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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.**

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To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in rural areas, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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**A BILL**

To establish a program to provide grants and loans to facilitate the care, rehabilitation, and welfare of domestic animals in 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 “Save Animals Through  
5       Operational Shelters Act of 2025” or the “SATOS Act  
6       of 2025”.

7       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8       Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Rural communities often lack adequate in-  
2 frastructure (including animal shelters and veteri-  
3 nary care facilities) to support animal welfare.

4 (2) Associations, units of general local govern-  
5 ment, nonprofit corporations, and Indian Tribes play  
6 a critical role in promoting the health, safety, and  
7 humane treatment of animals.

11 SEC. 3. GRANTS AND LOANS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL CARE  
12 FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
14 a program to provide a grant or loan to an eligible enti-  
15 ty—

16 (1) to construct, expand, or renovate a facility  
17 in a rural area for—

18 (A) an animal shelter;

19 (B) an animal adoption center;

20 (C) a veterinary care clinic;

21 (D) a spay and neuter clinic;

22 (E) an animal control operation; or  
23 (F) an emergency animal shelter; or

24 (2) to purchase or install equipment, fur-  
25 nishings, vehicles, or technology for such a facility.

## 1        (b) TERMS OF GRANT.—

2                (1) AMOUNT.—The total amount that may be  
3                provided as grants under subsection (a) for a fiscal  
4                year may not exceed \$10,000,000.

## 5                (2) FEDERAL SHARE.—

6                        (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
7                        subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary shall,  
8                        by rule, establish the amount of the Federal  
9                        share of the cost of developing a facility pursu-  
10                        ant to a grant under subsection (a).11                        (B) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a  
12                        grant provided under subsection (a) for a facil-  
13                        ity may not exceed 75 percent of the cost of de-  
14                        veloping such facility.15                        (C) GRADUATED SCALE.—The Secretary  
16                        shall establish a graduated scale for the amount  
17                        of the Federal share provided under this para-  
18                        graph, with a greater Federal share, not more  
19                        than the maximum amount described in sub-  
20                        paragraph (B), for a facility located in a com-  
21                        munity that has a lesser population or income  
22                        level, as determined by the Secretary.

## 23        (c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—

10 (C) prepare a report or survey to be in-  
11 cluded in an application for a grant or loan  
12 under subsection (a);

15 (E) improve the administration, including  
16 financial administration, of such a facility; and

17 (F) assist with any other area of need, as  
18 identified by the Secretary, relating to the ad-  
19 ministration of—

20 (i) such a facility; or

21 (ii) a grant or loan under subsection  
22 (a).

1       has experience in the planning, design, operation, or  
2       management of a facility described in subsection  
3       (a)(1), as demonstrated in the application for such  
4       grant submitted by such eligible entity.

5           (3) FUNDING.—Not less than 3 nor more than  
6       5 percent of any funds appropriated to carry out  
7       this section for a fiscal year shall be reserved for  
8       grants under this subsection.

9           (d) RULE MAKING.—Within 180 days after the date  
10      of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a rule  
11      to carry out this section.

12           (e) IMPLEMENTATION.—Within 1 year after the date  
13      of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall begin pro-  
14      viding grants and loans under subsection (a).

15           (f) REPORTS.—Within 2 years after the date of en-  
16      actment of this Act, and not less frequently than every  
17      2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
18      mittee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and  
19      the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of  
20      the Senate a report describing—

21               (1) the amount of grants and loans provided  
22      under subsections (a) and (c);  
23               (2) the geographic distribution of the recipients  
24      of such grants and loans;

6 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (2) The term "eligible entity" means—

12 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government or  
13 an agency thereof; or

14 (B) a nonprofit corporation.

17 (A) a city or town that has a population of  
18 greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

19 (B) the urbanized area contiguous and ad-  
20 jacent to such a city or town

21 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
22 of Agriculture, acting through the Under Secretary  
23 of Agriculture for Rural Development.