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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pilot program to build tiny homes for homeless veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KILMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a pilot program to build tiny homes for homeless veterans, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Housing America’s  
5 Veterans and Ensuring they have Needed Services Act”  
6 or the “HAVENS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON TINY HOMES FOR HOMELESS**  
2 **VETERANS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) In 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
5 announced a plan to end veteran homelessness by  
6 the end of fiscal year 2015.

7 (2) While the Department of Veterans Affairs  
8 did not reach such goal, the Department continues  
9 to focus on reducing the number of veterans experi-  
10 encing homelessness.

11 (3) As of January 2020, the Department of  
12 Housing and Urban Development estimated there to  
13 be 37,252 homeless veterans.

14 (4) At the start of January 2020, 21 out of  
15 every 10,000 veterans in the United States were ex-  
16 perienceing homelessness.

17 (5) Veterans constitute about six percent of the  
18 population of the United States but eight percent of  
19 the country's homeless population.

20 (6) Factors related to homelessness among vet-  
21 erans include post-traumatic stress disorder, social  
22 isolation, unemployment, and substance abuse.

23 (7) Individual housing units improve personal  
24 safety for veterans and reduce risks associated with  
25 close quarters living in a shelter.

26 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—

1           (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter VII of chap-  
2           ter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
3           by adding at the end the following new section:

4   **“§ 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless**  
5                                   **veterans.**

6           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry  
7           out a pilot program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-  
8           gram’) to make grants to facilitate the creation of five vil-  
9           lages of tiny homes—

10                   “(1) across the United States with associated  
11           supportive services to allow veterans to live in the  
12           homes, maintain social connections with each other,  
13           learn skills, and receive critical counseling; and

14                   “(2) in a manner that ensures the homes are  
15           energy efficient with low carbon footprints.

16           “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—(1) The Secretary may  
17           award a grant under the Program to any entity eligible  
18           for grants under section 2011 of this title, including—

19                   “(A) a non-profit organization described in sec-  
20           tion 501(c)(3) or section 501(c)(19) of the Internal  
21           Revenue Code of 1986; and

22                   “(B) a State or local government.

23           “(2) To be eligible for a grant under the Program,  
24           an entity specified in paragraph (1) shall submit to the  
25           Secretary an application at such time, in such form, and

1 containing such information as the Secretary determines  
2 appropriate.

3 “(c) ELIGIBLE USES.—A recipient of a grant award-  
4 ed under the Program shall use grant funds for the fol-  
5 lowing:

6 “(1) Construction of the village.

7 “(2) Supportive job skills services.

8 “(3) Supportive counseling services, located in  
9 the village or in the local community with transpor-  
10 tation to the community provided to the veterans, in-  
11 cluding—

12 “(A) case management services (pursuant  
13 to section 2022 of this title);

14 “(B) financial management;

15 “(C) counseling for addiction issues;

16 “(D) educational opportunities;

17 “(E) anger management; and

18 “(F) career and employment resources.

19 “(4) Any other use the Secretary determines  
20 appropriate.

21 “(d) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall publish a Notice  
22 of Funding Opportunity on the internet website  
23 Grants.gov, or such successor website, for the Program.

24 “(e) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under the  
25 Program, the Secretary shall give preference to an entity

1 described in subsection (b)(1) that proposes to carry out  
2 the project facilitated with grant funds to create LEED-  
3 certified units, including by using mass timber.

4 “(f) REPORTING.—(1) During each year beginning in  
5 the second year after being awarded a grant, each grantee  
6 shall submit to the Department a report on the activities  
7 of the grantee under the Program during the calendar  
8 year preceding the report, including the following:

9 “(A) The degree to which the grantee made  
10 progress toward meeting the long-term goals and ob-  
11 jectives described in the application of the grantee  
12 and the performance by the grantee of the covered  
13 benchmarks described in the application.

14 “(B) The demographic data of veterans partici-  
15 pating in the Program.

16 “(C) The details regarding the progress of such  
17 veterans toward achieving the ability to maintain  
18 housing and live independently, increasing skill levels  
19 and income, and obtaining greater self-determina-  
20 tion.

21 “(D) Any other matter the Secretary deter-  
22 mines appropriate.

23 “(2) During the fourth year of the Program, the Sec-  
24 retary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations  
25 and Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-

1 representatives a report comparing the outcomes of grantees  
2 under the Program to the outcomes of grantees under  
3 other grant programs that do not contain individual homes  
4 and a community center with supportive services, includ-  
5 ing the following:

6           “(A) The average amount of time a veteran  
7 stayed in a tiny home.

8           “(B) The percentage of veterans who exit the  
9 village to permanent housing.

10           “(C) The percentage of veterans who exit the  
11 village with competitive employment.

12           “(D) The percentage of veterans who have a  
13 negative exit from the village.

14           “(E) Any other matter the Secretary deter-  
15 mines appropriate.

16           “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the  
17 amounts authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary  
18 for grants under section 2011 of this title for each of fiscal  
19 years 2023 through 2028, \$20,000,000 may be used to  
20 carry out the program.

21           “(h) SUNSET.—The Secretary may not award a grant  
22 under the Program after the day that is six years after  
23 the date of the enactment of the HAVENS Act.

24           “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) The term ‘community center’ means a  
2 building of approximately 2,000 square feet where  
3 the veterans can gather for socialization and to re-  
4 ceive supportive services.

5           “(2) The term ‘mass timber’ means any of the  
6 following:

7           “(A) Cross-laminated timber.

8           “(B) Nail-laminated timber.

9           “(C) Glue-laminated timber.

10           “(D) Laminated strand lumber.

11           “(E) Laminated veneer lumber.

12           “(3) The term ‘negative exit’, with respect to a  
13 veteran participating in the Program, means an in-  
14 stance under which a veteran leaves the Program be-  
15 cause such veteran violated the rules of the Program  
16 (excluding exits because of threatened or actual vio-  
17 lence to self or others), failed to comply with the re-  
18 quirements of the Program, or left the Program  
19 without consulting staff.

20           “(4) The term ‘State’ means each State of the  
21 United States, the District of Columbia, each com-  
22 monwealth, territory or possession of the United  
23 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

24           “(5) The term ‘tiny home’ means an individual  
25 housing unit for one person of approximately 240

1 square feet or an individual housing unit for a fam-  
2 ily of approximately 340 square feet.

3 “(6) The term ‘village’ means the community of  
4 tiny homes and the community center.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
6 tents at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is  
7 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
8 tion 2067 the following new item:

“Sec. 2068. Pilot program on tiny homes for homeless veterans.”.

9 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall carry  
10 out section 2068 of such title, as added by subsection (b),  
11 not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
12 this section.