

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9375

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to eligible entities to provide immigration legal services to noncitizen veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2026

Mrs. TORRES of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to eligible entities to provide immigration legal services to noncitizen 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 “Honor Their Service
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GRANTS FOR**
2 **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES PROVIDING IMMIGRA-**
3 **TION LEGAL SERVICES TO NONCITIZEN VET-**
4 **ERANS.**

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

8 **“CHAPTER 25—BENEFITS FOR**
9 **NONCITIZEN VETERANS**

“2501. Immigration legal services for noncitizen veterans.

10 **“§ 2501. Immigration legal services for noncitizen vet-**
11 **erans**

12 “(a) GRANTS.—Subject to the availability of appro-
13 priations provided for such purpose, the Secretary shall
14 award grants to eligible entities that provide immigration
15 legal services to noncitizen veterans who are in removal
16 proceedings, at risk for removal, or have been removed
17 from the United States.

18 “(b) CRITERIA.—(1) The Secretary shall—

19 “(A) establish criteria and requirements
20 for grants under this section, including criteria
21 for entities eligible to receive such grants; and

22 “(B) publish such criteria and require-
23 ments in the Federal Register.

24 “(2) In establishing criteria and requirements under
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

1 “(A) take into consideration any criteria and
2 requirements needed with respect to carrying out
3 this section in rural communities, on trust lands,
4 and in the territories and possessions of the United
5 States; and

6 “(B) consult with organizations that have expe-
7 rience in providing immigration legal services or dis-
8 charge characterizations to noncitizen veterans, in-
9 cluding—

10 “(i) veterans service organizations;

11 “(ii) nonprofit immigration legal services
12 providers with demonstrated experience rep-
13 resenting noncitizen veterans; and

14 “(iii) such other organizations as the Sec-
15 retary determines appropriate.

16 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The Secretary may
17 award a grant under this section to an entity applying for
18 such a grant only if the applicant for the grant—

19 “(1) is a public or nonprofit private entity with
20 the capacity (as determined by the Secretary) to ef-
21 fectively administer a grant under this section;

22 “(2) demonstrates that adequate financial sup-
23 port will be available to carry out the services for
24 which the grant is sought consistent with the appli-
25 cation;

1 “(3) agrees to meet the applicable criteria and
2 requirements established under subsection (b)(1);
3 and

4 “(4) has, as determined by the Secretary, dem-
5 onstrated the capacity to meet such criteria and re-
6 quirements.

7 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants under this section
8 shall be used to provide noncitizen veterans described in
9 subsection (a) the following:

10 “(1) Legal services relating to defense in re-
11 moval proceedings under section 240 of the Immi-
12 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a).

13 “(2) Legal services relating to applications for
14 naturalization, including naturalization through mili-
15 tary service under sections 328 and 329 of the Im-
16 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1439,
17 1440).

18 “(3) Legal services relating to applications for
19 parole, including parole in place and humanitarian
20 parole, under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration
21 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)).

22 “(4) Legal services to assist noncitizen veterans
23 who have been removed from the United States in
24 pursuing lawful reentry or repatriation (8 U.S.C.
25 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii)).

1 “(5) Legal services relating to requests to up-
2 grade the characterization of a discharge or dis-
3 missal of a former member of the Armed Forces
4 under section 1553 of title 10, where such character-
5 ization is a barrier to immigration relief or natu-
6 ralization.

7 “(6) Such other immigration legal services as
8 the Secretary determines appropriate.

9 “(e) LOCATIONS.—To the extent practicable, the Sec-
10 retary shall award grants under this section to eligible en-
11 tities in a manner that ensures individuals are able to ac-
12 cess these legal services regardless of their location, in-
13 cluding through virtual services.

14 “(f) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—(1) Not less frequently
15 than once every two years, the Secretary shall submit to
16 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the
17 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
18 resentatives a report on grants awarded under this sec-
19 tion.

20 “(2) To the extent feasible, each report required by
21 paragraph (1) shall include the following with respect to
22 the period covered by the report:

23 “(A) The number of noncitizen veterans as-
24 sisted.

1 “(B) A description of the immigration legal
2 services provided.

3 “(C) A description of the immigration matters
4 addressed.

5 “(D) An analysis by the Secretary with respect
6 to the operational effectiveness and cost-effectiveness
7 of the services provided.

8 “(g) NONCITIZEN VETERAN DEFINED.—In this sec-
9 tion, the term ‘noncitizen veteran’ means a veteran, as de-
10 fined in section 101(2) of this title, who is not a citizen
11 or national of the United States. as defined in section
12 1101(a)(3) of title 8.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chap-
14 ters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and
15 of part II of title 38, United States Code, are each amend-
16 ed by inserting after the item relating to chapter 24 the
17 following new item:

18 “25. Benefits for Noncitizen Veterans 2501”.

19 (c) CRITERIA.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs shall establish and publish in the Federal
22 Register the criteria and requirements pursuant to sub-
23 section (b)(1) of section 2501 of title 38, United States
24 Code, as added by subsection (a).

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$20,000,000 for fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

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