

**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:

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  
5 beginning July 1, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter, the  
6 sum of sixty-one thousand dollars for one full-time equivalent  
7 position to administer grant programs funded by the veterans  
8 trust fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 6. *a.* The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
26 17A to administer this section, including but not limited to  
27 rules related to all of the following:

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

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

1 grants.

2 (3) Recordkeeping, reporting, compliance monitoring, and  
3 remedies for misuse of grant moneys, including recoupment when  
4 appropriate.

5 b. The department may establish a one-time fee for  
6 accredited organizations to offset administrative costs. The  
7 department may also require an organization whose accreditation  
8 is revoked to pay a fee for reaccreditation. Fees collected  
9 by the department under this paragraph shall be considered  
10 appropriated receipts, as defined in section 8.2, and are  
11 appropriated to the department for reasonable administrative  
12 costs associated with the program.

13 7. The department shall coordinate with county commissions  
14 of veteran affairs, county veteran service officers, and other  
15 statewide veteran service organizations to conduct outreach and  
16 assist eligible veterans with applications.

17

EXPLANATION

18 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
19 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

20 This bill establishes a veterans service animal training  
21 grant program under the administration of the department of  
22 veterans affairs (department) for the purpose of providing  
23 service animal training services to eligible veterans.  
24 The bill annually appropriates \$100,000 from the veterans  
25 trust fund to the department to support the program. Under  
26 the program, an eligible veteran may receive one grant in  
27 the veteran's lifetime for up to \$5,000, which shall be  
28 paid directly to the accredited organization providing the  
29 service animal training services. Any moneys appropriated  
30 for the grant program that are unencumbered or unobligated  
31 at the close of a fiscal year shall be distributed equally  
32 among the eligible veterans awarded a grant in that  
33 fiscal year. The department may charge a one-time fee to  
34 accredited organizations, which shall be used for reasonable  
35 administrative costs associated with the program. The

1 department may require an organization whose accreditation  
2 has been revoked to pay a fee for reaccreditation. The bill  
3 requires the department to adopt rules for implementing and  
4 administering the program and to coordinate with veteran  
5 service organizations to conduct outreach and assist eligible  
6 veterans with applications.

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