

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6732

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of “combat with the enemy” for purposes of service-connection of disabilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. HALL of New York (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HARE, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DONNELLY, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the meaning of “combat with the enemy” for purposes of service-connection of disabilities.

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. CLARIFICATION OF MEANING OF “COMBAT**
4 **WITH THE ENEMY” FOR PURPOSES OF SERV-**
5 **ICE-CONNECTION OF DISABILITIES.**

6 (a) CLARIFICATION.—Section 1154(b) of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “In the case” and inserting “(1)
2 In the case”; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(2) For the purposes of this subsection, the term
6 ‘combat with the enemy’ includes service on active duty—

7 “(A) in a theater of combat operations (as de-
8 termined by the Secretary in consultation with the
9 Secretary of Defense) during a period of war; or

10 “(B) in combat against a hostile force during a
11 period of hostilities.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (2) of subsection
13 (b) of section 1154 of title 38, United States Code, as
14 added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to a claim
15 for disability compensation under chapter 11 of such title
16 pending on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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