

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3504

To provide for a 2 percent rescission of unobligated funds previously appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire claims processors.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

Mr. MILLER of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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

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## A BILL

To provide for a 2 percent rescission of unobligated funds previously appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire claims processors.

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 “VA Case Backlog Alle-  
5 viation and Economic Stimulus Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1           (1) During recent testimony in front of the  
2           Committee on Veterans' Affairs, officials from the  
3           Department of Veterans Affairs stated that there  
4           are approximately 140,000 cases in the Department  
5           claims adjudication system that have been pending  
6           for over 125 days without a decision.

7           (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs contin-  
8           ually maintains an unacceptably large backlog of  
9           veterans' cases.

10          (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs should  
11          never maintain a backlog of more than 50,000 cases  
12          which have been unresolved for more than 125 days.

13          (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs was  
14          appropriated \$1,357,000,000 for fiscal year 2009  
15          for compensation and pension claims processors.

16          (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs has  
17          seen an increase of 1,800 people to help with com-  
18          pensation and pension claims processing since 2008.

19          (6) Public Law 111-5, the American Recovery  
20          and Reinvestment Act of 2009, appropriated  
21          \$787,000,000,000 in stimulus spending.

22          (7) A large majority of the stimulus funding  
23          has not been obligated as of the date of the enact-  
24          ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 3. RESCISSION OF 2 PERCENT OF UNOBLIGATED STIM-**  
2 **ULUS FUNDS.**

3 (a) RESCISSION.—Effective on the date of the enact-  
4 ment of this Act, there are hereby rescinded 2 percent of  
5 the total amount of the unobligated balances of the discre-  
6 tionary appropriations made available by division A of the  
7 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public  
8 Law 111–5).

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts subject to the rescis-  
10 sion under subsection (a) shall be available to the Sec-  
11 retary of Veterans Affairs to hire Department of Veterans  
12 Affairs claims processors.

13 (c) ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS PROCESSORS.—In hir-  
14 ing claims processors pursuant to subsection (b), the Sec-  
15 retary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that such proc-  
16 essors are assigned proportionately to each State accord-  
17 ing to the percentage of veterans residing in that State.

18 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

19 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
20 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
21 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
22 ate and House of Representatives a report on the transfer  
23 of stimulus funds to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
24 pursuant to section 3 and the status of the backlog of

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- 1 claims for benefits under the laws administered by the
- 2 Secretary.

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