

**House File 2180 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2180

BY HERMANSON, BLOOMINGDALE,  
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WENGRYN, GUSTOFF, DETERMANN,  
BLOM, and WHEELER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a service animal training grant program for  
2 veterans, providing fees, and making appropriations.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **35A.23 Service animal training**  
2 **grant program — appropriation.**

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise  
4 requires:

5 a. "*Accredited organization*" means a service animal training  
6 organization that maintains a physical operating location in this  
7 state and is accredited by the department pursuant to rules  
8 adopted under subsection 6.

9 b. "*Eligible veteran*" means a resident of this state who  
10 is a veteran, as defined in section 35.1, and who meets  
11 all eligibility requirements established by the department for  
12 participation in the service animal training grant program  
13 established under this section.

14 c. "*Service animal training services*" means training,  
15 placement, and related services provided by an accredited  
16 organization to support an eligible veteran's use of a service  
17 animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks  
18 for the benefit of the veteran.

19 2. A service animal training grant program is established  
20 under the administration and control of the department to award  
21 grants to eligible veterans to pay costs associated with service  
22 animal training services.

23 3. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and each  
24 fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the general  
25 fund of the state to the department one hundred thousand dollars  
26 to award grants under the service animal training grant program  
27 and to pay reasonable administrative costs of the department  
28 associated with the program.

29 4. In administering the program, the department shall grant  
30 up to five thousand dollars to each eligible veteran. An  
31 eligible veteran shall not receive more than one grant under this  
32 section during the veteran's lifetime.

33 5. a. An application may be submitted by an eligible  
34 veteran, on behalf of an eligible veteran by an accredited  
35 organization with the consent of the eligible veteran, or in



1                   the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2       This bill establishes a veterans service animal training grant  
3 program under the administration of the department of veterans  
4 affairs (department) for the purpose of providing service animal  
5 training services to eligible veterans. The bill annually  
6 appropriates \$100,000 from the general fund of the state to  
7 the department to support the program. Under the program, an  
8 eligible veteran may receive one grant in the veteran's lifetime  
9 for up to \$5,000, which shall be paid directly to the accredited  
10 organization providing the service animal training services. The  
11 department may charge a fee to accredited organizations, which  
12 shall be used for reasonable administrative costs associated with  
13 the program. The bill requires the department to adopt rules  
14 for implementing and administering the program and to coordinate  
15 with veteran service organizations to conduct outreach and assist  
16 eligible veterans with applications.