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(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set-aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for rehabilitation of, and technology for, their facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COLLINS of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to set-aside community development block grant amounts in each fiscal year for grants to local chapters of veterans service organizations for rehabilitation of, and technology for, their facilities.

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 “Renovate and Enhance
5 Veterans’ Meeting Halls and Posts Act of 2015” or the
6 “REVAMP Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE OR-**
2 **GANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITA-**
3 **TION AND TECHNOLOGY.**

4 (a) GRANTS.—Section 107 of the Housing and Com-
5 munity Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5307) is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(g) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE
9 ORGANIZATIONS FOR FACILITY REHABILITATION AND
10 UPGRADING TECHNOLOGY.—

11 “(1) AUTHORITY; ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND
12 USES.—Using the amounts made available under
13 section 106(a)(4) in each fiscal year for grants
14 under this subsection, the Secretary shall make
15 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible veterans
16 service organizations, which grant amounts shall be
17 available for use only for—

18 “(A) repairs or rehabilitation of existing
19 facilities of such organizations; and

20 “(B) acquiring or upgrading computers
21 and technology for such facilities.

22 “(2) ELIGIBLE VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZA-
23 TIONS.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
24 ‘eligible veterans service organization’ means—

25 “(A) an entity that is exempt from tax-
26 ation pursuant to section 501(c)(19) of the In-

1 ternal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
2 501(c)(19)) and is organized on a local or area
3 basis; and

4 “(B) a local or area chapter, post, or other
5 unit of a national, regional, Statewide, or other
6 larger entity of which local or area chapters,
7 posts, or units are members, that is exempt
8 from taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(19) of
9 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
10 501(c)(19)).

11 Such term does not include any such national, re-
12 gional, Statewide, or other larger entity.

13 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

14 “(A) AMOUNT.—No eligible veterans serv-
15 ice organization may receive grant amounts
16 under this subsection, from the amounts made
17 available for any single fiscal year, in an
18 amount exceeding the lesser of—

19 “(i) the aggregate cost of the pro-
20 posed activities and uses under paragraph
21 (1) for which the grant amounts will be
22 used; or

23 “(ii) \$200,000.

24 “(B) TIMING.—Any eligible veterans serv-
25 ice organization that receives grant amounts

1 under this subsection from amounts made avail-
2 able for a fiscal year shall be ineligible for any
3 grant from any amounts made available for
4 such grants for any of the succeeding 5 fiscal
5 years.

6 “(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for assist-
7 ance under this subsection may be submitted only by
8 eligible veterans service organizations, and shall be
9 in such form and in accordance with such proce-
10 dures as the Secretary shall establish. Such applica-
11 tions shall include a plan for the proposed repair or
12 rehabilitation activities to be conducted using grant
13 amounts under this subsection.

14 “(5) SELECTION; CRITERIA.—The Secretary
15 shall select applications to receive grants under this
16 subsection pursuant to a competition and based on
17 criteria for such selection, which shall include—

18 “(A) the extent of need for such assist-
19 ance;

20 “(B) the quality of the plan proposed for
21 repair or rehabilitation of the facility involved;

22 “(C) the capacity or potential capacity of
23 the applicant to successfully carry out the plan;
24 and

1 “(D) such other factors as the Secretary
2 determines to be appropriate.

3 “(6) PROHIBITION OF CONSTRUCTION OR AC-
4 QUISITION.—No amounts from a grant under this
5 subsection may be used for the construction or ac-
6 quisition of a new facility.”.

7 (b) FUNDING.—Subsection (a) of section 106 of the
8 Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42
9 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and (3)” and
11 inserting “(3), and (4)”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
13 graph (5); and

14 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “(4) For each fiscal year, after reserving
17 amounts under paragraphs (1) and (2) and allo-
18 cating amounts under paragraph (3), the Secretary
19 shall allocate \$50,000,000 (subject to sufficient
20 amounts remaining after such reservations and allo-
21 cation) for grants under section 107(g).”.

22 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Housing and
23 Urban Development shall issue any regulations necessary
24 to carry out sections 106(a)(4) and 107(g) of the Housing
25 and Community Development Act of 1974, as added by

- 1 the amendments made by this section, not later than the
- 2 expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of
- 3 the enactment of this Act.