

House File 2467 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2467

BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2180)

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:

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1 Section 1. Section 35A.13, Code 2026, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 14. There is appropriated from the general
4 fund of the state to the department for the fiscal year beginning
5 July 1, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of
6 sixty-one thousand dollars for one full-time equivalent position
7 to administer grant programs funded by the veterans trust fund.

8 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **35A.23 Service animal training grant**
9 **program — appropriation.**

10 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
11 requires:

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

16 b. "*Eligible veteran*" means a resident of this state who
17 is a veteran, as defined in section 35.1, and who meets
18 all eligibility requirements established by the department for
19 participation in the service animal training grant program
20 established under this section.

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

26 2. A service animal training grant program is established
27 under the administration and control of the department to award
28 grants to eligible veterans to pay costs associated with service
29 animal training services.

30 3. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and each
31 fiscal year thereafter, there is appropriated from the veterans
32 trust fund created in section 35A.13 to the department one
33 hundred thousand dollars to award grants under the service animal
34 training grant program and to pay reasonable administrative costs
35 of the department associated with the program. Notwithstanding

1 section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this section that remain
2 unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall
3 not revert but shall be distributed equally among the eligible
4 veterans awarded a grant in that fiscal year.

5 4. In administering the program, the department shall grant
6 up to five thousand dollars to each eligible veteran. An
7 eligible veteran shall not receive more than one grant under this
8 section during the veteran's lifetime.

9 5. a. An application may be submitted by an eligible
10 veteran, on behalf of an eligible veteran by an accredited
11 organization with the consent of the eligible veteran, or in
12 another manner provided by rule.

13 b. The department shall pay the grant directly to the
14 accredited organization identified in the approved application
15 upon the eligible veteran's receipt of the service animal.

16 c. An accredited organization shall only use the moneys
17 awarded for the cost of service animal training services for the
18 eligible veteran.

19 d. The department may require an accredited organization
20 to certify the intended use of grant moneys and to provide
21 documentation demonstrating provision of the service animal
22 training services.

23 6. a. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
24 17A to administer this section, including but not limited to
25 rules related to all of the following:

26 (1) Criteria and procedures for accreditation and renewal
27 of accreditation of organizations, including accreditation by
28 assistance dogs international, inc., or a similar organization,
29 minimum training standards, consumer protections, and proof of a
30 physical operating location in this state.

31 (2) Eligibility requirements for veterans, application
32 procedures, prioritization for awarding grants if requests exceed
33 available funding, and procedures to prevent duplicate grants.

34 (3) Recordkeeping, reporting, compliance monitoring, and
35 remedies for misuse of grant moneys, including recoupment when

1 with applications.

2 The bill annually appropriates \$61,000 from the general fund
3 of the state to the department for one full-time equivalent
4 position to administer grant programs funded by the veterans
5 trust fund.

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