

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5112

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide grants to States for programs to financially assist veterans who experience certain emergencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2002

Mr. BALDACCI (for himself, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FRANK, Mr. ROHRABACHER, and Mr. McGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide grants to States for programs to financially assist veterans who experience certain emergencies.

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 Emergency
5 Assistance Act”.

6 SEC. 2. GRANTS TO STATES FOR VETERANS EMERGENCY

7 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

8 (a) GRANTS TO STATES FOR VETERANS EMERGENCY
9 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Part II of title 38, United

1 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing new chapter:

3 **“CHAPTER 25—VETERANS EMERGENCY
4 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

5 **“§ 2501 Grants to States for Veterans Emergency As-
6 sistance Programs**

7 “(a) GRANTS FOR STATES.—The Secretary may
8 make grants to States for programs to assist veterans suf-
9 fering financial hardship as a result of an emergency.

10 “(b) APPLICATIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State shall submit to the
12 Secretary an application for a grant in such form as
13 the Secretary shall require.

14 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted
15 under paragraph (1) shall contain, at a minimum,
16 the following information:

17 “(A) A description of the political subdivi-
18 sion of State government that will administer
19 the grant.

20 “(B) A description of the eligible veterans
21 to receive assistance using grants funds.

22 “(C) The criteria used for determining
23 which types of emergencies qualify an eligible
24 individual for assistance under the program.

1 “(D) A description of the types of financial
2 assistance made available under the program.

3 “(E) A statement of the maximum amount
4 of assistance that an eligible individual may re-
5 ceive under the program in any 12 month pe-
6 riod.

7 “(F) Any restriction on the use of financial
8 assistance received by an eligible individual
9 under the program.

10 “(G) Such additional information as the
11 Secretary may require.

12 “(c) USE OF GRANTS.—A grant received by a State
13 under subsection (a) shall be used by the State (or polit-
14 ical subdivision as determined by the State) for providing
15 financial assistance to veterans and other eligible individ-
16 uals under a program described in subsection (a).

17 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the
18 cost of carrying out in any fiscal year a program receiving
19 funding from a grant made under subsection (a) shall not
20 exceed 75 percent.

21 “(e) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A State may
22 not receive more than 5 percent of total amounts appro-
23 priated, nor more than \$1,000,000 in grants under sub-
24 section (a) in any fiscal year.

1 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following
2 definitions apply:

3 “(1) EMERGENCY.—The term ‘emergency’
4 means an illness or accident resulting in interruption
5 or loss of employment, fire or other disaster result-
6 ing in loss of a residence, or other event or condition
7 as determined by a State.

8 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible
9 individual’ means a veteran, as defined in section
10 101(2) of this title, a spouse or surviving spouse of
11 a veteran, as defined in section 101(3) of this title,
12 a child, as defined in section 101(4) of this title, or
13 other dependent of a veteran.

14 “(g) COORDINATION WITH OTHER BENEFITS PAID
15 TO THE RECIPIENT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
16 sion of law, receipt by an individual of assistance under
17 this chapter shall not impair, infringe, or otherwise affect
18 the right of such individual to apply for or receive any
19 other benefit or assistance to which the individual is other-
20 wise entitled under any law administered by the Sec-
21 retary.”.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
24 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

