

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5993

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

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

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## AN ACT

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that beneficiaries of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance receive financial counseling and disclosure information regarding life insurance payments, 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 “Securing America’s  
3 Veterans Insurance Needs and Goals Act of 2010” or the  
4 “SAVINGS Act of 2010”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND DISCLOSURE INFOR-**  
6 **MATION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE**  
7 **INSURANCE BENEFICIARIES.**

8 (a) FINANCIAL COUNSELING AND DISCLOSURE IN-  
9 FORMATION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1966 of title 38,  
11 United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
12 end the following new subsection:

13 “(e)(1) In order to be an eligible life insurance com-  
14 pany under this section, a life insurance company shall—

15 “(A) make available, both orally and in writing,  
16 financial counseling to a beneficiary or other person  
17 otherwise entitled to payment upon the establish-  
18 ment of a valid claim under section 1970(a) of this  
19 title; and

20 “(B) at the time that such beneficiary or other  
21 person entitled to payment establishes a valid claim  
22 under section 1970(a) of this title, provide to such  
23 beneficiary or other person the disclosures described  
24 in paragraph (2).

25 “(2) The disclosures provided pursuant to paragraph  
26 (1)(B) shall—

1           “(A) be provided both orally and in writing; and

2           “(B) include information with respect to the  
3 payment of the claim, including—

4                   “(i) an explanation of the methods avail-  
5 able to receive such payment, including—

6                           “(I) receipt of a lump-sum payment;

7                           “(II) allowing the insurance company  
8 to maintain the lump-sum payment;

9                           “(III) receipt of thirty-six equal  
10 monthly installments; and

11                           “(IV) any alternative methods;

12                   “(ii) an explanation that any such payment  
13 that is maintained by the life insurance com-  
14 pany or paid in thirty-six equal monthly install-  
15 ments by the company is not insured by the  
16 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

17                   “(iii) an explanation of the interest rate  
18 earned on any such payment that is maintained  
19 by the life insurance company or paid in thirty-  
20 six equal monthly installments by the company  
21 and how such rate compares to the interest rate  
22 earned by accounts at financial institutions, in-  
23 cluding demand accounts; and

24                   “(iv) other relevant information.

1       “(3) In order to be an eligible life insurance company  
2 under this section, a life insurance company may not  
3 charge any fees to a beneficiary or other person otherwise  
4 entitled to payment upon the establishment of a valid  
5 claim under section 1970(a) of this title for any purpose,  
6 including for maintaining such payment with the com-  
7 pany.

8       “(4) The Secretary shall include in each annual per-  
9 formance and accountability report submitted by the Sec-  
10 retary to Congress information concerning—

11               “(A) the number of individuals who received fi-  
12 nancial counseling under paragraph (1)(A);

13               “(B) the number of individuals who received the  
14 disclosures under paragraph (1)(B);

15               “(C) the type of information received by such  
16 individuals during such counseling; and

17               “(D) any recommendations, complaints, or  
18 other information with respect to such counseling  
19 that the Secretary considers relevant.”.

20               (2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans  
21 Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out sec-  
22 tion 1966(e) of title 38, United States Code, as  
23 added by paragraph (1).

24               (b) OFFICE OF SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE.—

1           (1) ADVISORY ROLE.—Subsection (b) of section  
2       321 of such title is amended—

3           (A) by striking “The Office” and inserting  
4       “(1) The Office”; and

5           (B) by adding at the end the following:

6       “(2) The Director of the Office shall attend each  
7 meeting of the Advisory Council on Servicemembers’  
8 Group Life Insurance under section 1974 of this title.”.

9           (2) RESOURCES.—Subsection (d) of such sec-  
10      tion is amended—

11           (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-  
12      serting “(1) The Secretary”; and

13           (B) by adding at the end the following:

14      “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary  
15 shall ensure that the Office has the personnel necessary  
16 to serve as a resource to provide individuals described in  
17 paragraph (1) and (2) of subsection (a) with information  
18 on how to receive the Servicemembers’ Group Life Insur-  
19 ance financial counseling pursuant to section 1966(e)(1)  
20 of this title.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 29,  
2010.

Attest:                           LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*