

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1812

To amend the Military Selective Service Act to suspend the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, except during national emergencies, and to require the Director of Selective Service to prepare a report regarding the development of a viable standby registration program for use only during national emergencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 13, 1999

Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. METCALF, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. STARK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend the Military Selective Service Act to suspend the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, except during national emergencies, and to require the Director of Selective Service to prepare a report regarding the development of a viable standby registration program for use only during national emergencies.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Selective Service
3 Standby Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. RESTRICTION OF REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT TO**
5 **PERIODS OF NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

6 (a) NATIONAL EMERGENCY REGISTRATION RE-
7 QUIREMENT.—Section 3(a) of the Military Selective Serv-
8 ice Act (50 U.S.C. App. 453(a)) is amended by inserting
9 after “this title,” the following: “during any period in
10 which a declaration of national emergency is in effect,”.

11 (b) PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING NATIONAL EMER-
12 GENCIES.—Section 3 of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 453)
13 is further amended by adding at the end the following new
14 subsections:

15 “(c) The President shall have the authority to declare
16 a period of national emergency during which the registra-
17 tion requirements of subsection (a) shall apply. Subject
18 to subsection (d), the President shall provide for the
19 prompt termination of the declaration of national emer-
20 gency upon the termination of the national emergency.

21 “(d) A declaration of national emergency under sub-
22 section (c) shall terminate upon the expiration of the first
23 10-day period of continuous session of Congress after the
24 date of the declaration unless Congress enacts a law before
25 the end of that period ratifying that specific declaration.
26 For purposes of this subsection, the continuity of a session

1 of Congress is broken only by an adjournment of the Con-
2 gress sine die, and the days on which either House is not
3 in session because of an adjournment or recess of more
4 than three days to a day certain are excluded in a com-
5 putation of the 10-day period.”.

6 (c) **SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS FOR PERSONS PRE-**
7 **VIOUSLY SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION.**—Section 12 of
8 such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 462) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following new subsection:

10 “(h) In addition to the exception provided by sub-
11 section (g), a person may not be denied a right, privilege,
12 benefit, or employment position under Federal law on the
13 grounds that the person failed to present himself for and
14 submit to registration under section 3 before the effective
15 date of the Selective Service Standby Act of 1999.”.

16 **SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF ACTIVITIES OF SELECTIVE SERV-**
17 **ICE SYSTEM BOARDS.**

18 Section 17 of the Military Selective Service Act (50
19 U.S.C. App. 467) is amended by adding at the end the
20 following new subsection:

21 “(d) Except during any period in which a declaration
22 of national emergency is in effect under section 3—

23 “(1) the President may not appoint a person as
24 a member of a civilian local board, civilian appeal

1 board, or similar local agency of the Selective Serv-
2 ice System; and

3 “(2) any such board established under section
4 10(b)(3) may not meet.”.

5 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON STANDBY REGISTRATION PROGRAM**
6 **FOR USE DURING NATIONAL EMERGENCIES.**

7 Not later than 150 days after the effective date of
8 this Act, the Director of the Selective Service shall submit
9 to Congress a report detailing a standby emergency man-
10 power mobilization program to be used by the Selective
11 Service System during periods in which a declaration of
12 national emergency is in effect for the registration of per-
13 sons who would be subject to registration under section
14 3 of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App.
15 453) during such a period. The report shall include an
16 estimate of the cost to implement and operate the standby
17 program and an evaluation of the feasibility of using exist-
18 ing and emerging information systems available to the
19 Government to improve the effectiveness of any registra-
20 tion requirements.

1 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON USE OF SAVINGS FROM**
2 **SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION AND OTHER**
3 **ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT VETERANS HEALTH**
4 **CARE.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that at least 50 percent
6 of the difference between the amount appropriated to
7 carry out the Military Selective Service Act for fiscal year
8 1999 and the amount appropriated for such purpose for
9 each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004 should be ap-
10 propriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to support
11 expanded health care services for veterans under title 38,
12 United States Code.

13 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
15 take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of the
16 Act.

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