

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3123

AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws relating to the payment of certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that are affected by death, 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 “Ernest Peltz Accrued
3 Veterans Benefits Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
5 **OF PENSION AFTER DEATH OF A VETERAN IN**
6 **CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 38, United
8 States Code, is amended by inserting, after section 5121A,
9 the following new section:

10 **“§ 5121B. Payment of pension after death of a veteran**
11 **in certain circumstances**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), if the
13 Secretary issues a decision awarding entitlement to a pen-
14 sion to a veteran before the death of such veteran, and
15 the Secretary issues payment of such pension after the
16 veteran dies, such pension that was due and unpaid at
17 the time of the veteran’s death shall be paid to the first
18 living person or entity listed below:

19 “(1) The veteran’s spouse.

20 “(2) The veteran’s children (in equal shares).

21 “(3) The veteran’s dependent parents (in equal
22 shares).

23 “(4) The estate of the deceased veteran unless
24 the estate will escheat.

25 “(b) LIMITATION.—In a case described in subsection
26 (a), if no application is filed under section 5121 of this

1 title during the one-year period following the death of the
 2 veteran, the pension described in such subsection shall be
 3 paid to the estate of the deceased veteran unless the estate
 4 will escheat.”.

5 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 7 5121(a) of such title is amended, in the matter pre-
 8 ceding paragraph (1), by inserting “section 5121B
 9 of this title, or” before “sections 3329 and 3330”.

10 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 11 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 12 by inserting, after the item relating to section
 13 5121A, the following new item:

“5121B. Payment of pension after death of a veteran in certain circumstances.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 15 this section shall apply with respect to the death of a vet-
 16 eran that occurs on or after the date of the enactment
 17 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
2 **PENSION.**

3 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
4 is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting
5 “February 28, 2033”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 2,
2026.

Attest:

Clerk.

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