

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 832

To restore veterans tobacco-related illness benefits as in effect before the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. MOAKLEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. FROST, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. REYES, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FORD, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. GORDON, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. KILPATRICK, and Mrs. THURMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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

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## A BILL

To restore veterans tobacco-related illness benefits as in effect before the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

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 “Veterans Tobacco-Related Illness Benefits Restoration Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Until the 1980’s, use of tobacco products  
7 was an acceptable element of the military culture.

8 (2) From the beginning of United States military history through the present, the Federal Government has made tobacco products readily available  
9 for military personnel.  
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11 (3) The Federal Government, until 1998, provided tobacco products for military personnel at  
12 below market value in military commissaries, exchanges, and clubs around the world.  
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14 (4) The Federal Government, through the period of the Vietnam War, provided free tobacco  
15 products to military personnel in C-rations and squad packs.  
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17 (5) In the 1960’s, before official notification of the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco  
18 products, over half of the inpatients in Veterans’ Administration medical centers suffered from tobacco-related illnesses.  
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20 (6) Warning labels began appearing on tobacco  
21 products sold in the private sector in 1965, but did  
22

1 not appear on tobacco products sold in military com-  
2 missaries, exchanges, and clubs until 1970.

3 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF VETERANS TOBACCO-RELATED**  
4 **BENEFITS.**

5 (a) REPEAL OF LAW LIMITING ESTABLISHMENT OF  
6 SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR VETERANS' DISABILITIES RE-  
7 LATING TO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—(1) Section  
8 1103 of title 38, United States Code, is repealed.

9 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter  
10 11 of such title is amended by striking the item relating  
11 to section 1103.

12 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this  
13 section shall apply to any claim for compensation received  
14 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before, on, or after  
15 the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 4. FUNDS NOT REQUIRED TO BE OFFSET FROM OTHER**  
17 **PROGRAMS.**

18 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-  
19 et may not make any estimate of changes in direct spend-  
20 ing outlays under section 252(d) of the Balanced Budget  
21 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.  
22 902(d)) for any fiscal year resulting from the enactment  
23 of this Act.

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