

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1414

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 are made regardless of Government financial shortfalls.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 15, 1995

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HELMS, Mr. McCONNELL, and Mr. GRAMM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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 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-

1 able for payment of benefits under laws administered by
2 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veter-
3 ans Affairs shall nevertheless ensure that payments of ex-
4 isting veterans benefits are made in accordance with regu-
5 lar procedures and schedules and in accordance with eligi-
6 bility requirements for such benefits.

7 (b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such
8 sums as may be necessary for the payment of benefits pur-
9 suant to subsection (a), including such amounts as may
10 be necessary for the costs of administration of payment
11 of such benefits.

12 (c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIA-
13 TIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses
14 the authority of subsection (a) to make payments of veter-
15 ans benefits, applicable accounts shall be charged for
16 amounts so paid, and for the costs of administration of
17 payment of such benefits, when regular appropriations be-
18 come available for those purposes.

19 (d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes
20 of this section, existing veterans benefits are benefits
21 under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
22 fairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for pay-
23 ment as of the last day on which appropriations for pay-
24 ment of such benefits are available (other than pursuant
25 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 accord-
10 ance with regular procedures and schedules and in accord-
11 ance with eligibility requirements for such benefits, and
12 receipts and disbursements of the Government shall be
13 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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