

Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation or ASSIST Act (H.R. 1364/S. 1726)



What does it do?

- ★ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides vehicle modifications to allow veterans with disabilities to safely operate, enter, and exit their vehicle.
- ★ In 2023, Congress passed legislation (P.L. 117-333) to include certain vehicle adaptations in the VA's medical benefits package to ensure all catastrophically disabled veterans are able to access vehicle modifications.
- ★ The **Automotive Support Services to Improve Safe Transportation Act (H.R. 1364/S. 1726)** clarifies the equipment that can be provided to disabled veterans as part of the medical benefits package, which provides greater flexibility regarding what can be classified as “adaptive equipment.”



Why is it needed?

- ★ Veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders must have access to adaptive equipment needed to access their vehicles.
- ★ The **list of adaptations that could be provided to veterans under P.L. 117-333 inadvertently restricted access to only the specific items listed in the legislation**, which was not Congress’s intent.