

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2227

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Gold Star Spouses and
3 Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expan-
4 sion Act of 2019”.

5 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF LEASES OF**
6 **PREMISES AND MOTOR VEHICLES OF**
7 **SERVICEMEMBERS WHO INCUR CATA-**
8 **STROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OR DIE**
9 **WHILE IN MILITARY SERVICE.**

10 (a) CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.—
11 Paragraph (4) of section 305(a) of the Servicemembers
12 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(a)), as added by section
13 545 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
14 Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92), is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 “(4) CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OF
17 LESSEE.—

18 “(A) TERMINATION.—If the lessee on a
19 lease described in subsection (b) incurs a cata-
20 strophic injury or illness during a period of
21 military service or while performing covered
22 service, during the one-year period beginning on
23 the date on which the lessee incurs such injury
24 or illness—

25 “(i) the lessee may terminate the
26 lease; or

1 “(ii) in the case of a lessee who lacks
2 the mental capacity to contract or to man-
3 age his or her own affairs (including dis-
4 bursement of funds without limitation) due
5 to such injury or illness, the spouse or de-
6 pendent of the lessee may terminate the
7 lease.

8 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) The term ‘catastrophic injury or
10 illness’ has the meaning given that term in
11 section 439(g) of title 37, United States
12 Code.

13 “(ii) The term ‘covered service’ means
14 full-time National Guard duty, active
15 Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty
16 training (as such terms are defined in sec-
17 tion 101(d) of title 10, United States
18 Code).

1 (b) DEATHS.—Paragraph (3) of such section is
2 amended by striking “The spouse of the lessee” and in-
3 serting “The spouse or dependent of the lessee”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 25,
2020.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.