

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 879

To restore veterans tobacco-related illness benefits as in effect before the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2001

Mr. FRANK (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. OLVER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. PAUL, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To restore veterans tobacco-related illness benefits as in effect before the enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

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 “Veterans Tobacco-Re-
5 lated Illness Benefits Restoration Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Until the 1980's, use of tobacco products
4 was an acceptable element of the military culture.

5 (2) From the beginning of United States mili-
6 tary history through the present, the Federal Gov-
7 ernment has made tobacco products readily available
8 for military personnel.

9 (3) The Federal Government, until 1998, pro-
10 vided tobacco products for military personnel at
11 below market value in military commissaries, ex-
12 changes, and clubs around the world.

13 (4) The Federal Government, through the pe-
14 riod of the Vietnam War, provided free tobacco
15 products to military personnel in C-rations and
16 squad packs.

17 (5) In the 1960's, before official notification of
18 the health hazards associated with the use of tobacco
19 products, over half of the inpatients in Veterans' Ad-
20 ministration medical centers suffered from tobacco-
21 related illnesses.

22 (6) Warning labels began appearing on tobacco
23 products sold in the private sector in 1965, but did
24 not appear on tobacco products sold in military com-
25 missaries, exchanges, and clubs until 1970.

1 **SEC. 3. RESTORATION OF VETERANS TOBACCO-RELATED**
2 **BENEFITS.**

3 (a) REPEAL OF LAW LIMITING ESTABLISHMENT OF
4 SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR VETERANS' DISABILITIES RE-
5 LATING TO USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—(1) Section
6 1103 of title 38, United States Code, is repealed.

7 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter
8 11 of such title is amended by striking the item relating
9 to section 1103.

10 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this
11 section shall apply to any claim for compensation received
12 by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before, on, or after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 4. FUNDS NOT REQUIRED TO BE OFFSET FROM OTHER**
15 **PROGRAMS.**

16 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
17 et may not make any estimate of changes in direct spend-
18 ing outlays under section 252(d) of the Balanced Budget
19 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
20 902(d)) for any fiscal year resulting from the enactment
21 of this Act.

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