

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. AL GREEN OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following
new section:

**1 SEC. 1082. PILOT PROGRAM TO REHABILITATE AND MOD-
2 IFY HOMES OF DISABLED AND LOW-INCOME
3 VETERANS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) DISABLED.—The term “disabled” means an
6 individual with a disability, as defined by section
7 12102 of title 42, United States Code.

8 (2) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term “eligible
9 veteran” means a disabled or low-income veteran.

10 (3) ENERGY EFFICIENT FEATURES OR EQUIP-
11 MENT.—The term “energy efficient features or
12 equipment” means features of, or equipment in, a
13 primary residence that help reduce the amount of
14 electricity used to heat, cool, or ventilate such resi-
15 dence, including insulation, weatherstripping, air
16 sealing, heating system repairs, duct sealing, or
17 other measures.

1 (4) LOW-INCOME VETERAN.—The term “low-in-
2 come veteran” means a veteran whose income does
3 not exceed 80 percent of the median income for an
4 area, as determined by the Secretary.

5 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
6 “nonprofit organization” means an organization that
7 is—

8 (A) described in section 501(c)(3) or
9 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of
10 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)); and

11 (B) exempt from tax under section 501(a)
12 of such Code.

13 (6) PRIMARY RESIDENCE.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—The term “primary res-
15 idence” means a single family house, a duplex,
16 or a unit within a multiple-dwelling structure
17 that is the principal dwelling of an eligible vet-
18 eran and is owned by such veteran or a family
19 member of such veteran.

20 (B) FAMILY MEMBER DEFINED.—For pur-
21 poses of this paragraph, the term “family mem-
22 ber” includes—

23 (i) a spouse, child, grandchild, parent,
24 or sibling;

1 (ii) a spouse of such a child, grand-
2 child, parent, or sibling; or

3 (iii) any individual related by blood or
4 affinity whose close association with a vet-
5 eran is the equivalent of a family relation-
6 ship.

7 (7) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION.—The term
8 “qualified organization” means a nonprofit organiza-
9 tion that provides nationwide or statewide programs
10 that primarily serve veterans or low-income individ-
11 uals.

12 (8) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

14 (9) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the
15 meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38,
16 United States Code.

17 (10) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The
18 term “veterans service organization” means any or-
19 ganization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
21 tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

22 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PILOT PROGRAM.—

23 (1) GRANT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
25 tablish a pilot program to award grants to

1 qualified organizations to rehabilitate and mod-
2 ify the primary residence of eligible veterans.

3 (B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall
4 work in conjunction with the Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs to establish and oversee the pilot
6 program and to ensure that such program
7 meets the needs of eligible veterans.

8 (C) MAXIMUM GRANT.—A grant award
9 under the pilot program to any one qualified or-
10 ganization shall not exceed \$1,000,000 in any
11 one fiscal year, and such an award shall remain
12 available until expended by such organization.

13 (2) APPLICATION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each qualified organi-
15 zation that desires a grant under the pilot pro-
16 gram shall submit an application to the Sec-
17 retary at such time, in such manner, and, in
18 addition to the information required under sub-
19 paragraph (B), accompanied by such informa-
20 tion as the Secretary may reasonably require.

21 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
22 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include—

23 (i) a plan of action detailing outreach
24 initiatives;

1 (ii) the approximate number of vet-
2 erans the qualified organization intends to
3 serve using grant funds;

4 (iii) a description of the type of work
5 that will be conducted, such as interior
6 home modifications, energy efficiency im-
7 provements, and other similar categories of
8 work; and

9 (iv) a plan for working with the De-
10 partment of Veterans Affairs and veterans
11 service organizations to identify veterans
12 who are not eligible for programs under
13 chapter 21 of title 38, United States Code,
14 and meet their needs.

15 (C) PREFERENCES.—In awarding grants
16 under the pilot program, the Secretary shall
17 give preference to a qualified organization—

18 (i) with experience in providing hous-
19 ing rehabilitation and modification services
20 for disabled veterans; or

21 (ii) that proposes to provide housing
22 rehabilitation and modification services for
23 eligible veterans who live in rural, includ-
24 ing tribal, areas (the Secretary, through

1 regulations, shall define the term “rural
2 areas”).

3 (3) CRITERIA.—In order to receive a grant
4 award under the pilot program, a qualified organiza-
5 tion shall meet the following criteria:

6 (A) Demonstrate expertise in providing
7 housing rehabilitation and modification services
8 for disabled or low-income individuals for the
9 purpose of making the homes of such individ-
10 uals accessible, functional, and safe for such in-
11 dividuals.

12 (B) Have established outreach initiatives
13 that—

14 (i) would engage eligible veterans and
15 veterans service organizations in projects
16 utilizing grant funds under the pilot pro-
17 gram;

18 (ii) ensure veterans who are disabled
19 receive preference in selection for assist-
20 ance under this program; and

21 (iii) identify eligible veterans and their
22 families and enlist veterans involved in
23 skilled trades, such as carpentry, roofing,
24 plumbing, or HVAC work.

1 (C) Have an established nationwide or
2 statewide network of affiliates that are—

3 (i) nonprofit organizations; and

4 (ii) able to provide housing rehabilita-
5 tion and modification services for eligible
6 veterans.

7 (D) Have experience in successfully car-
8 rying out the accountability and reporting re-
9 quirements involved in the proper administra-
10 tion of grant funds, including funds provided by
11 private entities or Federal, State, or local gov-
12 ernment entities.

13 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant award under the
14 pilot program shall be used—

15 (A) to modify and rehabilitate the primary
16 residence of an eligible veteran, and may in-
17 clude—

18 (i) installing wheelchair ramps, wid-
19 ening exterior and interior doors, reconfig-
20 uring and re-equipping bathrooms (which
21 includes installing new fixtures and grab
22 bars), removing doorway thresholds, in-
23 stalling special lighting, adding additional
24 electrical outlets and electrical service, and
25 installing appropriate floor coverings to—

1 (I) accommodate the functional
2 limitations that result from having a
3 disability; or

4 (II) if such residence does not
5 have modifications necessary to reduce
6 the chances that an elderly, but not
7 disabled person, will fall in their
8 home, reduce the risks of such an el-
9 derly person from falling;

10 (ii) rehabilitating such residence that
11 is in a state of interior or exterior dis-
12 repair; and

13 (iii) installing energy efficient features
14 or equipment if—

15 (I) an eligible veteran's monthly
16 utility costs for such residence is more
17 than 5 percent of such veteran's
18 monthly income; and

19 (II) an energy audit of such resi-
20 dence indicates that the installation of
21 energy efficient features or equipment
22 will reduce such costs by 10 percent
23 or more; and

24 (B) in connection with modification and re-
25 habilitation services provided under the pilot

1 program, to provide technical, administrative,
2 and training support to an affiliate of a quali-
3 fied organization receiving a grant under such
4 pilot program.

5 (5) OVERSIGHT.—The Secretary shall direct the
6 oversight of the grant funds for the pilot program so
7 that such funds are used efficiently until expended
8 to fulfill the purpose of addressing the adaptive
9 housing needs of eligible veterans.

10 (6) MATCHING FUNDS.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—A qualified organiza-
12 tion receiving a grant under the pilot program
13 shall contribute towards the housing modifica-
14 tion and rehabilitation services provided to eligi-
15 ble veterans an amount equal to not less than
16 50 percent of the grant award received by such
17 organization.

18 (B) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—In order to
19 meet the requirement under subparagraph (A),
20 such organization may arrange for in-kind con-
21 tributions.

22 (7) LIMITATION COST TO THE VETERANS.—A
23 qualified organization receiving a grant under the
24 pilot program shall modify or rehabilitate the pri-
25 mary residence of an eligible veteran at no cost to

1 such veteran (including application fees) or at a cost
2 such that such veteran pays no more than 30 per-
3 cent of his or her income in housing costs during
4 any month.

5 (8) REPORTS.—

6 (A) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary
7 shall submit to Congress, on an annual basis, a
8 report that provides, with respect to the year
9 for which such report is written—

10 (i) the number of eligible veterans
11 provided assistance under the pilot pro-
12 gram;

13 (ii) the socioeconomic characteristics
14 of such veterans, including their gender,
15 age, race, and ethnicity;

16 (iii) the total number, types, and loca-
17 tions of entities contracted under such pro-
18 gram to administer the grant funding;

19 (iv) the amount of matching funds
20 and in-kind contributions raised with each
21 grant;

22 (v) a description of the housing reha-
23 bilitation and modification services pro-
24 vided, costs saved, and actions taken under
25 such program;

1 (vi) a description of the outreach ini-
2 tiatives implemented by the Secretary to
3 educate the general public and eligible en-
4 tities about such program;

5 (vii) a description of the outreach ini-
6 tiatives instituted by grant recipients to
7 engage eligible veterans and veteran service
8 organizations in projects utilizing grant
9 funds under such program;

10 (viii) a description of the outreach ini-
11 tiatives instituted by grant recipients to
12 identify eligible veterans and their families;
13 and

14 (ix) any other information that the
15 Secretary considers relevant in assessing
16 such program.

17 (B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 6
18 months after the completion of the pilot pro-
19 gram, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
20 report that provides such information that the
21 Secretary considers relevant in assessing the
22 pilot program.

23 (C) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not
24 later than March 31, 2019, the Inspector Gen-
25 eral of the Department of Housing and Urban

1 Development shall submit to the Chairmen and
2 Ranking Members of the Committee on Bank-
3 ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate
4 and the Committee on Financial Services of the
5 House of Representatives a report containing a
6 review of—

7 (i) the use of appropriated funds by
8 the Secretary and by grantees under the
9 pilot program; and

10 (ii) oversight and accountability of
11 grantees under the pilot program.

12 (9) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 There are authorized to be appropriated for carrying
14 out this section \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years
15 2015 through 2019.

