

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7971

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide timely equitable relief to an individual who suffers a loss based on an administrative error by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2024

Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. CISCOMANI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide timely equitable relief to an individual who suffers a loss based on an administrative error by the Secretary, 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. IMPROVEMENTS TO EQUITABLE RELIEF IN THE**
4 **CASE OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR BY THE**
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **AFFIRMATIVE DUTY TO PROVIDE TIMELY EQUI-**
7 **TABLE RELIEF.**—Section 503 of title 38, United States

1 Code, is amended by striking “may” both places it appears
2 and inserting “shall, not later than 120 days after such
3 determination,”.

4 (b) ELIMINATION OF EXPIRED REPORT.—Such sec-
5 tion is further amended by striking subsection (c).

6 (c) CANCELLATION OF DEBT COLLECTION.—Section
7 5314 of such title is amended, in subsection (a), by adding
8 at the end the following new paragraph:

9 “(3) The Secretary shall promptly cancel any agree-
10 ment, entered into by the Secretary with a debt collector
11 (as defined in section 803 of the Fair Debt Collection
12 Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692a)) to collect an amount of
13 indebtedness described in paragraph (1), if the Secretary
14 determines that the determination of such indebtedness
15 was in error.”.

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