

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1838

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the presumptions of service-connection relating to diseases and disabilities of former prisoners of war.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2003

Mr. EVANS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the presumptions of service-connection relating to diseases and disabilities of former prisoners of war.

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

3 **SECTION 1. PRESUMPTIONS OF SERVICE-CONNECTION RE-**
4 **LATING TO DISEASES AND DISABILITIES OF**
5 **FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR.**

6 Subsection (b) of section 1112 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b)(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title
9 and subject to the provisions of section 1113 of this title,
10 in the case of a veteran who is a former prisoner of war—

1 “(A) a disease specified in paragraph (2) shall
2 be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated
3 by such service, notwithstanding that there is no
4 record of such disease during the period of service;
5 and

6 “(B) if the veteran was detained or interned as
7 a prisoner of war for not less than thirty days, a dis-
8 ease specified in paragraph (3) which became mani-
9 fest to a degree of 10 percent or more after active
10 military, naval, or air service shall be considered to
11 have been incurred in or aggravated by such service,
12 notwithstanding that there is no record of such dis-
13 ease during the period of service.

14 “(2) The diseases specified in this paragraph are the
15 following:

16 “(A) Psychosis.

17 “(B) Any of the anxiety states.

18 “(C) Dysthymic disorder (or depressive neu-
19 rosis).

20 “(D) Organic residuals of frostbite, if the Sec-
21 retary determines that the veteran was interned in
22 climatic conditions consistent with the occurrence of
23 frostbite.

24 “(E) Post-traumatic osteoarthritis.

1 “(3) The diseases specified in this paragraph are the
2 following:

3 “(A) Avitaminosis.

4 “(B) Beriberi (including beriberi heart disease).

5 “(C) Chronic dysentery.

6 “(D) Helminthiasis.

7 “(E) Malnutrition (including optic atrophy as-
8 sociated with malnutrition).

9 “(F) Pellagra.

10 “(G) Any other nutritional deficiency.

11 “(H) Cirrhosis of the liver.

12 “(I) Peripheral neuropathy except where di-
13 rectly related to infectious causes.

14 “(J) Irritable bowel syndrome.

15 “(K) Peptic ulcer disease.”.

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