

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1160

To amend section 1714 of title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide dog-guides to blind veterans and authorize the provision of service dogs to hearing-impaired veterans and veterans with spinal cord injuries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 10, 2001

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend section 1714 of title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide dog-guides to blind veterans and authorize the provision of service dogs to hearing-impaired veterans and veterans with spinal cord injuries, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. MODIFICATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF AU-**
2 **THORITY TO PROVIDE DOG-GUIDES AND**
3 **SERVICE DOGS TO VETERANS WITH DISABIL-**
4 **ITIES.**

5 (a) ENHANCEMENT OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (b)
6 of section 1714 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
7 ed to read as follows:

8 “(b)(1) The Secretary may provide any blind veteran
9 who is entitled to disability compensation with—

10 “(A) a dog-guide trained for the aid of the
11 blind; and

12 “(B) mechanical or electronic equipment for aid
13 in overcoming the disability of blindness.

14 “(2) The Secretary may provide a service dog to the
15 following:

16 “(A) Any hearing-impaired veteran who is enti-
17 tled to disability compensation.

18 “(B) Any veteran with a spinal cord injury or
19 dysfunction who is entitled to disability compensa-
20 tion.

21 “(3) In providing a dog-guide or service dog to a vet-
22 eran under this subsection, the Secretary may pay travel
23 and incidental expenses (under the terms and conditions
24 set forth in section 111 of this title) of the veteran to and
25 from the veteran’s home and incurred in becoming ad-

1 justified to the dog-guide or service dog, as the case may
2 be.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

4 (1) The section heading of that section is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “§ 1714. **Fitting and training in use of prosthetic ap-**
7 **pliances; dog-guides and service dogs”**

8 (2) The table of section at the beginning of chapter
9 17 of that title is amended by striking the item relating
10 to section 1714 and inserting the following new item:

“1714. Fitting and training in use of prosthetic appliances; dog-guides and serv-
ice dogs.”.

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