

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. THUNE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, 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 “Rural Veterans Trans-
5 portation to Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION AND MODIFICATION OF TRANSPOR-**
2 **TATION GRANT PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT**
3 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 Section 307 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
5 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 38
6 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by inserting
8 **“RURAL OR”** before **“HIGHLY”**;

9 (2) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) by inserting “rural or” before “highly”
11 each place it appears;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by redesignating subparagraph (B)
14 as subparagraph (C);

15 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
16 (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

17 “(B) County veterans service organiza-
18 tions.”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing new subparagraph:

21 “(D) Tribal organizations.”;

22 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “A State
23 veterans service agency or veterans service or-
24 ganization awarded” and inserting “A recipient
25 of”; and

1 (D) by striking paragraph (4) and insert-
2 ing the following new paragraph (4):

3 “(4) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
5 subparagraph (B), the amount of a grant under
6 this section may not exceed \$60,000.

7 “(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT TO PURCHASE
8 A VEHICLE.—The amount of a grant under this
9 section to a recipient may be increased to an
10 amount not to exceed \$80,000 if the recipient
11 is required to purchase a vehicle to comply with
12 the requirements of the Americans with Disabil-
13 ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) in
14 carrying out this section.”;

15 (3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (1)
16 and inserting the following:

17 “(1) RURAL; HIGHLY RURAL.—The terms
18 ‘rural’ and ‘highly rural’ have the meanings given
19 those terms under the Rural-Urban Commuting
20 Areas (RUCA) coding system of the Department of
21 Agriculture.”; and

22 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “\$3,000,000
23 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2022” and in-
24 serting “such sums as may be necessary”.