

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 926

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11 (legislative day, MARCH 10), 2025

Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. SHEEHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, 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 “Saving Our Veterans
5 Lives Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 2 **TO FURNISH TO CERTAIN VETERANS ITEMS**
 3 **USED FOR SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS.**

4 (a) PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17
 6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
 7 ing at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 1720M. Program to furnish to eligible individuals**
 9 **items intended to be used for the secure**
 10 **storage of firearms**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
 12 program to provide to an eligible individual, upon the re-
 13 quest of the eligible individual—

14 “(1) a covered item or a redeemable voucher to
 15 aid in the distribution of a covered item; and

16 “(2) information relating to the benefits of, and
 17 options for, secure firearm storage.

18 “(b) DISTRIBUTION OF COVERED ITEMS.—In car-
 19 rying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary
 20 is authorized to work with organizations that have experi-
 21 ence, expertise, and business knowledge regarding secure
 22 firearm storage and secure firearm storage devices.

23 “(c) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall design
 25 and carry out a public education campaign to inform

1 eligible individuals of the availability of covered
2 items under the program under subsection (a).

3 “(2) PARTNERSHIP.—In carrying out the public
4 education campaign required under paragraph (1),
5 the Secretary may partner with organizations that
6 have experience with respect to secure firearm stor-
7 age devices.

8 “(3) ASSURANCE ABOUT LAWFUL OWNERSHIP
9 OF FIREARMS.—The Secretary shall include in the
10 public education campaign required under paragraph
11 (1) material that assures eligible individuals that
12 their participation in the program under subsection
13 (a) does not impact lawful ownership of firearms.

14 “(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Octo-
15 ber 1, 2025, and not less frequently than annually there-
16 after, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate com-
17 mittees of Congress a report that includes—

18 “(1) a description of the program under sub-
19 section (a) in a manner consistent with applicable
20 law;

21 “(2) during the period covered by the report,
22 the number of covered items distributed by the Vet-
23 erans Health Administration and the number of cov-
24 ered items redeemed outside of the Veterans Health
25 Administration under the program;

1 “(3) an assessment of efforts made to increase
2 outreach and distribution of covered items under the
3 program to eligible individuals who are not enrolled
4 in the system of annual patient enrollment of the
5 Department established and operated under section
6 1705 of this title;

7 “(4) an assessment of any obstacles to increas-
8 ing outreach to eligible individuals who are enrolled
9 in such system and those who are not enrolled in
10 such system; and

11 “(5) an identification of additional steps that
12 will be taken during the one-year period after the
13 submission of the report to improve the processes
14 through which eligible individuals receive a covered
15 item under the program.

16 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
18 gress’ means—

19 “(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
20 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
21 Senate; and

22 “(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
23 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
24 House of Representatives.

1 “(2) The term ‘covered item’ means a lockbox
2 that—

3 “(A) is used for the secure storage of a
4 firearm and ammunition;

5 “(B) is designed, intended, and marketed
6 to prevent unauthorized access to a firearm or
7 ammunition;

8 “(C) may be unlocked only by means of a
9 key, combination, or other similar means;

10 “(D) is in compliance with the standard of
11 the American Society for Testing and Materials
12 F2456–20, or any successor standard;

13 “(E) is manufactured in the United States;
14 and

15 “(F) is not eligible or intended for com-
16 mercial or individual resale.

17 “(3) The term ‘eligible individual’ means—

18 “(A) a veteran; or

19 “(B) an individual described in section
20 1720I(b) of this title.”.

21 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
22 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
23 by inserting after the item relating to section 1720L
24 the following new item:

“1720M. Program to furnish to eligible individuals items intended to be used
for the secure storage of firearms.”.

1 (b) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of
2 Veterans Affairs shall—

3 (1) in consultation with representatives of orga-
4 nizations and agencies that are subject to a memo-
5 randum of understanding with the Secretary on pre-
6 venting veteran suicide and other such entities as
7 the Secretary determines appropriate—

8 (A) develop an informational video on se-
9 cure storage of firearms as a suicide prevention
10 strategy; and

11 (B) publish such informational video on an
12 internet website of the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs; and

14 (2) publish information to inform individuals
15 who participate in the program under section 1720M
16 of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-
17 section (a)(1)) that any lockbox furnished pursuant
18 to such program is not eligible or intended for com-
19 mercial or individual resale.

20 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
21 or the amendments made by this Act may be construed—

22 (1) to collect personally identifiable information
23 of an individual who participates in the program
24 under section 1720M of title 38, United States Code

1 (as added by subsection (a)(1)) for the purposes of
2 tracking firearm ownership;

3 (2) to require any such individual to register a
4 firearm with the Department of Veterans Affairs, or
5 any other Federal, State, Tribal, or local unit of
6 government;

7 (3) to require mandatory firearm storage for
8 any such individual;

9 (4) to prohibit any such individual from pur-
10 chasing, owning, or possessing a firearm under sec-
11 tion 922 of title 18, United States Code;

12 (5) to discourage the lawful ownership of fire-
13 arms; or

14 (6) to create or maintain a list of individuals
15 participating in such program.

16 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
19 through 2036 to carry out this section and the amend-
20 ments made by this section.

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