

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 347

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to distinguish between the severity of a qualifying loss of a dominant hand and a qualifying loss of a non-dominant hand for purposes of traumatic injury protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 29, 2009

Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to distinguish between the severity of a qualifying loss of a dominant hand and a qualifying loss of a non-dominant hand for purposes of traumatic injury protection under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONSIDERATION OF LOSS OF DOMINANT HAND**
2 **IN PRESCRIPTION OF SCHEDULE OF SEVER-**
3 **ITY OF TRAUMATIC INJURY UNDER**
4 **SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1980A(d) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “Payments under” and inserting
8 “(1) Payments under”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(2) As the Secretary considers appropriate, the
12 schedule required by paragraph (1) may distinguish in
13 specifying payments for qualifying losses between the se-
14 verity of a qualifying loss of a dominant hand and a quali-
15 fying loss of a non-dominant hand.”.

16 (b) PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFYING LOSSES INCURRED
17 BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
19 Affairs shall prescribe in regulations mechanisms for
20 payments under section 1980A of title 38, United
21 States Code, for qualifying losses incurred before the
22 date of the enactment of this Act by reason of the
23 requirements of paragraph (2) of subsection (d) of
24 such section (as amended by subsection (a)(2) of
25 this section).

1 (2) QUALIFYING LOSS DEFINED.—In this sub-
2 section, the term “qualifying loss” means—

3 (A) a loss specified in the second sentence
4 of subsection (b)(1) of section 1980A of title
5 38, United States Code; and

6 (B) any other loss specified by the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to the first
8 sentence of that subsection.

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