H.R. ______

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to veterans service organizations for upgrading local chapter facilities, including technology at such facilities, in rural areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COLLINS of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to veterans service organizations for upgrading local chapter facilities, including technology at such facilities, in rural areas, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Renovate and Enhance Veterans Meeting Halls and Posts Act of 2019” or the “REVAMP Act of 2019”.

January 30, 2019 (2:40 p.m.)
SEC. 2. GRANTS TO VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS
FOR FACILITY REHABILITATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to award grants to eligible veterans service organizations.

(b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND USES.—An eligible veterans service organization may use a grant made under this section only for—

(1) repairs or rehabilitation of a facility in a rural area of an eligible veterans service organization; and

(2) acquiring or upgrading computers and technology for such a facility.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—An application for a grant under this section—

(1) shall be in such form and submitted in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary shall establish; and

(2) shall include a plan for the proposed repair, rehabilitation, or technology upgrading and acquisition activities to be conducted using the grant amounts.

(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall select applications to receive grants under the pilot program
pursuant to a competition and using criteria that in-
clude—

(1) the extent of need for such grants;

(2) the quality of the plan proposed for repair
or rehabilitation of the facility involved or for acquir-
ing or upgrading computers and technology for such
a facility;

(3) the capacity or potential capacity of the ap-
plicant to successfully carry out the plan; and

(4) other factors as the Secretary determines
appropriate.

(e) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) AMOUNT.—An eligible veterans service or-
ganization may not receive a grant under this sec-
tion during any fiscal year in an amount exceeding
the lesser of—

(A) the aggregate cost of the proposed ac-
tivities and uses under subsection (b) for which
the grant amounts will be used; or

(B) $75,000.

(2) TIMING.—An eligible veterans service orga-
ization that receives a grant under this section for
a fiscal year shall be ineligible for any grant under
this section for any of the succeeding five fiscal
years.
(f) Prohibition of New Construction or Acquisition.—A grant under this section may not be used for the construction or acquisition of a new facility.

(g) Regulations.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out the pilot program not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(h) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section—

(1) for fiscal year 2020, $5,000,000; and

(2) for subsequent fiscal years, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the pilot program.

(i) Definition.—For purposes of this section, the term “eligible veterans service organization” means a local or area chapter, post, or other unit—

(1) of any organization that is chartered under part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code, and that has as among its primary purposes honoring, promoting, advocating for, providing services for, or providing assistance to veterans or any group of veterans, as determined by the Secretary; and

(2) that is located in a rural area, as determined by the Secretary.