

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2813

To ensure that payments during fiscal year 1996 of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans, and of other veterans benefits, and payments to Department of Veterans Affairs contractors providing services directly related to patient health and safety, are made regardless of Government financial shortfalls.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 1995

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. STUMP, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BUYER, Mr. QUINN, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. NEY, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. COOLEY, Mr. SCHAEFER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MONTGOMERY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. TEJEDA, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. WELLER, Mr. FLANAGAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. NEUMANN, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. EHRLICH, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. MICA, Mr. BUNN of Oregon, Mr. PARKER, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. DANNER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. DUNN of Washington, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. EWING, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DORNAN, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Mr. HEINEMAN, Mr. HANCOCK, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LAUGHLIN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. METCALF, Mr. MARTINI, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HAYES, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MCDADE, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. BAKER of California, Mr. LAZIO of New York, and Mr. HORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure that payments during fiscal year 1996 of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans, and of other veterans benefits, and payments to Department of Veterans Affairs contractors providing services directly related to patient health and safety, are made regardless of Government financial shortfalls.

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. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996**

4 **OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK**

5 **OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal
7 year 1996 in which appropriations are not otherwise avail-
8 able for programs, projects, and activities of the Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall nevertheless ensure that—

11 (1) payments of existing veterans' benefits are
12 made in accordance with regular procedures and
13 schedules and in accordance with eligibility require-
14 ments for such benefits; and

15 (2) payments to contractors of the Veterans
16 Health Administration of the Department of Veter-
17 ans Affairs are made when due in the case of serv-

1 ices provided that directly relate to patient health
2 and safety.

3 (b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such
4 sums as may be necessary for the payments pursuant to
5 subsection (a), including such amounts as may be nec-
6 essary for the costs of administration of such payments.

7 (c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIA-
8 TIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses
9 the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applica-
10 ble accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and
11 for the costs of administration of such payments, when
12 regular appropriations become available for those pur-
13 poses.

14 (d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes
15 of this section, existing veterans' benefits are benefits
16 under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
17 fairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for pay-
18 ment as of—

19 (1) December 15, 1995; or

20 (2) if appropriations for such benefits are avail-
21 able (other than pursuant to subsection (b)) after
22 December 15, 1995, the last day on which appro-
23 priations for payment of such benefits are available
24 (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

1 **SEC. 2. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996 OF**
2 **VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT DEBT CEIL-**
3 **ING LIMIT IS REACHED.**

4 (a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal
5 year 1996 in which certain functions of the Government
6 are delayed, deferred, or canceled due to a limitation on
7 the ability of the Government to borrow funds, the Sec-
8 retary of Veterans Affairs shall nevertheless ensure that
9 payments of existing veterans' benefits are made in ac-
10 cordance with regular procedures and schedules and in ac-
11 cordance with eligibility requirements for such benefits,
12 and receipts and disbursements of the Government shall
13 be managed so as to ensure that the requirement imposed
14 by this section on the Secretary is complied with.

15 (b) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes
16 of this section, existing veterans' benefits are benefits
17 under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
18 fairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for pay-
19 ment as of the day on which it becomes necessary for cer-
20 tain functions of the Government to be delayed, deferred,
21 or canceled due to a limitation on the ability of the Gov-
22 ernment to borrow funds.

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