

Union Calendar No. 291

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3123

[Report No. 119–339]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2025

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. KHANNA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 8, 2025

Additional sponsor: Ms. LEE of Nevada

OCTOBER 8, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 30, 2025]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Ernest Peltz Accrued*
5 *Veterans Benefits Act”.*

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

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

12 **“§ 5121B. Payment of pension after death of a veteran**
13 **in certain circumstances**

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

21 *“(1) The veteran’s spouse.*

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

23 *“(3) The veteran’s dependent parents (in equal*
24 *shares).*

1 “(4) *The estate of the deceased veteran unless the*
2 *estate will escheat.*”

3 “(b) *LIMITATION.—In a case described in subsection*
4 *(a), if no application is filed under section 5121 of this*
5 *title during the one-year period following the death of the*
6 *veteran, the pension described in such subsection shall be*
7 *paid to the estate of the deceased veteran unless the estate*
8 *will escheat.*”.

9 (b) *TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—*

10 (1) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5121(a)*
11 *of such title is amended, in the matter preceding*
12 *paragraph (1), by inserting “section 5121B of this*
13 *title, or” before “sections 3329 and 3330”.*

14 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-*
15 *tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by*
16 *inserting, after the item relating to section 5121A, the*
17 *following new item:*

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

18 (c) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this*
19 *section shall apply with respect to the death of a veteran*
20 *that occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this*
21 *Act.*

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

3 *Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code, is*
4 *amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and inserting*
5 *“December 31, 2031”.*

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