

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5467

To amend title 10, United States Code, to extend certain morale, welfare, and recreation privileges to certain veterans and their caregivers, to authorize the appropriation of funds for the purpose of improving the electronic physical access control system used by military commissaries and exchanges, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself, Mr. JONES, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. BOST, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to extend certain morale, welfare, and recreation privileges to certain veterans and their caregivers, to authorize the appropriation of funds for the purpose of improving the electronic

physical access control system used by military commissaries and exchanges, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Purple Heart and Dis-
5 abled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In 2017, the Secretary of Defense deter-
9 mined that the addition of new patron categories to
10 the commissary and exchange systems would support
11 the growth of a robust customer base and help en-
12 sure the ability of both systems to provide benefits
13 to members of the Armed Forces and their families.

14 (2) The Secretary previously opposed extending
15 commissary and exchange privileges to large patron
16 groups such as disabled veterans.

17 (3) In January 2017, the Secretary of Defense
18 approved limited online exchange shopping privileges
19 for all veterans, effective November 11, 2017.

20 (4) The Secretary determined that current pa-
21 trons of exchanges did not perceive the extension of
22 such privileges as diluting the benefit for members
23 of the Armed Forces.

1 (5) The Purple Heart is the oldest military
 2 decoration, awarded to members of the Armed
 3 Forces who have been wounded or died in combat,
 4 fighting for the United States. Since the modern in-
 5 carnation of the award was established in 1932, ap-
 6 proximately 1,800,000 members of the Armed
 7 Forces have been awarded the Purple Heart.

8 **SEC. 3. COMMISSARY STORES AND MWR FACILITIES PRIVI-**
 9 **LEGES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND VET-**
 10 **ERAN CAREGIVERS.**

11 (a) EXTENSION OF PRIVILEGES.—Chapter 54 of title
 12 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
 13 the following new section:

14 **“§ 1065. Use of commissary stores and MWR facilities:**
 15 **certain veterans and caregivers for vet-**
 16 **erans**

17 “(a) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS AWARDED THE
 18 PURPLE HEART.—A veteran who was awarded the Purple
 19 Heart shall be permitted to use commissary stores and
 20 MWR facilities on the same basis as a member of the
 21 armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

22 “(b) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WHO ARE MEDAL
 23 OF HONOR RECIPIENTS.—A veteran who is a Medal of
 24 Honor recipient shall be permitted to use commissary

1 stores and MWR facilities on the same basis as a member
2 of the armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

3 “(c) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WHO ARE FORMER
4 PRISONERS OF WAR.—A veteran who is a former prisoner
5 of war shall be permitted to use commissary stores and
6 MWR facilities on the same basis as a member of the
7 armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

8 “(d) ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WITH SERVICE-
9 CONNECTED DISABILITIES.—A veteran with a service-
10 connected disability shall be permitted to use commissary
11 stores and MWR facilities on the same basis as a member
12 of the armed forces entitled to retired or retainer pay.

13 “(e) ELIGIBILITY OF CAREGIVERS FOR VETERANS.—
14 A caregiver or family caregiver shall be permitted to use
15 commissary stores and MWR facilities on the same basis
16 as a member of the armed forces entitled to retired or
17 retainer pay.

18 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 “(1) The term ‘MWR facilities’ includes—

20 “(A) MWR retail facilities, as that term is
21 defined in section 1063(e) of this title; and

22 “(B) military lodging operated by the De-
23 partment of Defense for the morale, welfare,
24 and recreation of members of the armed forces.

“(3) The terms ‘veteran’, ‘former prisoner of war’, and ‘service-connected’ have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of title 38.

“(4) The terms ‘caregiver’ and ‘family caregiver’ have the meanings given those terms in section in section 1720G(d) of title 38.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 54 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1065. Use of commissary stores and MWR facilities: certain veterans and caregivers for veterans.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 1065 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect at the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR UPDAT-
19 ING EPACS FOR MILITARY COMMISSARIES.

20 There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out
21 of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
22 \$500,000 to the Secretary of Defense for the purpose of
23 updating the electronic physical access control system used
24 by military commissaries and exchanges so that the sys-

1 tem may recognize and accept veteran health identification
2 cards.

3 **SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS**

4 **AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART.**

5 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of De-
6 fense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs, should maintain a list of all individuals awarded the
8 Purple Heart.

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