

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6716

To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 15, 2025

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in rural areas, 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 “Save Animals Through
5 Operational Shelters Act of 2025” or the “SATOS Act
6 of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Rural communities often lack adequate in-
2 frastructure (including animal shelters and veteri-
3 nary care facilities) to support animal welfare.

4 (2) Associations, units of general local govern-
5 ment, nonprofit corporations, and Indian Tribes play
6 a critical role in promoting the health, safety, and
7 humane treatment of animals.

8 (3) Investment in animal care facilities contrib-
9 utes to public health, safety, and community well-
10 being.

11 **SEC. 3. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL CARE**
12 **FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
14 a program to provide a grant or loan to an eligible enti-
15 ty—

16 (1) to construct, expand, or renovate a facility
17 in a rural area for—

- 18 (A) an animal shelter;
- 19 (B) an animal adoption center;
- 20 (C) a veterinary care clinic;
- 21 (D) a spay and neuter clinic;
- 22 (E) an animal control operation; or
- 23 (F) an emergency animal shelter; or

24 (2) to purchase or install equipment, fur-
25 nishings, vehicles, or technology for such a facility.

1 (b) TERMS OF GRANT.—

2 (1) AMOUNT.—The total amount that may be
3 provided as grants under subsection (a) for a fiscal
4 year may not exceed \$10,000,000.

5 (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
7 subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall,
8 by rule, establish the amount of the Federal
9 share of the cost of developing a facility pursu-
10 ant to a grant under subsection (a).

11 (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
12 grant provided under subsection (a) for a facil-
13 ity may not exceed 75 percent of the cost of de-
14 veloping such facility.

15 (C) GRADUATED SCALE.—The Secretary
16 shall establish a graduated scale for the amount
17 of the Federal share provided under this para-
18 graph, with a greater Federal share, not more
19 than the maximum amount described in sub-
20 paragraph (B), for a facility located in a com-
21 munity that has a lesser population or income
22 level, as determined by the Secretary.

23 (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a
2 grant to an eligible entity to procure technical assist-
3 ance and training to—

4 (A) assist such eligible entity in identifying
5 and planning for the needs of a facility devel-
6 oped pursuant to a grant or loan under sub-
7 section (a);

8 (B) identify resources to finance the needs
9 of such a facility;

10 (C) prepare a report or survey to be in-
11 cluded in an application for a grant or loan
12 under subsection (a);

13 (D) prepare an application for such grant
14 or loan;

15 (E) improve the administration, including
16 financial administration, of such a facility; and

17 (F) assist with any other area of need, as
18 identified by the Secretary, relating to the ad-
19 ministration of—

20 (i) such a facility; or

21 (ii) a grant or loan under subsection

22 (a).

23 (2) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting a re-
24 cipient of a grant under this subsection, the Sec-
25 retary shall give priority to an eligible entity that

1 has experience in the planning, design, operation, or
2 management of a facility described in subsection
3 (a)(1), as demonstrated in the application for such
4 grant submitted by such eligible entity.

5 (3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 nor more than
6 5 percent of any funds appropriated to carry out
7 this section for a fiscal year shall be reserved for
8 grants under this subsection.

9 (d) RULE MAKING.—Within 180 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a rule
11 to carry out this section.

12 (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Within 1 year after the date
13 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin pro-
14 viding grants and loans under subsection (a).

15 (f) REPORTS.—Within 2 years after the date of en-
16 actment of this Act, and not less frequently than every
17 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and
19 the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of
20 the Senate a report describing—

21 (1) the amount of grants and loans provided
22 under subsections (a) and (c);

23 (2) the geographic distribution of the recipients
24 of such grants and loans;

1 (3) the outcomes achieved by such grants and
2 loans; and

3 (4) any recommendations for improving the ef-
4 fectiveness of the program established under sub-
5 section (a).

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “domestic animal” means an ani-
8 mal, including a dog, cat, guinea pig, hamster, rab-
9 bit, or bird, that is not kept by the owner for any
10 commercial purpose.

11 (2) The term “eligible entity” means—

12 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government or
13 an agency thereof; or

14 (B) a nonprofit corporation.

15 (3) The term “rural area” means any area
16 other than—

17 (A) a city or town that has a population of
18 greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

19 (B) the urbanized area contiguous and ad-
20 jacent to such a city or town.

21 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
22 of Agriculture, acting through the Under Secretary
23 of Agriculture for Rural Development.

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