

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3157

To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue obligations to make Medicare and Social Security payments, veterans disability benefits, and military benefits, despite the debt limit being reached.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue obligations to make Medicare and Social Security payments, veterans disability benefits, and military benefits, despite the debt limit being reached.

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 “Protecting American
5 Benefits Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE PROGRAMS, VET-**
2 **ERANS DISABILITY BENEFITS, MILITARY BEN-**
3 **EFITS, AND THE DEBT LIMIT.**

4 Section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b), by striking “The face”
7 and inserting “Subject to subsection (d), the face”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(d)(1) If the face value of the amount of obligations
11 described in subsection (b) reaches the limit on such obli-
12 gations under subsection (b), the Secretary may issue obli-
13 gations under this chapter to the extent necessary to make
14 timely payment of the full amount of—

15 “(A) benefits authorized under the Medicare
16 program established under title XVIII of the Social
17 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) or the old-age,
18 survivors, and disability insurance benefits program
19 established under title II of the Social Security Act
20 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.),

21 “(B) benefits administered by the Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs to which an individual is entitled on
23 the basis of a service-connected death or disability,
24 and

25 “(C) pay for members of the armed forces
26 under title 37, United States Code.

1 “(2) With respect to each instance in which the Sec-
2 retary of the Treasury begins issuing obligations in ac-
3 cordance with paragraph (1), the face value of such obliga-
4 tions issued during such instance shall not be taken into
5 account in determining the face value of obligations for
6 purposes of subsection (b) during the period—

7 “(A) beginning on the date on which the Sec-
8 retary began issuing obligations in accordance with
9 paragraph (1) during such instance; and

10 “(B) ending on the day after the date of enact-
11 ment of the first law enacted after the date de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (A) increasing the limit
13 under subsection (b).”.

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