## In the Senate of the United States,

November 21, 2003.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 100) entitled "An Act to restate, clarify, and revise the Soliders' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.", do pass with the following

## **AMENDMENT:**

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### 1 SECTION 1. RESTATEMENT OF ACT.

- 2 The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 (50
- 3 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:
- 4 "SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.
- 5 "(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the
- 6 'Servicemembers Civil Relief Act'.

### 1 "(b) Table of Contents of

#### 2 this Act is as follows:

- "Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- "Sec. 2. Purpose.

#### "TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- "Sec. 101. Definitions.
- "Sec. 102. Jurisdiction and applicability of Act.
- "Sec. 103. Protection of persons secondarily liable.
- "Sec. 104. Extension of protections to citizens serving with allied forces.
- "Sec. 105. Notification of benefits.
- "Sec. 106. Extension of rights and protections to Reserves ordered to report for military service and to persons ordered to report for induction.
- "Sec. 107. Waiver of rights pursuant to written agreement.
- "Sec. 108. Exercise of rights under Act not to affect certain future financial transactions.
- "Sec. 109. Legal representatives.

#### "TITLE II—GENERAL RELIEF

- "Sec. 201. Protection of servicemembers against default judgments.
- "Sec. 202. Stay of proceedings when servicemember has notice.
- "Sec. 203. Fines and penalties under contracts.
- "Sec. 204. Stay or vacation of execution of judgments, attachments, and garnishments.
- "Sec. 205. Duration and term of stays; codefendants not in service.
- "Sec. 206. Statute of limitations.
- "Sec. 207. Maximum rate of interest on debts incurred before military service.

# "TITLE III—RENT, INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS, MORTGAGES, LIENS, ASSIGNMENT, LEASES

- "Sec. 301. Evictions and distress.
- "Sec. 302. Protection under installment contracts for purchase or lease.
- "Sec. 303. Mortgages and trust deeds.
- "Sec. 304. Settlement of stayed cases relating to personal property.
- "Sec. 305. Termination of residential or motor vehicle leases.
- "Sec. 306. Protection of life insurance policy.
- "Sec. 307. Enforcement of storage liens.
- "Sec. 308. Extension of protections to dependents.

#### "TITLE IV—LIFE INSURANCE

- "Sec. 401. Definitions.
- "Sec. 402. Insurance rights and protections.
- "Sec. 403. Application for insurance protection.
- "Sec. 404. Policies entitled to protection and lapse of policies.
- "Sec. 405. Policy restrictions.
- "Sec. 406. Deduction of unpaid premiums.
- "Sec. 407. Premiums and interest guaranteed by United States.
- "Sec. 408. Regulations.
- "Sec. 409. Review of findings of fact and conclusions of law.

#### "TITLE V—TAXES AND PUBLIC LANDS

- "Sec. 501. Taxes respecting personal property, money, credits, and real property.
- "Sec. 502. Rights in public lands.
- "Sec. 503. Desert-land entries.
- "Sec. 504. Mining claims.
- "Sec. 505. Mineral permits and leases.
- "Sec. 506. Perfection or defense of rights.
- "Sec. 507. Distribution of information concerning benefits of title.
- "Sec. 508. Land rights of servicemembers.
- "Sec. 509. Regulations.
- "Sec. 510. Income taxes.
- "Sec. 511. Residence for tax purposes.

#### "TITLE VI—ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

- "Sec. 601. Inappropriate use of Act.
- "Sec. 602. Certificates of service; persons reported missing.
- "Sec. 603. Interlocutory orders.

#### "TITLE VII—FURTHER RELIEF

- "Sec. 701. Anticipatory relief.
- "Sec. 702. Power of attorney.
- "Sec. 703. Professional liability protection.
- "Sec. 704. Health insurance reinstatement.
- "Sec. 705. Guarantee of residency for military personnel.
- "Sec. 706. Business or trade obligations.

#### 1 "SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

- 2 "The purposes of this Act are—
- 3 "(1) to provide for, strengthen, and expedite the
- 4 national defense through protection extended by this
- 5 Act to servicemembers of the United States to enable
- 6 such persons to devote their entire energy to the de-
- 7 fense needs of the Nation; and
- 8 "(2) to provide for the temporary suspension of
- 9 judicial and administrative proceedings and trans-
- actions that may adversely affect the civil rights of
- 11 servicemembers during their military service.

# 1 "TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

2	"SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.
3	"For the purposes of this Act:
4	"(1) Servicemember.—The term
5	'servicemember' means a member of the uniformed
6	services, as that term is defined in section 101(a)(5)
7	of title 10, United States Code.
8	"(2) Military Service.—The term 'military
9	service' means—
10	"(A) in the case of a servicemember who is
11	a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine
12	Corps, or Coast Guard—
13	"(i) active duty, as defined in section
14	101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code,
15	and
16	"(ii) in the case of a member of the
17	National Guard, includes service under a
18	call to active service authorized by the
19	President or the Secretary of Defense for a
20	period of more than 30 consecutive days
21	under section 502(f) of title 32, United
22	States Code, for purposes of responding to a
23	national emergency declared by the Presi-
24	dent and supported by Federal funds:

1	"(B) in the case of a servicemember who is
2	a commissioned officer of the Public Health
3	Service or the National Oceanic and Atmos-
4	pheric Administration, active service; and
5	"(C) any period during which a
6	servicemember is absent from duty on account of
7	sickness, wounds, leave, or other lawful cause.
8	"(3) Period of military service.—The term
9	'period of military service' means the period begin-
10	ning on the date on which a servicemember enters
11	military service and ending on the date on which the
12	servicemember is released from military service or
13	dies while in military service.
14	"(4) Dependent.—The term 'dependent', with
15	respect to a servicemember, means—
16	"(A) the servicemember's spouse;
17	"(B) the servicemember's child (as defined
18	in section 101(4) of title 38, United States
19	Code); or
20	"(C) an individual for whom the
21	servicemember provided more than one-half of
22	the individual's support for 180 days imme-
23	diately preceding an application for relief under
24	this Act.

1	"(5) Court.—The term 'court' means a court or
2	an administrative agency of the United States or of
3	any State (including any political subdivision of a
4	State), whether or not a court or administrative agen-
5	cy of record.
6	"(6) State.—The term 'State' includes—
7	"(A) a commonwealth, territory, or posses-
8	sion of the United States; and
9	"(B) the District of Columbia.
10	"(7) Secretary concerned.—The term 'Sec-
11	retary concerned'—
12	"(A) with respect to a member of the armed
13	forces, has the meaning given that term in sec-
14	tion 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code;
15	"(B) with respect to a commissioned officer
16	of the Public Health Service, means the Sec-
17	retary of Health and Human Services; and
18	"(C) with respect to a commissioned officer
19	of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Ad-
20	ministration, means the Secretary of Commerce.
21	"(8) Motor vehicle.—The term 'motor vehicle'
22	has the meaning given that term in section
23	30102(a)(6) of title 49, United States Code.
24	"SEC. 102. JURISDICTION AND APPLICABILITY OF ACT.
25	"(a) Jurisdiction.—This Act applies to—

1	"(1) the United States;
2	"(2) each of the States, including the political
3	subdivisions thereof; and
4	"(3) all territory subject to the jurisdiction of the
5	United States.
6	"(b) Applicability to Proceedings.—This Act ap-
7	plies to any judicial or administrative proceeding com-
8	menced in any court or agency in any jurisdiction subject
9	to this Act. This Act does not apply to criminal proceedings.
10	"(c) Court in Which Application May Be Made.—
11	When under this Act any application is required to be made
12	to a court in which no proceeding has already been com-
13	menced with respect to the matter, such application may
14	be made to any court which would otherwise have jurisdic-
15	tion over the matter.
16	"SEC. 103. PROTECTION OF PERSONS SECONDARILY LIA-
17	BLE.
18	"(a) Extension of Protection When Actions
19	Stayed, Postponed, or Suspended.—Whenever pursu-
20	ant to this Act a court stays, postpones, or suspends (1)
21	the enforcement of an obligation or liability, (2) the pros-
22	ecution of a suit or proceeding, (3) the entry or enforcement
23	of an order, writ, judgment, or decree, or (4) the perform-
24	ance of any other act, the court may likewise grant such
25	a stay, postponement, or suspension to a surety, guarantor,

- 1 endorser, accommodation maker, comaker, or other person
- 2 who is or may be primarily or secondarily subject to the
- 3 obligation or liability the performance or enforcement of
- 4 which is stayed, postponed, or suspended.
- 5 "(b) Vacation or Set-Aside of Judgments.—When
- 6 a judgment or decree is vacated or set aside, in whole or
- 7 in part, pursuant to this Act, the court may also set aside
- 8 or vacate, as the case may be, the judgment or decree as
- 9 to a surety, quarantor, endorser, accommodation maker,
- 10 comaker, or other person who is or may be primarily or
- 11 secondarily liable on the contract or liability for the enforce-
- 12 ment of the judgment or decree.
- "(c) Bail Bond Not To Be Enforced During Pe-
- 14 RIOD OF MILITARY SERVICE.—A court may not enforce a
- 15 bail bond during the period of military service of the prin-
- 16 cipal on the bond when military service prevents the surety
- 17 from obtaining the attendance of the principal. The court
- 18 may discharge the surety and exonerate the bail, in accord-
- 19 ance with principles of equity and justice, during or after
- 20 the period of military service of the principal.
- 21 "(d) Waiver of Rights.—
- 22 "(1) Waivers not precluded.—This Act does
- 23 not prevent a waiver in writing by a surety, guar-
- 24 antor, endorser, accommodation maker, comaker, or
- 25 other person (whether primarily or secondarily liable

- on an obligation or liability) of the protections provided under subsections (a) and (b). Any such waiver is effective only if it is executed as an instrument separate from the obligation or liability with respect to which it applies.
- 6 "(2) Waiver invalidated upon entrance to 7 MILITARY SERVICE.—If a waiver under paragraph (1) 8 is executed by an individual who after the execution 9 of the waiver enters military service, or by a dependent of an individual who after the execution of the 10 11 waiver enters military service, the waiver is not valid 12 after the beginning of the period of such military 13 service unless the waiver was executed by such indi-14 vidual or dependent during the period specified in 15 section 106.

# 16 "SEC. 104. EXTENSION OF PROTECTIONS TO CITIZENS 17 SERVING WITH ALLIED FORCES.

"A citizen of the United States who is serving with the forces of a nation with which the United States is allied in the prosecution of a war or military action is entitled to the relief and protections provided under this Act if that service with the allied force is similar to military service as defined in this Act. The relief and protections provided to such citizen shall terminate on the date of discharge or release from such service.

#### "SEC. 105. NOTIFICATION OF BENEFITS.

- 3 the benefits accorded by this Act is provided in writing to
- 4 persons in military service and to persons entering military
- 5 service.
- 6 "SEC. 106. EXTENSION OF RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS TO
- 7 RESERVES ORDERED TO REPORT FOR MILI-
- 8 TARY SERVICE AND TO PERSONS ORDERED
- 9 TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION.
- 10 "(a) Reserves Ordered To Report for Military
- 11 Service.—A member of a reserve component who is or-
- 12 dered to report for military service is entitled to the rights
- 13 and protections of this title and titles II and III during
- 14 the period beginning on the date of the member's receipt
- 15 of the order and ending on the date on which the member
- 16 reports for military service (or, if the order is revoked before
- 17 the member so reports, or the date on which the order is
- 18 revoked).
- 19 "(b) Persons Ordered To Report for Induc-
- 20 Tion.—A person who has been ordered to report for induc-
- 21 tion under the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C.
- 22 App. 451 et seq.) is entitled to the rights and protections
- 23 provided a servicemember under this title and titles II and
- 24 III during the period beginning on the date of receipt of
- 25 the order for induction and ending on the date on which
- 26 the person reports for induction (or, if the order to report

1	for induction is revoked before the date on which the person
2	reports for induction, on the date on which the order is re-
3	voked).
4	"SEC. 107. WAIVER OF RIGHTS PURSUANT TO WRITTEN
5	AGREEMENT.
6	"(a) In General.—A servicemember may waive any
7	of the rights and protections provided by this Act. In the
8	case of a waiver that permits an action described in sub-
9	section (b), the waiver is effective only if made pursuant
10	to a written agreement of the parties that is executed during
11	or after the servicemember's period of military service. The
12	written agreement shall specify the legal instrument to
13	which the waiver applies and, if the servicemember is not
14	a party to that instrument, the servicemember concerned.
15	"(b) Actions Requiring Waivers in Writing.—The
16	requirement in subsection (a) for a written waiver applies
17	to the following:
18	"(1) The modification, termination, or cancella-
19	tion of—
20	"(A) a contract, lease, or bailment; or
21	"(B) an obligation secured by a mortgage,
22	trust, deed, lien, or other security in the nature
23	of a mortgage.
24	"(2) The repossession, retention, foreclosure, sale,
25	forfeiture, or taking possession of property that—

1	"(A) is security for any obligation; or
2	"(B) was purchased or received under a
3	contract, lease, or bailment.
4	"(c) Coverage of Periods After Orders Re-
5	CEIVED.—For the purposes of this section—
6	"(1) a person to whom section 106 applies shall
7	be considered to be a servicemember; and
8	"(2) the period with respect to such a person
9	specified in subsection (a) or (b), as the case may be,
10	of section 106 shall be considered to be a period of
11	military service.
12	"SEC. 108. EXERCISE OF RIGHTS UNDER ACT NOT TO AF-
13	FECT CERTAIN FUTURE FINANCIAL TRANS-
14	ACTIONS.
14 15	ACTIONS.  "Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a
15	
15	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pur-
15 16 17	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pur-
15 16 17	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty,
15 16 17 18	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of
15 16 17 18	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of that servicemember shall not itself (without regard to other
15 16 17 18 19	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of that servicemember shall not itself (without regard to other considerations) provide the basis for any of the following:
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of that servicemember shall not itself (without regard to other considerations) provide the basis for any of the following:  "(1) A determination by a lender or other person
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	"Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this Act in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of that servicemember shall not itself (without regard to other considerations) provide the basis for any of the following:  "(1) A determination by a lender or other person that the servicemember is unable to pay the civil obli-

1	"(A) a denial or revocation of credit by the
2	creditor;
3	"(B) a change by the creditor in the terms
4	of an existing credit arrangement; or
5	"(C) a refusal by the creditor to grant cred-
6	it to the servicemember in substantially the
7	amount or on substantially the terms requested.
8	"(3) An adverse report relating to the credit-
9	worthiness of the servicemember by or to a person en-
10	gaged in the practice of assembling or evaluating con-
11	sumer credit information.
12	"(4) A refusal by an insurer to insure the
13	service member.
14	"(5) An annotation in a servicemember's record
15	by a creditor or a person engaged in the practice of
16	assembling or evaluating consumer credit informa-
17	tion, identifying the servicemember as a member of
18	the National Guard or a reserve component.
19	"(6) A change in the terms offered or conditions
20	required for the issuance of insurance.
21	"SEC. 109. LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES.
22	"(a) Representative of a
23	servicemember for purposes of this Act is either of the fol-
24	lowing:

1	"(1) An attorney acting on the behalf of a
2	service member.
3	"(2) An individual possessing a power of attor-
4	ney.
5	"(b) APPLICATION.—Whenever the term
6	'servicemember' is used in this Act, such term shall be treat-
7	ed as including a reference to a legal representative of the
8	servicemember.
9	"TITLE II—GENERAL RELIEF
10	"SEC. 201. PROTECTION OF SERVICEMEMBERS AGAINST DE-
11	FAULT JUDGMENTS.
12	"(a) Applicability of Section.—This section ap-
13	plies to any civil action or proceeding in which the defend-
14	ant does not make an appearance.
15	"(b) Affidavit Requirement.—
16	"(1) Plaintiff to file affidavit.—In any ac-
17	tion or proceeding covered by this section, the court,
18	before entering judgment for the plaintiff, shall re-
19	quire the plaintiff to file with the court an
20	affidavit—
21	"(A) stating whether or not the defendant is
22	in military service and showing necessary facts
23	to support the affidavit; or
24	"(B) if the plaintiff is unable to determine
25	whether or not the defendant is in military serv-

ice, stating that the plaintiff is unable to determine whether or not the defendant is in military service.

"(2) Appointment of attorney to represent in military service, the court may not enter a judgment until after the court appoints an attorney to represent the defendant. If an attorney appointed under this section to represent a servicemember cannot locate the servicemember, actions by the attorney in the case shall not waive any defense of the servicemember or otherwise bind the servicemember.

"(3) Defendant's military status not ascertained by affidavit.—If based upon the affidavits filed in such an action, the court is unable to determine whether the defendant is in military service, the court, before entering judgment, may require the plaintiff to file a bond in an amount approved by the court. If the defendant is later found to be in military service, the bond shall be available to indemnify the defendant against any loss or damage the defendant may suffer by reason of any judgment for the plaintiff against the defendant, should the judgment be set aside in whole or in part. The bond shall re-

- 1 main in effect until expiration of the time for appeal
- 2 and setting aside of a judgment under applicable Fed-
- 3 eral or State law or regulation or under any applica-
- 4 ble ordinance of a political subdivision of a State.
- 5 The court may issue such orders or enter such judg-
- 6 ments as the court determines necessary to protect the
- 7 rights of the defendant under this Act.
- 8 "(4) Satisfaction of requirement for Affi-
- 9 DAVIT.—The requirement for an affidavit under para-
- 10 graph (1) may be satisfied by a statement, declara-
- 11 tion, verification, or certificate, in writing, subscribed
- and certified or declared to be true under penalty of
- 13 perjury.
- 14 "(c) Penalty for Making or Using False Affi-
- 15 DAVIT.—A person who makes or uses an affidavit permitted
- 16 under subsection (b) (or a statement, declaration,
- 17 verification, or certificate as authorized under subsection
- 18 (b)(4)) knowing it to be false, shall be fined as provided
- 19 in title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more
- 20 than one year, or both.
- 21 "(d) STAY OF PROCEEDINGS.—In an action covered by
- 22 this section in which the defendant is in military service,
- 23 the court shall grant a stay of proceedings for a minimum
- 24 period of 90 days under this subsection upon application

1	of counsel, or on the court's own motion, if the court deter-
2	mines that—
3	"(1) there may be a defense to the action and a
4	defense cannot be presented without the presence of
5	the defendant; or
6	"(2) after due diligence, counsel has been unable
7	to contact the defendant or otherwise determine if a
8	meritorious defense exists.
9	"(e) Inapplicability of Section 202 Proce-
10	DURES.—A stay of proceedings under subsection (d) shall
11	not be controlled by procedures or requirements under sec-
12	tion 202.
13	"(f) Section 202 Protection.—If a servicemember
14	who is a defendant in an action covered by this section re-
15	ceives actual notice of the action, the servicemember may
16	request a stay of proceeding under section 202.
17	"(g) Vacation or Setting Aside of Default Judg-
18	MENTS.—
19	"(1) Authority for court to vacate or set
20	ASIDE JUDGMENT.—If a default judgment is entered
21	in an action covered by this section against a
22	servicemember during the servicemember's period of
23	military service (or within 60 days after termination
24	of or release from such military service), the court en-
25	tering the judgment shall, upon application by or on

1	behalf of the servicemember, reopen the judgment for
2	the purpose of allowing the servicemember to defend
3	the action if it appears that—
4	"(A) the servicemember was materially af-
5	fected by reason of that military service in mak-
6	ing a defense to the action; and
7	"(B) the servicemember has a meritorious or
8	legal defense to the action or some part of it.
9	"(2) Time for filing application.—An appli-
10	cation under this subsection must be filed not later
11	than 90 days after the date of the termination of or
12	release from military service.
13	"(h) Protection of Bona Fide Purchaser.—If a
14	court vacates, sets aside, or reverses a default judgment
15	against a servicemember and the vacating, setting aside, or
16	reversing is because of a provision of this Act, that action
17	shall not impair a right or title acquired by a bona fide
18	purchaser for value under the default judgment.
19	"SEC. 202. STAY OF PROCEEDINGS WHEN SERVICEMEMBER
20	HAS NOTICE.
21	"(a) Applicability of Section.—This section ap-
22	plies to any civil action or proceeding in which the defend-
23	ant at the time of filing an application under this section—

1	"(1) is in military service or is within 90 days
2	after termination of or release from military service;
3	and
4	"(2) has received notice of the action or pro-
5	ceeding.
6	"(b) Stay of Proceedings.—
7	"(1) AUTHORITY FOR STAY.—At any stage before
8	final judgment in a civil action or proceeding in
9	which a servicemember described in subsection (a) is
10	a party, the court may on its own motion and shall,
11	upon application by the servicemember, stay the ac-
12	tion for a period of not less than 90 days, if the con-
13	ditions in paragraph (2) are met.
14	"(2) Conditions for stay.—An application for
15	a stay under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
16	lowing:
17	"(A) A letter or other communication set-
18	ting forth facts stating the manner in which cur-
19	rent military duty requirements materially affect
20	the servicemember's ability to appear and stat-
21	ing a date when the servicemember will be avail-
22	able to appear.
23	"(B) A letter or other communication from
24	the servicemember's commanding officer stating
25	that the servicemember's current military duty

prevents appearance and that military leave is not authorized for the servicemember at the time of the letter.

4 "(c) APPLICATION NOT A WAIVER OF DEFENSES.—An
5 application for a stay under this section does not constitute
6 an appearance for jurisdictional purposes and does not con7 stitute a waiver of any substantive or procedural defense
8 (including a defense relating to lack of personal jurisdic9 tion).

## 10 "(d) Additional Stay.—

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"(1) APPLICATION.—A servicemember who is granted a stay of a civil action or proceeding under subsection (b) may apply for an additional stay based on continuing material affect of military duty on the servicemember's ability to appear. Such an application may be made by the servicemember at the time of the initial application under subsection (b) or when it appears that the servicemember is unavailable to prosecute or defend the action. The same information required under subsection (b)(2) shall be included in an application under this subsection.

"(2) APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL WHEN ADDI-TIONAL STAY REFUSED.—If the court refuses to grant an additional stay of proceedings under paragraph

1	(1), the court shall appoint counsel to represent the
2	servicemember in the action or proceeding.
3	"(e) Coordination With Section 201.—A
4	servicemember who applies for a stay under this section and
5	is unsuccessful may not seek the protections afforded by sec-
6	tion 201.
7	"(f) Inapplicability to Section 301.—The protec-
8	tions of this section do not apply to section 301.
9	"SEC. 203. FINES AND PENALTIES UNDER CONTRACTS.
10	"(a) Prohibition of Penalties.—When an action
11	for compliance with the terms of a contract is stayed pursu-
12	ant to this Act, a penalty shall not accrue for failure to
13	comply with the terms of the contract during the period
14	of the stay.
15	"(b) Reduction or Waiver of Fines or Pen-
16	ALTIES.—If a servicemember fails to perform an obligation
17	arising under a contract and a penalty is incurred arising
18	from that nonperformance, a court may reduce or waive
19	the fine or penalty if—
20	"(1) the servicemember was in military service
21	at the time the fine or penalty was incurred; and
22	"(2) the ability of the servicemember to perform
23	the obligation was materially affected by such mili-
24	tary service.

1	"SEC. 204. STAY OR VACATION OF EXECUTION OF JUDG-
2	MENTS, ATTACHMENTS, AND GARNISHMENTS.
3	"(a) Court Action Upon Material Affect Deter-
4	MINATION.—If a servicemember, in the opinion of the court,
5	is materially affected by reason of military service in com-
6	plying with a court judgment or order, the court may on
7	its own motion and shall on application by the
8	servicemember—
9	"(1) stay the execution of any judgment or order
10	entered against the servicemember; and
11	"(2) vacate or stay an attachment or garnish-
12	ment of property, money, or debts in the possession of
13	the servicemember or a third party, whether before or
14	$after\ judgment.$
15	"(b) Applicability.—This section applies to an ac-
16	tion or proceeding commenced in a court against a
17	servicemember before or during the period of the
18	servicemember's military service or within 90 days after
19	such service terminates.
20	"SEC. 205. DURATION AND TERM OF STAYS; CODEFEND-
21	ANTS NOT IN SERVICE.
22	"(a) Period of Stay.—A stay of an action, pro-
23	ceeding, attachment, or execution made pursuant to the pro-
24	visions of this Act by a court may be ordered for the period
25	of military service and 90 days thereafter, or for any part
26	of that period. The court may set the terms and amounts

- 1 for such installment payments as is considered reasonable
- 2 by the court.
- 3 "(b) Codefendants.—If the servicemember is a co-
- 4 defendant with others who are not in military service and
- 5 who are not entitled to the relief and protections provided
- 6 under this Act, the plaintiff may proceed against those other
- 7 defendants with the approval of the court.
- 8 "(c) Inapplicability of Section.—This section does
- 9 not apply to sections 202 and 701.
- 10 "SEC. 206. STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.
- 11 "(a) Tolling of Statutes of Limitation During
- 12 MILITARY SERVICE.—The period of a servicemember's mili-
- 13 tary service may not be included in computing any period
- 14 limited by law, regulation, or order for the bringing of any
- 15 action or proceeding in a court, or in any board, bureau,
- 16 commission, department, or other agency of a State (or po-
- 17 litical subdivision of a State) or the United States by or
- 18 against the servicemember or the servicemember's heirs, ex-
- 19 ecutors, administrators, or assigns.
- 20 "(b) Redemption of Real Property.—A period of
- 21 military service may not be included in computing any pe-
- 22 riod provided by law for the redemption of real property
- 23 sold or forfeited to enforce an obligation, tax, or assessment.
- 24 "(c) Inapplicability to Internal Revenue
- 25 Laws.—This section does not apply to any period of limita-

1	tion prescribed by or under the internal revenue laws of
2	the United States.
3	"SEC. 207. MAXIMUM RATE OF INTEREST ON DEBTS IN
4	CURRED BEFORE MILITARY SERVICE.
5	"(a) Interest Rate Limitation.—
6	"(1) Limitation to 6 percent.—An obligation
7	or liability bearing interest at a rate in excess of 6
8	percent per year that is incurred by a servicemember,
9	or the servicemember and the servicemember's spouse
10	jointly, before the servicemember enters military serv-
11	ice shall not bear interest at a rate in excess of 6 per-
12	cent per year during the period of military service.
13	"(2) Forgiveness of interest in excess of
14	6 PERCENT.—Interest at a rate in excess of 6 percent
15	per year that would otherwise be incurred but for the
16	prohibition in paragraph (1) is forgiven.
17	"(3) Prevention of acceleration of prin-
18	CIPAL.—The amount of any periodic payment due
19	from a servicemember under the terms of the instru-
20	ment that created an obligation or liability covered by
21	this section shall be reduced by the amount of the in-
22	terest forgiven under paragraph (2) that is allocable
23	to the period for which such payment is made.
24	"(b) Implementation of Limitation —

- 1 "(1) Written notice to creditor.—In order 2 for an obligation or liability of a servicemember to be subject to the interest rate limitation in subsection 3 4 (a), the servicemember shall provide to the creditor written notice and a copy of the military orders call-5 6 ing the servicemember to military service and any or-7 ders further extending military service, not later than 8 180 days after the date of the servicemember's termi-9 nation or release from military service.
- "(2) LIMITATION EFFECTIVE AS OF DATE OF

  ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY.—Upon receipt of written

  notice and a copy of orders calling a servicemember

  to military service, the creditor shall treat the debt in

  accordance with subsection (a), effective as of the date

  on which the servicemember is called to military service.
- "(c) CREDITOR PROTECTION.—A court may grant a 18 creditor relief from the limitations of this section if, in the 19 opinion of the court, the ability of the servicemember to pay 20 interest upon the obligation or liability at a rate in excess 21 of 6 percent per year is not materially affected by reason 22 of the servicemember's military service.
- 23 "(d) Interest.—As used in this section, the term 'in-24 terest' includes service charges, renewal charges, fees, or any

1	other charges (except bona fide insurance) with respect to
2	an obligation or liability.
3	"TITLE III—RENT, INSTALLMENT
4	CONTRACTS, MORTGAGES,
5	LIENS, ASSIGNMENT, LEASES
6	"SEC. 301. EVICTIONS AND DISTRESS.
7	"(a) Court-Ordered Eviction.—
8	"(1) In general.—Except by court order, a
9	landlord (or another person with paramount title)
10	may not—
11	"(A) evict a servicemember, or the depend-
12	ents of a servicemember, during a period of mili-
13	tary service of the servicemember, from
14	premises—
15	"(i) that are occupied or intended to be
16	occupied primarily as a residence; and
17	"(ii) for which the monthly rent does
18	not exceed \$2,400, as adjusted under para-
19	graph (2) for years after 2003; or
20	"(B) subject such premises to a distress dur-
21	ing the period of military service.
22	"(2) Housing price inflation adjustment.—
23	(A) For calendar years beginning with 2004, the
24	amount in effect under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) shall be

1	increased by the housing price inflation adjustment
2	for the calendar year involved.
3	"(B) For purposes of this paragraph—
4	"(i) The housing price inflation adjustment
5	for any calendar year is the percentage change
6	(if any) by which—
7	"(I) the CPI housing component for
8	November of the preceding calendar year,
9	exceeds
10	"(II) the CPI housing component for
11	November of 1984.
12	"(ii) The term 'CPI housing component'
13	means the index published by the Bureau of
14	Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor
15	known as the Consumer Price Index, All Urban
16	Consumers, Rent of Primary Residence, U.S.
17	City Average.
18	"(3) Publication of Housing Price inflation
19	ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall cause
20	to be published in the Federal Register each year the
21	amount in effect under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) for that
22	year following the housing price inflation adjustment
23	for that year pursuant to paragraph (2). Such publi-
24	cation shall be made for a year not later than 60
25	days after such adjustment is made for that year.

1	"(b) Stay of Execution.—
2	"(1) Court Authority.—Upon an application
3	for eviction or distress with respect to premises cov-
4	ered by this section, the court may on its own motion
5	and shall, if a request is made by or on behalf of a
6	servicemember whose ability to pay the agreed rent is
7	materially affected by military service—
8	"(A) stay the proceedings for a period of 90
9	days, unless in the opinion of the court, justice
10	and equity require a longer or shorter period of
11	$time;\ or$
12	"(B) adjust the obligation under the lease to
13	preserve the interests of all parties.
14	"(2) Relief to landlord.—If a stay is grant-
15	ed under paragraph (1), the court may grant to the
16	landlord (or other person with paramount title) such
17	relief as equity may require.
18	"(c) Penalties.—
19	"(1) Misdemeanor.—Except as provided in
20	subsection (a), a person who knowingly takes part in
21	an eviction or distress described in subsection (a), or
22	who knowingly attempts to do so, shall be fined as
23	provided in title 18, United States Code, or impris-

oned for not more than one year, or both.

24

1	"(2) Preservation of other remedies and
2	RIGHTS.—The remedies and rights provided under
3	this section are in addition to and do not preclude
4	any remedy for wrongful conversion (or wrongful
5	eviction) otherwise available under the law to the per-
6	son claiming relief under this section, including any
7	award for consequential and punitive damages.
8	"(d) Rent Allotment From Pay of
9	Servicemember.—To the extent required by a court order
10	related to property which is the subject of a court action
11	under this section, the Secretary concerned shall make an
12	allotment from the pay of a servicemember to satisfy the
13	terms of such order, except that any such allotment shall
14	be subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary con-
15	cerned establishing the maximum amount of pay of
16	servicemembers that may be allotted under this subsection.
17	"(e) Limitation of Applicability.—Section 202 is
18	not applicable to this section.
19	"SEC. 302. PROTECTION UNDER INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS
20	FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE.
21	"(a) Protection Upon Breach of Contract.—
22	"(1) Protection after entering military
23	SERVICE.—After a servicemember enters military
24	service, a contract by the servicemember for—

1 "(A) the purchase of real or personal prop-2 erty (including a motor vehicle); or

> "(B) the lease or bailment of such property, may not be rescinded or terminated for a breach of terms of the contract occurring before or during that person's military service, nor may the property be repossessed for such breach without a court order.

> "(2) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies only to a contract for which a deposit or installment has been paid by the servicemember before the servicemember enters military service.

#### "(b) Penalties.—

- "(1) MISDEMEANOR.—A person who knowingly resumes possession of property in violation of subsection (a), or in violation of section 107 of this Act, or who knowingly attempts to do so, shall be fined as provided in title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both.
- "(2) Preservation of other remedies and rights provided under this section are in addition to and do not preclude any remedy for wrongful conversion otherwise available under law to the person claiming relief under this section, including any award for consequential and punitive damages.

1	"(c) Authority of Court.—In a hearing based on
2	this section, the court—
3	"(1) may order repayment to the servicemember
4	of all or part of the prior installments or deposits as
5	a condition of terminating the contract and resuming
6	possession of the property;
7	"(2) may, on its own motion, and shall on ap-
8	plication by a servicemember when the
9	servicemember's ability to comply with the contract is
10	materially affected by military service, stay the pro-
11	ceedings for a period of time as, in the opinion of the
12	court, justice and equity require; or
13	"(3) may make other disposition as is equitable
14	to preserve the interests of all parties.
15	"SEC. 303. MORTGAGES AND TRUST DEEDS.
16	"(a) Mortgage as Security.—This section applies
17	only to an obligation on real or personal property owned
18	by a servicemember that—
19	"(1) originated before the period of the
20	servicemember's military service and for which the
21	servicemember is still obligated; and
22	"(2) is secured by a mortgage, trust deed, or
23	other security in the nature of a mortgage.
24	"(b) Stay of Proceedings and Adjustment of Ob-
25	LIGATION.—In an action filed during or within 90 days

1	after, a servicemember's period of military service to enforce
2	an obligation described in subsection (a), the court may
3	after a hearing and on its own motion and shall upon ap-
4	plication by a servicemember when the servicemember's
5	ability to comply with the obligation is materially affected
6	by military service—
7	"(1) stay the proceedings for a period of time as
8	justice and equity require, or
9	"(2) adjust the obligation to preserve the inter-
10	ests of all parties.
11	"(c) Sale or Foreclosure.—A sale, foreclosure, or
12	seizure of property for a breach of an obligation described
13	in subsection (a) shall not be valid if made during, or with
14	in 90 days after, the period of the servicemember's military
15	service except—
16	"(1) upon a court order granted before such sale,
17	foreclosure, or seizure with a return made and ap-
18	proved by the court; or
19	"(2) if made pursuant to an agreement as pro-
20	vided in section 107.
21	"(d) Penalties.—
22	"(1) Misdemeanor.—A person who knowingly
23	makes or causes to be made a sale, foreclosure, or sei-
24	zure of property that is prohibited by subsection (c),
25	or who knowingly attempts to do so, shall be fined as

- provided in title 18, United States Code, or impris oned for not more than one year, or both.
- "(2) Preservation of other remedies.—The remedies and rights provided under this section are in addition to and do not preclude any remedy for wrongful conversion otherwise available under law to the person claiming relief under this section, including consequential and punitive damages.

# 9 "SEC. 304. SETTLEMENT OF STAYED CASES RELATING TO

10 **PERSONAL PROPERTY.** 

to appraise the property.

16

- "(a) APPRAISAL OF PROPERTY.—When a stay is 12 granted pursuant to this Act in a proceeding to foreclose 13 a mortgage on or to repossess personal property, or to re-14 scind or terminate a contract for the purchase of personal 15 property, the court may appoint three disinterested parties
- "(b) Equity Payment.—Based on the appraisal, and if undue hardship to the servicemember's dependents will not result, the court may order that the amount of the servicemember's equity in the property be paid to the servicemember, or the servicemember's dependents, as a condition of foreclosing the mortgage, repossessing the property,

or rescinding or terminating the contract.

1	"SEC. 305. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL OR MOTOR VEHI-
2	CLE LEASES.
3	"(a) Termination by Lessee.—The lessee on a lease
4	described in subsection (b) may, at the lessee's option, ter-
5	minate the lease at any time after—
6	"(1) the lessee's entry into military service; or
7	"(2) the date of the lessee's military orders de-
8	scribed in paragraph $(1)(B)$ or $(2)(B)$ of subsection
9	(b), as the case may be.
10	"(b) Covered Leases.—This section applies to the
11	following leases:
12	"(1) Leases of premises.—A lease of premises
13	occupied, or intended to be occupied, by a
14	servicemember or a servicemember's dependents for a
15	residential, professional, business, agricultural, or
16	similar purpose if—
17	"(A) the lease is executed by or on behalf of
18	a person who thereafter and during the term of
19	the lease enters military service; or
20	"(B) the servicemember, while in military
21	service, executes the lease and thereafter receives
22	military orders for a permanent change of sta-
23	tion or to deploy with a military unit for a pe-
24	riod of not less than 90 days.
25	"(2) Leases of motor vehicles.—A lease of a
26	motor vehicle used, or intended to be used, by a

1	servicemember or a servicemember's dependents for
2	personal or business transportation if—
3	"(A) the lease is executed by or on behalf of
4	a person who thereafter and during the term of
5	the lease enters military service under a call or
6	order specifying a period of not less than 180
7	days (or who enters military service under a call
8	or order specifying a period of 180 days or less
9	and who, without a break in service, receives or-
10	ders extending the period of military service to
11	a period of not less than 180 days); or
12	"(B) the servicemember, while in military
13	service, executes the lease and thereafter receives
14	military orders for a permanent change of sta-
15	tion outside of the continental United States or
16	to deploy with a military unit for a period of
17	not less than 180 days.
18	"(c) Manner of Termination.—
19	"(1) In general.—Termination of a lease under
20	subsection (a) is made—
21	"(A) by delivery by the lessee of written no-
22	tice of such termination, and a copy of the
23	servicemember's military orders, to the lessor (or
24	the lessor's grantee), or to the lessor's agent (or
25	the agent's grantee); and

1	"(B) in the case of a lease of a motor vehi-
2	cle, by return of the motor vehicle by the lessee
3	to the lessor (or the lessor's grantee), or to the les-
4	sor's agent (or the agent's grantee), not later
5	than 15 days after the date of the delivery of
6	written notice under subparagraph (A).
7	"(2) Delivery of notice.—Delivery of notice
8	under paragraph (1)(A) may be accomplished—
9	"(A) by hand delivery;
10	"(B) by private business carrier; or
11	"(C) by placing the written notice in an en-
12	velope with sufficient postage and with return
13	receipt requested, and addressed as designated by
14	the lessor (or the lessor's grantee) or to the les-
15	sor's agent (or the agent's grantee), and depos-
16	iting the written notice in the United States
17	mails.
18	"(d) Effective Date of Lease Termination.—
19	"(1) Lease of premises.—In the case of a
20	lease described in subsection (b)(1) that provides for
21	monthly payment of rent, termination of the lease
22	under subsection (a) is effective 30 days after the first
23	date on which the next rental payment is due and
24	payable after the date on which the notice under sub-
25	section (c) is delivered. In the case of any other lease

- 1 described in subsection (b)(1), termination of the lease
- 2 under subsection (a) is effective on the last day of the
- 3 month following the month in which the notice is de-
- 4 livered.
- 5 "(2) Lease of motor vehicles.—In the case
- 6 of a lease described in subsection (b)(2), termination
- 7 of the lease under subsection (a) is effective on the day
- 8 on which the requirements of subsection (c) are met
- 9 for such termination.
- 10 "(e) Arrearages and Other Obligations and Li-
- 11 ABILITIES.—Rents or lease amounts unpaid for the period
- 12 preceding the effective date of the lease termination shall
- 13 be paid on a prorated basis. In the case of the lease of a
- 14 motor vehicle, the lessor may not impose an early termi-
- 15 nation charge, but any taxes, summonses, and title and reg-
- 16 istration fees and any other obligation and liability of the
- 17 lessee in accordance with the terms of the lease, including
- 18 reasonable charges to the lessee for excess wear, use and
- 19 mileage, that are due and unpaid at the time of termination
- 20 of the lease shall be paid by the lessee.
- 21 "(f) Rent Paid in Advance.—Rents or lease amounts
- 22 paid in advance for a period after the effective date of the
- 23 termination of the lease shall be refunded to the lessee by
- 24 the lessor (or the lessor's assignee or the assignee's agent)

- 1 within 30 days of the effective date of the termination of
- 2 the lease.
- 3 "(g) Relief to Lessor.—Upon application by the
- 4 lessor to a court before the termination date provided in
- 5 the written notice, relief granted by this section to a
- 6 servicemember may be modified as justice and equity re-
- 7 quire.
- 8 "(h) Penalties.—
- 9 "(1) MISDEMEANOR.—Any person who know-
- ingly seizes, holds, or detains the personal effects, se-
- 11 curity deposit, or other property of a servicemember
- or a servicemember's dependent who lawfully termi-
- nates a lease covered by this section, or who know-
- ingly interferes with the removal of such property
- from premises covered by such lease, for the purpose
- of subjecting or attempting to subject any of such
- 17 property to a claim for rent accruing subsequent to
- 18 the date of termination of such lease, or attempts to
- do so, shall be fined as provided in title 18, United
- 20 States Code, or imprisoned for not more than one
- 21 year, or both.
- 22 "(2) Preservation of other remedies.—The
- remedy and rights provided under this section are in
- 24 addition to and do not preclude any remedy for
- 25 wrongful conversion otherwise available under law to

1	the person claiming relief under this section, includ-
2	ing any award for consequential or punitive damages.
3	"SEC. 306. PROTECTION OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICY.
4	"(a) Assignment of Policy Protected.—If a life
5	insurance policy on the life of a servicemember is assigned
6	before military service to secure the payment of an obliga-
7	tion, the assignee of the policy (except the insurer in connec-
8	tion with a policy loan) may not exercise, during a period
9	of military service of the servicemember or within one year
10	thereafter, any right or option obtained under the assign-
11	ment without a court order.
12	"(b) Exception.—The prohibition in subsection (a)
13	shall not apply—
14	"(1) if the assignee has the written consent of the
15	insured made during the period described in sub-
16	section (a);
17	"(2) when the premiums on the policy are due
18	and unpaid; or
19	"(3) upon the death of the insured.
20	"(c) Order Refused Because of Material Af-
21	FECT.—A court which receives an application for an order
22	required under subsection (a) may refuse to grant such
23	order if the court determines the ability of the
24	servicemember to comply with the terms of the obligation
25	is materially affected by military service.

"(d) Treatment of Guaranteed Premiums.—For 1 purposes of this subsection, premiums quaranteed under the provisions of title IV of this Act shall not be considered due and unpaid. 5 "(e) Penalties.— 6 "(1) MISDEMEANOR.—A person who knowingly 7 takes an action contrary to this section, or attempts 8 to do so, shall be fined as provided in title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than one 9 10 year, or both. 11 "(2) Preservation of other remedies.—The 12 remedy and rights provided under this section are in 13 addition to and do not preclude any remedy for 14 wrongful conversion otherwise available under law to 15 the person claiming relief under this section, includ-16 ing any consequential or punitive damages. 17 "SEC. 307. ENFORCEMENT OF STORAGE LIENS. 18 "(a) LIENS.— 19 "(1) Limitation on foreclosure or en-20 FORCEMENT.—A person holding a lien on the prop-21 erty or effects of a servicemember may not, during 22 any period of military service of the servicemember 23 and for 90 days thereafter, foreclose or enforce any 24 lien on such property or effects without a court order

granted before foreclosure or enforcement.

25

1	"(2) Lien defined.—For the purposes of para-
2	graph (1), the term 'lien' includes a lien for storage,
3	repair, or cleaning of the property or effects of a
4	servicemember or a lien on such property or effects for
5	any other reason.
6	"(b) Stay of Proceedings.—In a proceeding to fore-
7	close or enforce a lien subject to this section, the court may
8	on its own motion, and shall if requested by a
9	servicemember whose ability to comply with the obligation
10	resulting in the proceeding is materially affected by mili-
11	tary service—
12	"(1) stay the proceeding for a period of time as
13	justice and equity require; or
14	"(2) adjust the obligation to preserve the inter-
15	ests of all parties.
16	The provisions of this subsection do not affect the scope of
17	section 303.
18	"(c) Penalties.—
19	"(1) Misdemeanor.—A person who knowingly
20	takes an action contrary to this section, or attempts
21	to do so, shall be fined as provided in title 18, United
22	States Code, or imprisoned for not more than one
23	year, or both.
24	"(2) Preservation of other remedies.—The
25	remedy and rights provided under this section are in

1	addition to and do not preclude any remedy for
2	wrongful conversion otherwise available under law to
3	the person claiming relief under this section, includ-
4	ing any consequential or punitive damages.
5	"SEC. 308. EXTENSION OF PROTECTIONS TO DEPENDENTS.
6	"Upon application to a court, a dependent of a
7	servicemember is entitled to the protections of this title if
8	the dependent's ability to comply with a lease, contract,
9	bailment, or other obligation is materially affected by rea-
10	son of the servicemember's military service.
11	"TITLE IV—LIFE INSURANCE
12	"SEC. 401. DEFINITIONS.
13	"For the purposes of this title:
14	"(1) Policy.—The term 'policy' means any in-
15	dividual contract for whole, endowment, universal, or
16	term life insurance (other than group term life insur-
17	ance coverage), including any benefit in the nature of
18	such insurance arising out of membership in any fra-
19	ternal or beneficial association which—
20	"(A) provides that the insurer may not—
21	"(i) decrease the amount of coverage or
22	require the payment of an additional
23	amount as premiums if the insured engages
24	in military service (except increases in pre-

1	miums in individual term insurance based
2	upon age); or
3	"(ii) limit or restrict coverage for any
4	activity required by military service; and
5	"(B) is in force not less than 180 days be-
6	fore the date of the insured's entry into military
7	service and at the time of application under this
8	title.
9	"(2) Premium.—The term 'premium' means the
10	amount specified in an insurance policy to be paid
11	to keep the policy in force.
12	"(3) Insured.—The term 'insured' means a
13	servicemember whose life is insured under a policy.
14	"(4) Insurer.—The term 'insurer' includes any
15	firm, corporation, partnership, association, or busi-
16	ness that is chartered or authorized to provide insur-
17	ance and issue contracts or policies by the laws of a
18	State or the United States.
19	"SEC. 402. INSURANCE RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS.
20	"(a) Rights and Protections.—The rights and pro-
21	tections under this title apply to the insured when—
22	"(1) the insured,
23	"(2) the insured's legal representative, or
24	"(3) the insured's beneficiary in the case of an
25	insured who is outside a State,

1	applies in writing for protection under this title, unless the
2	Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that the insured's
3	policy is not entitled to protection under this title.
4	"(b) Notification and Application.—The Secretary
5	of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Secretary concerned of
6	the procedures to be used to apply for the protections pro-
7	vided under this title. The applicant shall send the original
8	application to the insurer and a copy to the Secretary of
9	Veterans Affairs.
10	"(c) Limitation on Amount.—The total amount of
11	life insurance coverage protection provided by this title for
12	a servicemember may not exceed \$250,000, or an amount
13	equal to the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance max-
14	imum limit, whichever is greater, regardless of the number
15	of policies submitted.
16	"SEC. 403. APPLICATION FOR INSURANCE PROTECTION.
17	"(a) Application Procedure.—An application for
18	protection under this title shall—
19	"(1) be in writing and signed by the insured, the
20	insured's legal representative, or the insured's bene-
21	ficiary, as the case may be;
22	"(2) identify the policy and the insurer; and
23	"(3) include an acknowledgement that the in-
24	sured's rights under the policy are subject to and
25	modified by the provisions of this title.

- 1 "(b) Additional Requirements.—The Secretary of
- 2 Veterans Affairs may require additional information from
- 3 the applicant, the insured and the insurer to determine if
- 4 the policy is entitled to protection under this title.
- 5 "(c) Notice to the Secretary by the Insurer.—
- 6 Upon receipt of the application of the insured, the insurer
- 7 shall furnish a report concerning the policy to the Secretary
- 8 of Veterans Affairs as required by regulations prescribed by
- 9 the Secretary.
- 10 "(d) Policy Modification.—Upon application for
- 11 protection under this title, the insured and the insurer shall
- 12 have constructively agreed to any policy modification nec-
- 13 essary to give this title full force and effect.
- 14 "SEC. 404. POLICIES ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND LAPSE
- 15 **OF POLICIES.**
- 16 "(a) Determination.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
- 17 fairs shall determine whether a policy is entitled to protec-
- 18 tion under this title and shall notify the insured and the
- 19 insurer of that determination.
- 20 "(b) Lapse Protection.—A policy that the Secretary
- 21 determines is entitled to protection under this title shall not
- 22 lapse or otherwise terminate or be forfeited for the non-
- 23 payment of a premium, or interest or indebtedness on a
- 24 premium, after the date on which the application for protec-
- 25 tion is received by the Secretary.

- 1 "(c) Time Application.—The protection provided by
- 2 this title applies during the insured's period of military
- 3 service and for a period of two years thereafter.
- 4 "SEC. 405. POLICY RESTRICTIONS.
- 5 "(a) Dividends.—While a policy is protected under
- 6 this title, a dividend or other monetary benefit under a pol-
- 7 icy may not be paid to an insured or used to purchase divi-
- 8 dend additions without the approval of the Secretary of Vet-
- 9 erans Affairs. If such approval is not obtained, the divi-
- 10 dends or benefits shall be added to the value of the policy
- 11 to be used as a credit when final settlement is made with
- 12 the insurer.
- 13 "(b) Specific Restrictions.—While a policy is pro-
- 14 tected under this title, cash value, loan value, withdrawal
- 15 of dividend accumulation, unearned premiums, or other
- 16 value of similar character may not be available to the in-
- 17 sured without the approval of the Secretary. The right of
- 18 the insured to change a beneficiary designation or select an
- 19 optional settlement for a beneficiary shall not be affected
- 20 by the provisions of this title.
- 21 "SEC. 406. DEDUCTION OF UNPAID PREMIUMS.
- 22 "(a) Settlement of Proceeds.—If a policy ma-
- 23 tures as a result of a servicemember's death or otherwise
- 24 during the period of protection of the policy under this title,
- 25 the insurer in making settlement shall deduct from the in-

1	surance proceeds the amount of the unpaid premiums guar-
2	anteed under this title, together with interest due at the rate
3	fixed in the policy for policy loans.
4	"(b) Interest Rate.—If the interest rate is not spe-
5	cifically fixed in the policy, the rate shall be the same as
6	for policy loans in other policies issued by the insurer a
7	the time the insured's policy was issued.
8	"(c) Reporting Requirement.—The amount de-
9	ducted under this section, if any, shall be reported by the
10	insurer to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
11	"SEC. 407. PREMIUMS AND INTEREST GUARANTEED BY
12	UNITED STATES.
13	"(a) Guarantee of Premiums and Interest by
14	THE UNITED STATES.—
15	"(1) Guarantee.—Payment of premiums, and
16	interest on premiums at the rate specified in section
17	406, which become due on a policy under the protec-
18	tion of this title is guaranteed by the United States
19	If the amount guaranteed is not paid to the insurer
20	before the period of insurance protection under this
21	title expires, the amount due shall be treated by the
22	insurer as a policy loan on the policy.
23	"(2) Policy termination.—If, at the expiration

of insurance protection under this title, the cash sur-

render value of a policy is less than the amount due

24

25

- 1 to pay premiums and interest on premiums on the
- 2 policy, the policy shall terminate. Upon such termi-
- 3 nation, the United States shall pay the insurer the
- 4 difference between the amount due and the cash sur-
- 5 render value.
- 6 "(b) Recovery From Insured of Amounts Paid by
- 7 THE UNITED STATES.—
- 8 "(1) Debt payable to the united states.—
- 9 The amount paid by the United States to an insurer
- 10 under this title shall be a debt payable to the United
- 11 States by the insured on whose policy payment was
- 12 made.
- 13 "(2) Collection.—Such amount may be col-
- lected by the United States, either as an offset from
- any amount due the insured by the United States or
- 16 as otherwise authorized by law.
- 17 "(3) Debt not dischargeable in bank-
- 18 RUPTCY.—Such debt payable to the United States is
- 19 not dischargeable in bankruptcy proceedings.
- 20 "(c) Crediting of Amounts Recovered.—Any
- 21 amounts received by the United States as repayment of
- 22 debts incurred by an insured under this title shall be cred-
- 23 ited to the appropriation for the payment of claims under
- 24 this title.

1	"SEC. 408. REGULATIONS.
2	"The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regu-
3	lations for the implementation of this title.
4	"SEC. 409. REVIEW OF FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLU-
5	SIONS OF LAW.
6	"The findings of fact and conclusions of law made by
7	the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in administering this title
8	are subject to review on appeal to the Board of Veterans
9	Appeals pursuant to chapter 71 of title 38, United States
10	Code, and to judicial review only as provided in chapter
11	72 of such title.
12	"TITLE V—TAXES AND PUBLIC
13	<b>LANDS</b>
14	"SEC. 501. TAXES RESPECTING PERSONAL PROPERTY,
15	MONEY, CREDITS, AND REAL PROPERTY.
16	"(a) Application.—This section applies in any case
17	in which a tax or assessment, whether general or special
18	(other than a tax on personal income), falls due and re-
19	mains unpaid before or during a period of military service
20	with respect to a servicemember's—
21	"(1) personal property (including motor vehi-
22	cles); or
23	"(2) real property occupied for dwelling, profes-
24	sional, business, or agricultural purposes by a
25	servicemember or the servicemember's dependents or
26	emplouees—

1	"(A) before the servicemember's entry into
2	military service; and
3	"(B) during the time the tax or assessment
4	remains unpaid.
5	"(b) Sale of Property.—
6	"(1) Limitation on sale of property to en-
7	Force tax assessment.—Property described in sub-
8	section (a) may not be sold to enforce the collection
9	of such tax or assessment except by court order and
10	upon the determination by the court that military
11	service does not materially affect the servicemember's
12	ability to pay the unpaid tax or assessment.
13	"(2) Stay of court proceedings.—A court
14	may stay a proceeding to enforce the collection of such
15	tax or assessment, or sale of such property, during a
16	period of military service of the servicemember and
17	for a period not more than 180 days after the termi-
18	nation of, or release of the servicemember from, mili-
19	tary service.
20	"(c) Redemption.—When property described in sub-
21	section (a) is sold or forfeited to enforce the collection of
22	a tax or assessment, a servicemember shall have the right
23	to redeem or commence an action to redeem the
24	servicemember's property during the period of military
25	service or within 180 days after termination of or release

- 1 from military service. This subsection may not be construed
- 2 to shorten any period provided by the law of a State (in-
- 3 cluding any political subdivision of a State) for redemp-
- 4 tion.
- 5 "(d) Interest on Tax or Assessment.—Whenever
- 6 a servicemember does not pay a tax or assessment on prop-
- 7 erty described in subsection (a) when due, the amount of
- 8 the tax or assessment due and unpaid shall bear interest
- 9 until paid at the rate of 6 percent per year. An additional
- 10 penalty or interest shall not be incurred by reason of non-
- 11 payment. A lien for such unpaid tax or assessment may
- 12 include interest under this subsection.
- 13 "(e) Joint Ownership Application.—This section
- 14 applies to all forms of property described in subsection (a)
- 15 owned individually by a servicemember or jointly by a
- 16 servicemember and a dependent or dependents.
- 17 "SEC. 502. RIGHTS IN PUBLIC LANDS.
- 18 "(a) RIGHTS NOT FORFEITED.—The rights of a
- 19 servicemember to lands owned or controlled by the United
- 20 States, and initiated or acquired by the servicemember
- 21 under the laws of the United States (including the mining
- 22 and mineral leasing laws) before military service, shall not
- 23 be forfeited or prejudiced as a result of being absent from
- 24 the land, or by failing to begin or complete any work or

- 1 improvements to the land, during the period of military
- 2 service.
- 3 "(b) Temporary Suspension of Permits or Li-
- 4 CENSES.—If a permittee or licensee under the Act of June
- 5 28, 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.), enters military service,
- 6 the permittee or licensee may suspend the permit or license
- 7 for the period of military service and for 180 days after
- 8 termination of or release from military service.
- 9 "(c) Regulations.—Regulations prescribed by the
- 10 Secretary of the Interior shall provide for such suspension
- 11 of permits and licenses and for the remission, reduction,
- 12 or refund of grazing fees during the period of such suspen-
- 13 sion.
- 14 "SEC. 503. DESERT-LAND ENTRIES.
- 15 "(a) Desert-Land Rights Not Forfeited.—A
- 16 desert-land entry made or held under the desert-land laws
- 17 before the entrance of the entryman or the entryman's suc-
- 18 cessor in interest into military service shall not be subject
- 19 to contest or cancellation—
- 20 "(1) for failure to expend any required amount
- 21 per acre per year in improvements upon the claim;
- 22 "(2) for failure to effect the reclamation of the
- 23 claim during the period the entryman or the
- 24 entryman's successor in interest is in the military

- 1 service, or for 180 days after termination of or release
- 2 from military service; or
- 3 "(3) during any period of hospitalization or re-
- 4 habilitation due to an injury or disability incurred
- 5 in the line of duty.
- 6 The time within which the entryman or claimant is re-
- 7 quired to make such expenditures and effect reclamation of
- 8 the land shall be exclusive of the time periods described in
- 9 *paragraphs* (2) *and* (3).
- 10 "(b) Service-Related Disability.—If an entryman
- 11 or claimant is honorably discharged and is unable to ac-
- 12 complish reclamation of, and payment for, desert land due
- 13 to a disability incurred in the line of duty, the entryman
- 14 or claimant may make proof without further reclamation
- 15 or payments, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary
- 16 of the Interior, and receive a patent for the land entered
- 17 or claimed.
- 18 "(c) Filing Requirement.—In order to obtain the
- 19 protection of this section, the entryman or claimant shall,
- 20 within 180 days after entry into military service, cause to
- 21 be filed in the land office of the district where the claim
- 22 is situated a notice communicating the fact of military
- 23 service and the desire to hold the claim under this section.

#### 1 "SEC. 504. MINING CLAIMS.

- 2 "(a) Requirements Suspended.—The provisions of
- 3 section 2324 of the Revised Statutes of the United States
- 4 (30 U.S.C. 28) specified in subsection (b) shall not apply
- 5 to a servicemember's claims or interests in claims, regularly
- 6 located and recorded, during a period of military service
- 7 and 180 days thereafter, or during any period of hos-
- 8 pitalization or rehabilitation due to injuries or disabilities
- 9 incurred in the line of duty.
- 10 "(b) Requirements.—The provisions in section 2324
- 11 of the Revised Statutes that shall not apply under sub-
- 12 section (a) are those which require that on each mining
- 13 claim located after May 10, 1872, and until a patent has
- 14 been issued for such claim, not less than \$100 worth of labor
- 15 shall be performed or improvements made during each year.
- 16 "(c) Period of Protection From Forfeiture.—
- 17 A mining claim or an interest in a claim owned by a
- 18 servicemember that has been regularly located and recorded
- 19 shall not be subject to forfeiture for nonperformance of an-
- 20 nual assessments during the period of military service and
- 21 for 180 days thereafter, or for any period of hospitalization
- 22 or rehabilitation described in subsection (a).
- 23 "(d) Filing Requirement.—In order to obtain the
- 24 protections of this section, the claimant of a mining loca-
- 25 tion shall, before the end of the assessment year in which
- 26 military service is begun or within 60 days after the end

- 1 of such assessment year, cause to be filed in the office where
- 2 the location notice or certificate is recorded a notice commu-
- 3 nicating the fact of military service and the desire to hold
- 4 the mining claim under this section.
- 5 "SEC. 505. MINERAL PERMITS AND LEASES.
- 6 "(a) Suspension During Military Service.—A
- 7 person holding a permit or lease on the public domain
- 8 under the Federal mineral leasing laws who enters military
- 9 service may suspend all operations under the permit or
- 10 lease for the duration of military service and for 180 days
- 11 thereafter. The term of the permit or lease shall not run
- 12 during the period of suspension, nor shall any rental or
- 13 royalties be charged against the permit or lease during the
- 14 period of suspension.
- 15 "(b) Notification.—In order to obtain the protection
- 16 of this section, the permittee or lessee shall, within 180 days
- 17 after entry into military service, notify the Secretary of the
- 18 Interior by registered mail of the fact that military service
- 19 has begun and of the desire to hold the claim under this
- 20 section.
- 21 "(c) Contract Modification.—This section shall not
- 22 be construed to supersede the terms of any contract for oper-
- 23 ation of a permit or lease.

#### 1 "SEC. 506. PERFECTION OR DEFENSE OF RIGHTS.

- 2 "(a) Right To Take Action Not Affected.—This
- 3 title shall not affect the right of a servicemember to take
- 4 action during a period of military service that is authorized
- 5 by law or regulations of the Department of the Interior,
- 6 for the perfection, defense, or further assertion of rights ini-
- 7 tiated or acquired before entering military service.
- 8 "(b) Affidavits and Proofs.—
- 9 "(1) In General.—A servicemember during a
- 10 period of military service may make any affidavit or
- 11 submit any proof required by law, practice, or regula-
- 12 tion of the Department of the Interior in connection
- 13 with the entry, perfection, defense, or further assertion
- of rights initiated or acquired before entering mili-
- tary service before an officer authorized to provide no-
- 16 tary services under section 1044a of title 10, United
- 17 States Code, or any superior commissioned officer.
- 18 "(2) Legal status of affidavits.—Such affi-
- davits shall be binding in law and subject to the same
- 20 penalties as prescribed by section 1001 of title 18,
- 21 United State Code.
- 22 "SEC. 507. DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
- 23 BENEFITS OF TITLE.
- 24 "(a) Distribution of Information by Secretary
- 25 Concerned Secretary concerned shall issue to

- 1 servicemembers information explaining the provisions of
- 2 this title.
- 3 "(b) Application Forms.—The Secretary concerned
- 4 shall provide application forms to servicemembers request-
- 5 ing relief under this title.
- 6 "(c) Information From Secretary of the Inte-
- 7 RIOR.—The Secretary of the Interior shall furnish to the
- 8 Secretary concerned information explaining the provisions
- 9 of this title (other than sections 501, 510, and 511) and
- 10 related application forms.
- 11 "SEC. 508. LAND RIGHTS OF SERVICEMEMBERS.
- 12 "(a) No AGE LIMITATIONS.—Any servicemember
- 13 under the age of 21 in military service shall be entitled to
- 14 the same rights under the laws relating to lands owned or
- 15 controlled by the United States, including mining and min-
- 16 eral leasing laws, as those servicemembers who are 21 years
- 17 *of age*.
- 18 "(b) Residency Requirement.—Any requirement
- 19 related to the establishment of a residence within a limited
- 20 time shall be suspended as to entry by a servicemember in
- 21 military service until 180 days after termination of or re-
- 22 lease from military service.
- 23 "(c) Entry Applications for entry
- 24 may be verified before a person authorized to administer

- 1 oaths under section 1044a of title 10, United States Code,
- 2 or under the laws of the State where the land is situated.
- 3 "SEC. 509. REGULATIONS.
- 4 "The Secretary of the Interior may issue regulations
- 5 necessary to carry out this title (other than sections 501,
- 6 510, and 511).

#### 7 "SEC. 510. INCOME TAXES.

- 8 "(a) Deferral of Tax.—Upon notice to the Internal
- 9 Revenue Service or the tax authority of a State or a polit-
- 10 ical subdivision of a State, the collection of income tax on
- 11 the income of a servicemember falling due before or during
- 12 military service shall be deferred for a period not more than
- 13 180 days after termination of or release from military serv-
- 14 ice, if a servicemember's ability to pay such income tax is
- 15 materially affected by military service.
- 16 "(b) Accrual of Interest or Penalty.—No inter-
- 17 est or penalty shall accrue for the period of deferment by
- 18 reason of nonpayment on any amount of tax deferred under
- 19 this section.
- 20 "(c) Statute of Limitations.—The running of a
- 21 statute of limitations against the collection of tax deferred
- 22 under this section, by seizure or otherwise, shall be sus-
- 23 pended for the period of military service of the
- 24 servicemember and for an additional period of 270 days
- 25 thereafter.

- 1 "(d) Application Limitation.—This section shall not
- 2 apply to the tax imposed on employees by section 3101 of
- 3 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- 4 "SEC. 511. RESIDENCE FOR TAX PURPOSES.
- 5 "(a) Residence or Domicile.—A servicemember
- 6 shall neither lose nor acquire a residence or domicile for
- 7 purposes of taxation with respect to the person, personal
- 8 property, or income of the servicemember by reason of being
- 9 absent or present in any tax jurisdiction of the United
- 10 States solely in compliance with military orders.
- 11 "(b) Military Service Compensation.—Compensa-
- 12 tion of a servicemember for military service shall not be
- 13 deemed to be income for services performed or from sources
- 14 within a tax jurisdiction of the United States if the
- 15 servicemember is not a resident or domiciliary of the juris-
- 16 diction in which the servicemember is serving in compliance
- 17 with military orders.
- 18 "(c) Personal Property.—
- 19 "(1) Relief from personal property
- 20 TAXES.—The personal property of a servicemember
- 21 shall not be deemed to be located or present in, or to
- 22 have a situs for taxation in, the tax jurisdiction in
- 23 which the servicemember is serving in compliance
- 24 with military orders.

- 1 "(2) Exception for property within mem-2 Ber's domicile or residence.—This subsection ap-3 plies to personal property or its use within any tax 4 jurisdiction other than the servicemember's domicile 5 or residence.
- 6 "(3) EXCEPTION FOR PROPERTY USED IN TRADE
  7 OR BUSINESS.—This section does not prevent taxation
  8 by a tax jurisdiction with respect to personal prop9 erty used in or arising from a trade or business, if
  10 it has jurisdiction.
- "(4) RELATIONSHIP TO LAW OF STATE OF DOMICILE.—Eligibility for relief from personal property
  taxes under this subsection is not contingent on
  whether or not such taxes are paid to the State of
  domicile.
- "(d) Increase of Tax Liability.—A tax jurisdiction
  may not use the military compensation of a nonresident
  servicemember to increase the tax liability imposed on other
  income earned by the nonresident servicemember or spouse
  subject to tax by the jurisdiction.
- "(e) FEDERAL INDIAN RESERVATIONS.—An Indian servicemember whose legal residence or domicile is a Federal Indian reservation shall be taxed by the laws applicable to Federal Indian reservations and not the State where the reservation is located.

1	"(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:
2	"(1) Personal property.—The term 'personal
3	property' means intangible and tangible property (in-
4	cluding motor vehicles).
5	"(2) Taxation.—The term 'taxation' includes li-
6	censes, fees, or excises imposed with respect to motor
7	vehicles and their use, if the license, fee, or excise is
8	paid by the servicemember in the servicemember's
9	State of domicile or residence.
10	"(3) Tax jurisdic-The term 'tax jurisdic-
11	tion' means a State or a political subdivision of a
12	State.
13	"TITLE VI—ADMINISTRATIVE
14	REMEDIES
15	"SEC. 601. INAPPROPRIATE USE OF ACT.
16	"If a court determines, in any proceeding to enforce
17	a civil right, that any interest, property, or contract has
18	been transferred or acquired with the intent to delay the
19	just enforcement of such right by taking advantage of this
20	Act, the court shall enter such judgment or make such order
21	as might lawfully be entered or made concerning such trans-
22	fer or acquisition.

1	"SEC. 602. CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE; PERSONS REPORTED
2	MISSING.
3	"(a) Prima Facie Evidence.—In any proceeding
4	under this Act, a certificate signed by the Secretary con-
5	cerned is prima facie evidence as to any of the following
6	facts stated in the certificate:
7	"(1) That a person named is, is not, has been,
8	or has not been in military service.
9	"(2) The time and the place the person entered
10	military service.
11	"(3) The person's residence at the time the per-
12	son entered military service.
13	"(4) The rank, branch, and unit of military
14	service of the person upon entry.
15	"(5) The inclusive dates of the person's military
16	service.
17	"(6) The monthly pay received by the person at
18	the date of the certificate's issuance.
19	"(7) The time and place of the person's termi-
20	nation of or release from military service, or the per-
21	son's death during military service.
22	"(b) Certificates.—The Secretary concerned shall
23	furnish a certificate under subsection (a) upon receipt of
24	an application for such a certificate. A certificate appear-
25	ing to be signed by the Secretary concerned is prima facie

1	evidence of its contents and of the signer's authority to issue
2	it.
3	"(c) Treatment of Servicemembers in Missing
4	Status.—A servicemember who has been reported missing
5	is presumed to continue in service until accounted for. A
6	requirement under this Act that begins or ends with the
7	death of a servicemember does not begin or end until the
8	servicemember's death is reported to, or determined by, the
9	Secretary concerned or by a court of competent jurisdiction.
10	"SEC. 603. INTERLOCUTORY ORDERS.
11	"An interlocutory order issued by a court under this
12	Act may be revoked, modified, or extended by that court
13	upon its own motion or otherwise, upon notification to af-
14	fected parties as required by the court.
15	"TITLE VII—FURTHER RELIEF
16	"SEC. 701. ANTICIPATORY RELIEF.
17	"(a) Application for Relief.—A servicemember
18	may, during military service or within 180 days of termi-
19	nation of or release from military service, apply to a court
20	for relief—
21	"(1) from any obligation or liability incurred by
22	the servicemember before the servicemember's military
23	service; or
24	"(2) from a tax or assessment falling due before

1	"(b) Tax Liability or Assessment.—In a case cov-
2	ered by subsection (a), the court may, if the ability of the
3	servicemember to comply with the terms of such obligation
4	or liability or pay such tax or assessment has been materi-
5	ally affected by reason of military service, after appropriate
6	notice and hearing, grant the following relief:
7	"(1) Stay of enforcement of real estate
8	CONTRACTS.—
9	"(A) In the case of an obligation payable in
10	installments under a contract for the purchase of
11	real estate, or secured by a mortgage or other in-
12	strument in the nature of a mortgage upon real
13	estate, the court may grant a stay of the enforce-
14	ment of the obligation—
15	"(i) during the servicemember's period
16	of military service; and
17	"(ii) from the date of termination of or
18	release from military service, or from the
19	date of application if made after termi-
20	nation of or release from military service.
21	"(B) Any stay under this paragraph shall
22	be—
23	"(i) for a period equal to the remain-
24	ing life of the installment contract or other
25	instrument, plus a period of time equal to

1	the period of military service of the
2	servicemember, or any part of such com-
3	bined period; and
4	"(ii) subject to payment of the balance
5	of the principal and accumulated interest
6	due and unpaid at the date of termination
7	or release from the applicant's military
8	service or from the date of application in
9	equal installments during the combined pe-
10	riod at the rate of interest on the unpaid
11	balance prescribed in the contract or other
12	instrument evidencing the obligation, and
13	subject to other terms as may be equitable.
14	"(2) Stay of enforcement of other con-
15	TRACTS.—
16	"(A) In the case of any other obligation, li-
17	ability, tax, or assessment, the court may grant
18	a stay of enforcement—
19	"(i) during the servicemember's mili-
20	tary service; and
21	"(ii) from the date of termination of or
22	release from military service, or from the
23	date of application if made after termi-
24	nation or release from military service.

1	"(B) Any stay under this paragraph shall
2	be—
3	"(i) for a period of time equal to the
4	period of the servicemember's military serv-
5	ice or any part of such period; and
6	"(ii) subject to payment of the balance
7	of principal and accumulated interest due
8	and unpaid at the date of termination or
9	release from military service, or the date of
10	application, in equal periodic installments
11	during this extended period at the rate of
12	interest as may be prescribed for this obli-
13	gation, liability, tax, or assessment, if paid
14	when due, and subject to other terms as
15	may be equitable.
16	"(c) Affect of Stay on Fine or Penalty.—When
17	a court grants a stay under this section, a fine or penalty
18	shall not accrue on the obligation, liability, tax, or assess-
19	ment for the period of compliance with the terms and condi-
20	tions of the stay.
21	"SEC. 702. POWER OF ATTORNEY.
22	"(a) AUTOMATIC EXTENSION.—A power of attorney of
23	a servicemember shall be automatically extended for the pe-
24	riod the servicemember is in a missing status (as defined

1	in section 551(2) of title 37, United States Code) if the
2	power of attorney—
3	"(1) was duly executed by the servicemember—
4	"(A) while in military service; or
5	"(B) before entry into military service but
6	after the servicemember—
7	"(i) received a call or order to report
8	for military service; or
9	"(ii) was notified by an official of the
10	Department of Defense that the person could
11	receive a call or order to report for military
12	service;
13	"(2) designates the servicemember's spouse, par-
14	ent, or other named relative as the servicemember's
15	attorney in fact for certain, specified, or all purposes;
16	and
17	"(3) expires by its terms after the servicemember
18	entered a missing status.
19	"(b) Limitation on Power of Attorney Exten-
20	SION.—A power of attorney executed by a servicemember
21	may not be extended under subsection (a) if the document
22	by its terms clearly indicates that the power granted expires
23	on the date specified even though the servicemember, after
24	the date of execution of the document, enters a missing sta-
25	tus.

1	"SEC. 703.	PROFESSIONAL LIABILIT	Y PROTE	CTION.		
2	"(a)	APPLICABILITY.—This	section	applies	to	a
3	servicemer	nber who—				

"(1) after July 31, 1990, is ordered to active duty (other than for training) pursuant to sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(g), 12302, 12304, 12306, or 12307 of title 10, United States Code, or who is ordered to active duty under section 12301(d) of such title during a period when members are on active duty pursuant to any of the preceding sections; and "(2) immediately before receiving the order to active duty—

"(A) was engaged in the furnishing of health-care or legal services or other services determined by the Secretary of Defense to be professional services; and

"(B) had in effect a professional liability insurance policy that does not continue to cover claims filed with respect to the servicemember during the period of the servicemember's active duty unless the premiums are paid for such coverage for such period.

# "(b) Suspension of Coverage.—

"(1) Suspension.—Coverage of a servicemember referred to in subsection (a) by a professional liability insurance policy shall be suspended by the insurance

1	carrier in accordance with this subsection upon re-
2	ceipt of a written request from the servicemember by
3	the insurance carrier.
4	"(2) Premiums for suspended contracts.—
5	A professional liability insurance carrier—
6	"(A) may not require that premiums be
7	paid by or on behalf of a servicemember for any
8	professional liability insurance coverage sus-
9	pended pursuant to paragraph (1); and
10	"(B) shall refund any amount paid for cov-
11	erage for the period of such suspension or, upon
12	the election of such servicemember, apply such
13	amount for the payment of any premium becom-
14	ing due upon the reinstatement of such coverage.
15	"(3) Nonliability of carrier during suspen-
16	SION.—A professional liability insurance carrier shall
17	not be liable with respect to any claim that is based
18	on professional conduct (including any failure to take
19	any action in a professional capacity) of a
20	servicemember that occurs during a period of suspen-
21	sion of that servicemember's professional liability in-
22	surance under this subsection.
23	"(4) CERTAIN CLAIMS CONSIDERED TO ARISE
24	BEFORE SUSPENSION.—For the purposes of para-
25	graph (3), a claim based upon the failure of a profes-

sional to make adequate provision for a patient, client, or other person to receive professional services or other assistance during the period of the professional's active duty service shall be considered to be based on an action or failure to take action before the beginning of the period of the suspension of professional liability insurance under this subsection, except in a case in which professional services were provided after the date of the beginning of such period.

## "(c) Reinstatement of Coverage.—

- "(1) Reinstatement required.—Professional liability insurance coverage suspended in the case of any servicemember pursuant to subsection (b) shall be reinstated by the insurance carrier on the date on which that servicemember transmits to the insurance carrier a written request for reinstatement.
- "(2) Time and premium for reinstatement shall be effective only if the servicemember transmits the request to the insurance carrier within 30 days after the date on which the servicemember is released from active duty. The insurance carrier shall notify the servicemember of the due date for payment of the premium of such insurance. Such premium

shall be paid by the servicemember within 30 days
after receipt of that notice.

"(3) Period of Reinstated Coverage.—The period for which professional liability insurance coverage shall be reinstated for a servicemember under this subsection may not be less than the balance of the period for which coverage would have continued under the insurance policy if the coverage had not been suspended.

## "(d) Increase in Premium.—

- "(1) Limitation on Premium increases.—An insurance carrier may not increase the amount of the premium charged for professional liability insurance coverage of any servicemember for the minimum period of the reinstatement of such coverage required under subsection (c)(3) to an amount greater than the amount chargeable for such coverage for such period before the suspension.
- "(2) Exception.—Paragraph (1) does not prevent an increase in premium to the extent of any general increase in the premiums charged by that carrier for the same professional liability coverage for persons similarly covered by such insurance during the period of the suspension.

1	"(e) Continuation of Coverage of Unaffected
2	Persons.—This section does not—
3	"(1) require a suspension of professional liability
4	insurance protection for any person who is not a per-
5	son referred to in subsection (a) and who is covered
6	by the same professional liability insurance as a per-
7	son referred to in such subsection; or
8	"(2) relieve any person of the obligation to pay
9	premiums for the coverage not required to be sus-
10	pended.
11	"(f) Stay of Civil or Administrative Actions.—
12	"(1) Stay of actions.—A civil or administra-
13	tive action for damages on the basis of the alleged
14	professional negligence or other professional liability
15	of a servicemember whose professional liability insur-
16	ance coverage has been suspended under subsection (b)
17	shall be stayed until the end of the period of the sus-
18	pension if—
19	"(A) the action was commenced during the
20	period of the suspension;
21	"(B) the action is based on an act or omis-
22	sion that occurred before the date on which the
23	suspension became effective; and
24	"(C) the suspended professional liability in-
25	surance would, except for the suspension, on its

1	face cover the alleged professional negligence or
2	other professional liability negligence or other
3	professional liability of the servicemember.
4	"(2) Date of commencement of action.—
5	Whenever a civil or administrative action for dam-
6	ages is stayed under paragraph (1) in the case of any
7	servicemember, the action shall have been deemed to
8	have been filed on the date on which the professional
9	liability insurance coverage of the servicemember is
10	reinstated under subsection (c).
11	"(g) Effect of Suspension Upon Limitations Pe-
12	RIOD.—In the case of a civil or administrative action for
13	which a stay could have been granted under subsection (f)
14	by reason of the suspension of professional liability insur-
15	ance coverage of the defendant under this section, the period
16	of the suspension of the coverage shall be excluded from the
17	computation of any statutory period of limitation on the
18	commencement of such action.
19	"(h) Death During Period of Suspension.—If a
20	servicemember whose professional liability insurance cov-
21	erage is suspended under subsection (b) dies during the pe-
22	riod of the suspension—
23	"(1) the requirement for the grant or continu-
24	ance of a stay in any civil or administrative action
25	against such servicemember under subsection (f)(1)

1	shall terminate on the date of the death of such
2	servicemember; and
3	"(2) the carrier of the professional liability in-
4	surance so suspended shall be liable for any claim for
5	damages for professional negligence or other profes-
6	sional liability of the deceased servicemember in the
7	same manner and to the same extent as such carrier
8	would be liable if the servicemember had died while
9	covered by such insurance but before the claim was
10	filed.
11	$``(i)\ Definitions.—For\ purposes\ of\ this\ section:$
12	"(1) ACTIVE DUTY.—The term 'active duty' has
13	the meaning given that term in section $101(d)(1)$ of
14	title 10, United States Code.
15	"(2) Profession.—The term 'profession' in-
16	cludes occupation.
17	"(3) Professional.—The term 'professional'
18	$includes\ occupational.$
19	"SEC. 704. HEALTH INSURANCE REINSTATEMENT.
20	"(a) Reinstatement of Health Insurance.—A
21	servicemember who, by reason of military service as defined
22	in section 703(a)(1), is entitled to the rights and protections
23	of this Act shall also be entitled upon termination or release
24	from such service to reinstatement of any health insurance

*that*—

1	"(1) was in effect on the day before such service
2	commenced; and
3	"(2) was terminated effective on a date during
4	the period of such service.
5	"(b) No Exclusion or Waiting Period.—The rein-
6	statement of health care insurance coverage for the health
7	or physical condition of a servicemember described in sub-
8	section (a), or any other person who is covered by the insur-
9	ance by reason of the coverage of the servicemember, shall
10	not be subject to an exclusion or a waiting period, if—
11	"(1) the condition arose before or during the pe-
12	riod of such service;
13	"(2) an exclusion or a waiting period would not
14	have been imposed for the condition during the period
15	of coverage; and
16	"(3) if the condition relates to the servicemember,
17	the condition has not been determined by the Sec-
18	retary of Veterans Affairs to be a disability incurred
19	or aggravated in the line of duty (within the meaning
20	of section 105 of title 38, United States Code).
21	"(c) Exceptions.—Subsection (a) does not apply to
22	a servicemember entitled to participate in employer-offered
23	insurance benefits pursuant to the provisions of chapter 43
24	of title 38. United States Code.

1	"(d) Time for Applying for Reinstatement.—An
2	application under this section must be filed not later than
3	120 days after the date of the termination of or release from
4	military service.
5	"SEC. 705. GUARANTEE OF RESIDENCY FOR MILITARY PER-
6	SONNEL.
7	"For the purposes of voting for any Federal office (as
8	defined in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign
9	Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431)) or a State or local office, a
10	person who is absent from a State in compliance with mili-
11	tary or naval orders shall not, solely by reason of that
12	absence—
13	"(1) be deemed to have lost a residence or domi-
14	cile in that State, without regard to whether or not
15	the person intends to return to that State;
16	"(2) be deemed to have acquired a residence or
17	domicile in any other State; or
18	"(3) be deemed to have become a resident in or
19	a resident of any other State.
20	"SEC. 706. BUSINESS OR TRADE OBLIGATIONS.
21	"(a) Availability of Non-Business Assets To
22	Satisfy Obligations.—If the trade or business (without
23	regard to the form in which such trade or business is carried
24	out) of a servicemember has an obligation or liability for
25	which the servicemember is personally liable, the assets of

1	the servicemember not held in connection with the trade or
2	business may not be available for satisfaction of the obliga-
3	tion or liability during the servicemember's military serv-
4	ice.
5	"(b) Relief to Obligors.—Upon application to a
6	court by the holder of an obligation or liability covered by
7	this section, relief granted by this section to a
8	servicemember may be modified as justice and equity re-
9	quire.".
10	SEC. 2. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.
11	(a) Military Selective Service Act.—Section 14
12	of the Military Selective Service Act (50 U.S.C. App. 464)
13	is repealed.
14	(b) Title 5, United States Code.—
15	(1) Section $5520a(k)(2)(A)$ of title 5, United
16	States Code, is amended by striking "Soldiers' and
17	Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940" and inserting
18	"Servicemembers Civil Relief Act"; and
19	(2) Section 5569(e) of title 5, United States
20	Code, is amended—
21	(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "provided
22	by the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of
23	1940" and all that follows through "of such Act"
24	and inserting "provided by the Servicemembers
25	Civil Relief Act, including the benefits provided

- 1 by section 702 of such Act but excluding the ben-
- 2 efits provided by sections 104, 105, and 106, title
- 3 IV, and title V (other than sections 501 and 510)
- 4 of such Act"; and
- 5 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "per-
- 6 son in the military service" and inserting
- 7 "servicemember".
- 8 (c) Title 10, United States Code.—Section
- 9 1408(b)(1)(D) of title 10, United States Code, is amended
- 10 by striking "Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940"
- 11 and inserting "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act".
- 12 (d) Internal Revenue Code.—Section 7654(d)(1) of
- 13 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
- 14 "Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act" and inserting
- 15 "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act".
- 16 (e) Public Health Service Act.—Section 212(e) of
- 17 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213(e)) is amend-
- 18 ed by striking "Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of
- 19 1940" and inserting "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act".
- 20 (f) Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
- 21 1965.—Section 8001 of the Elementary and Secondary
- 22 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7701) is amended by
- 23 striking "section 514 of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Re-
- 24 lief Act of 1940 (50 U.S.C. App. 574)" in the matter pre-

- 1 ceding paragraph (1) and inserting "section 511 of the
- 2 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act".
- 3 (g) NOAA COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS ACT OF
- 4 2002.—Section 262(a)(2) of National Oceanic and Atmos-
- 5 pheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of
- 6 2002 (33 U.S.C. 3072(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:
- 7 "(2) The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.".
- 8 SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.
- 9 The amendment made by section 1 shall apply to any
- 10 case that is not final before the date of the enactment of
- 11 this Act.

Attest:

Secretary.

# $^{\rm 108TH~CONGRESS}_{\rm 1ST~SESSION}~H.~R.~100$

# **AMENDMENT**