

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2944

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following death.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2003

Mr. JONES of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces following death.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Military Retiree Sur-
5 vivor Comfort Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FORGIVENESS OF CERTAIN OVERPAYMENTS OF RE-**
2 **TIRED PAY PAID FOR PERIODS AFTER DEATH**
3 **OF RETIRED MEMBERS.**

4 (a) FORGIVENESS WHEN PAYMENTS DEPOSITED TO
5 JOINT ACCOUNTS.—Section 2771 of title 10, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(e) The United States shall forgive any overpayment
9 of retired or retainer pay arising from payment of such
10 retired or retainer pay for any period after the date of
11 the death of the recipient through the last day of the
12 month in which such death occurs if such payment is elec-
13 tronically deposited in an accredited financial institution
14 to a joint account bearing the name of the decedent and
15 another individual who is the decedent’s designated bene-
16 ficiary under subsection (a)(1).”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (e) of section
18 2771 of title 10, United States Code, as added by sub-
19 section (a), shall apply with respect to payments made to
20 persons dying on or after the date of the enactment of
21 this Act.

22 (c) COORDINATION WITH SURVIVOR BENEFIT
23 PLAN.—Section 1450 of title 10, United States Code, is
24 amended—

25 (1) by inserting “and subject to subsection (l)”
26 in subsection (a) after “under subsection (j)” ; and

1 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
2 section:

3 “(m) SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE RULE WHEN FINAL
4 RETIRED PAY OVERPAYMENT IS FORGIVEN.—

5 “(1) ANNUITY EFFECTIVE ON FIRST DAY OF
6 MONTH AFTER DEATH.—In a case covered by para-
7 graph (2), an annuity payable to a surviving spouse
8 shall be effective on the first day of the first month
9 beginning after the death of the person to whom sec-
10 tion 1448 of this title applies (rather than on the
11 date otherwise applicable under subsection (a)).

12 “(2) COVERED CASES.—Paragraph (1) applies
13 in a case in which—

14 “(A) there is an overpayment of retired
15 pay of the person to whom section 1448 of this
16 title applies that is forgiven pursuant to sub-
17 section (e) of section 2771 of this title; and

18 “(B) the person who is the designated ben-
19 eficiary of such person under subsection (a)(1)
20 of such section is the surviving spouse of such
21 person.”.

○