OF GRANTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot
11 program, the Secretary of Transportation may
12 award grants to eligible recipients for eligible public
13 transportation projects.

14 (2) EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
15 of Transportation shall ensure that, to the extent
16 practicable, grants awarded under this section are
17 equitably distributed across geographic regions, in-
18 cluding rural and Tribal communities.

19 (3) GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS.—A
20 grant under this section shall be subject to the re-
21 quirements of—

22 (A) section 5307 of title 49, United States
23 Code, for eligible recipients of grants made in
24 urbanized areas; and

25 (B) section 5311 of such title for eligible
26 recipients of grants made in rural areas.

1 (4) ALLOCATION TO SUBRECIPIENTS.—A recipi-
2 ent of a grant under this section may allocate
3 amounts provided under the grant to a subrecipient.

4 (5) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall award
5 grants under the pilot program to eligible recipients
6 at not fewer than 5 eligible locations.

7 (c) GRANT APPLICATION.—An eligible recipient seek-
8 ing the award of a grant under this section shall submit
9 to the Secretary of Transportation an application in such
10 form, in such manner, and containing such commitments
11 and information as the Secretary considers necessary to
12 carry out this section, including the following:

13 (1) A description of the public transportation
14 services that the eligible recipient intends to provide
15 with such grant.

16 (2) A list of all sites to be served by such serv-
17 ices, including any sites that are facilities and orga-
18 nizations that serve veterans.

19 (3) The frequency and hours of operation of
20 such services.

21 (4) An estimate of the number of veterans that
22 would use such services.

23 (5) Evidence that the eligible recipient has the
24 legal, technical, and financial capacity to carry out

1 the project proposed to be carried out with such
2 grant.

3 (d) NOTIFICATION TO VETERANS.—Each recipient
4 awarded a grant under this section shall publicize and con-
5 duct outreach targeted to veterans regarding the transpor-
6 tation services funded under this section.

7 (e) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established
8 under this section shall terminate on the date that is 5
9 years after the date on which the pilot program com-
10 mences.

11 (f) DATA COLLECTION.—Not later than 90 days after
12 the termination date described in subsection (e), each re-
13 cipient of a grant under this section shall submit to the
14 Secretary of Transportation a report containing informa-
15 tion on the projects carried out with such grant, includ-
16 ing—

17 (1) a description of the effects of expanded geo-
18 graphic coverage, improved service quality, increased
19 frequency, or other activities funded with such grant
20 on public transportation services for veterans;

21 (2) a description of any accessibility improve-
22 ments made as a result of such projects;

23 (3) a description of changes in ridership due to
24 such projects, including estimates or data regarding

1 both general ridership and the number of veterans
2 served;

3 (4) a description of the size and type of public
4 transportation vehicles used in services funded with
5 a grant awarded under this section;

6 (5) information on whether the use of facilities
7 or organizations that serve veterans has increased
8 due to such projects; and

9 (6) any other information the Secretary re-
10 quires.

11 (g) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
12 on which the reports required under subsection (f) are
13 submitted, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit
14 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
15 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
16 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, a re-
17 port on the results of the pilot program carried out under
18 this section based on the information provided in the re-
19 ports required under subsection (f).

20 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
21 nitions shall apply:

22 (1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term “eligible
23 recipient” means—

24 (A) a State or local governmental entity;
25 and

1 (B) a Tribe or Tribal governmental entity.

2 (2) ELIGIBLE LOCATION.—The term “eligible
3 location” means—

4 (A) a rural area, as defined in section
5 5302 of title 49, United States Code; or

6 (B) an urbanized area, as defined in sec-
7 tion 5302 of title 49, United States Code, that
8 has a population of fewer than 200,000 individ-
9 uals.

10 (3) ELIGIBLE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT.—

11 The term “eligible transportation project” means—

12 (A) a project planned, designed, and car-
13 ried out to expand, modify, retain, or establish
14 public transportation services that provide vet-
15 erans access to locations of facilities or organi-
16 zations that serve veterans that is—

17 (i) a capital project; or

18 (ii) a project to acquire such public
19 transportation services, including entering
20 into service agreements with private pro-
21 viders of public transportation; or

22 (B) operating costs associated with such
23 project.

1 (4) FACILITY OR ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES
2 VETERANS.—The term “facility or organization that
3 serves veterans” means—

4 (A) a facility of the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs;

6 (B) an organization or facility that pro-
7 vides services to veterans using funds provided
8 by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

9 (C) and organization or facility proven to
10 serve a significant number or percentage of the
11 local population of veterans.

12 (5) NET PROJECT COST.—The term “net
13 project cost” has the meaning given such term in
14 section 5302 of title 49, United States Code.

15 (6) SUBRECIPIENT.—The term “subrecipient”
16 means a State or local governmental authority, a
17 private nonprofit organization, or an operator of
18 public transportation services.

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