

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4220

To amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the recently enacted provisions of law that limit the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide compensation and treatment for smoking-related illnesses suffered by veterans of the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 1998

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington (for herself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. EDWARDS, and Ms. RIVERS) 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 amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the recently enacted provisions of law that limit the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide compensation and treatment for smoking-related illnesses suffered by veterans of the Armed Forces.

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 Benefits Res-
5 toration Act of 1998”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The Department of Defense contributed to
4 the smoking habits of military personnel. For exam-
5 ple, cigarettes were included in standard food and
6 hygiene kits during World War II and the Korean
7 Conflict. In many cases, the United States provided
8 a soldier's first cigarette.

9 (2) Cigarettes were distributed to troops during
10 the Vietnam War.

11 (3) The United States, through the Department
12 of Veterans Affairs, should provide compensation
13 and health care to veterans for service-connected
14 smoking-related illnesses.

15 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF LAW LIMITING ESTABLISHMENT OF**
16 **SERVICE-CONNECTION FOR DISABILITIES RE-**
17 **LATING TO THE USE OF TOBACCO PROD-**
18 **UCTS.**

19 (a) REPEAL.—Section 1103 of title 38, United States
20 Code, is repealed.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is amended
23 by striking out the item relating to section 1103.

24 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
25 this section shall apply to any claim for compensation re-

1 ceived by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before, on, or
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

5 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
6 et may not make any estimate of changes in direct spend-
7 ing outlays under section 252(d) of the Balanced Budget
8 and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C.
9 902(d)) for any fiscal year resulting from the enactment
10 of this Act.

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