

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2654

To provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses.

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 “Citizen Soldier and
5 Military Veteran Travel Reimbursement Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PROGRAM.**

7 (a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO ADJUST AMOUNTS
8 DEDUCTED FROM PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES FOR BEN-
9 EFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(c) of title 38, United
10 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking paragraph (5); and

2 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, except as
3 provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection,”.

4 (b) DETERMINATION OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT
5 RATE.—Section 111(g) of such title is amended—

6 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(1) Subject to paragraph (3), in determining the
9 amount of allowances or reimbursement to be paid under
10 this section, the Secretary shall use the mileage reimburse-
11 ment rate for the use of privately owned vehicles by Gov-
12 ernment employees on official business (when a Govern-
13 ment vehicle is available), as prescribed by the Adminis-
14 trator of General Services under section 5707(b) of title
15 5.”;

16 (2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
18 lowing new paragraph (3):

19 “(3) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the
20 Secretary may modify the amount of allowances or reim-
21 bursement to be paid under this section using a mileage
22 reimbursement rate in excess of that prescribed under
23 paragraph (1).”.

1 **SEC. 3. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES FOR**
 2 **MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS**
 3 **FOR LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL TO INACTIVE**
 4 **DUTY TRAINING.**

5 (a) ALLOWANCES AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United
 7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section
 8 411j the following new section:

9 **“§ 411k. Travel and transportation allowances: long**
 10 **distance travel to inactive duty training**
 11 **performed by members of the reserve**
 12 **components of the armed forces**

13 “(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary con-
 14 cerned may reimburse a member of a reserve component
 15 of the armed forces for expenses incurred in connection
 16 with round-trip travel in excess of 100 miles to an inactive
 17 duty training location, including mileage traveled and
 18 lodging and subsistence.

19 “(b) RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

20 “(1) MILEAGE.—In determining the amount of
 21 allowances or reimbursement to be paid for mileage
 22 traveled under this section, the Secretary concerned
 23 shall use the mileage reimbursement rate for the use
 24 of privately owned vehicles by Government employees
 25 on official business (when a Government vehicle is

1 available), as prescribed by the Administrator of
 2 General Services under section 5707(b) of title 5.

3 “(2) LODGING AND SUBSISTENCE.—In deter-
 4 mining the amount of allowances or reimbursement
 5 to be paid for lodging and subsistence under this
 6 section, the Secretary concerned shall use the per
 7 diem rate as prescribed by the Administrator of
 8 General Services under section 5707 of title 5.

9 “(3) AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE AT HIGHER
 10 RATES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations
 11 and the approval of the Secretary of Defense, the
 12 Secretary concerned may modify the amount of al-
 13 lowances or reimbursement to be paid under this
 14 section using reimbursement rates in excess of those
 15 prescribed under paragraphs (1) and (2).

16 “(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall
 17 prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Regulations
 18 prescribed by the Secretary of a military department shall
 19 be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 21 at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by
 22 inserting after the item relating to section 411j the fol-
 23 lowing new item:

“411k. Travel and transportation allowances: long distance travel to inactive
 duty training performed by members of the reserve components
 of the armed forces.”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
3 respect to travel expenses incurred after the expiration of
4 the 90-day period that begins on the date of the enactment
5 of this Act.

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