

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 559

To provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2009

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, and Mr. ROBERTS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide benefits under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Respite Absence program for certain periods before the implementation of the program.

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. BENEFITS UNDER POST-DEPLOYMENT/MOBILI-**
4 **ZATION RESPITE ABSENCE PROGRAM FOR**
5 **CERTAIN PERIODS BEFORE IMPLEMENTA-**
6 **TION OF PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by
8 the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary concerned shall
9 provide any member or former member of the Armed

1 Forces with the benefits specified in subsection (b) if the
2 member or former member would, on any day during the
3 period beginning on January 19, 2007, and ending on the
4 date of the implementation of the Post-Deployment/Mobi-
5 lization Respite Absence (PDMRA) program by the Sec-
6 retary concerned, have qualified for a day of administra-
7 tive absence under the Post-Deployment/Mobilization Res-
8 pite Absence program had the program been in effect dur-
9 ing such period.

10 (b) BENEFITS.—The benefits specified in this sub-
11 section are the following:

12 (1) In the case of an individual who is a former
13 member of the Armed Forces at the time of the pro-
14 vision of benefits under this section, payment of an
15 amount not to exceed \$200 for each day the indi-
16 vidual would have qualified for a day of administra-
17 tive absence as described in subsection (a) during
18 the period specified in that subsection.

19 (2) In the case of an individual who is a mem-
20 ber of the Armed Forces at the time of the provision
21 of benefits under this section, either one day of ad-
22 ministrative absence or payment of an amount not
23 to exceed \$200, as selected by the Secretary con-
24 cerned, for each day the individual would have quali-
25 fied for a day of administrative absence as described

1 in subsection (a) during the period specified in that
2 subsection.

3 (c) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FORMER MEMBERS.—

4 A former member of the Armed Forces is not eligible
5 under this section for the benefits specified in subsection
6 (b)(1) if the former member was discharged or released
7 from the Armed Forces under other than honorable condi-
8 tions.

9 (d) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DAYS OF BENEFITS
10 PROVIDABLE.—The number of days of benefits providable
11 to a member or former member of the Armed Forces
12 under this section may not exceed 40 days of benefits.

13 (e) FORM OF PAYMENT.—The paid benefits
14 providable under subsection (b) may be paid in a lump
15 sum or installments, at the election of the Secretary con-
16 cerned.

17 (f) CONSTRUCTION WITH OTHER PAY AND LEAVE.—
18 The benefits provided a member or former member of the
19 Armed Forces under this section are in addition to any
20 other pay, absence, or leave provided by law.

21 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “Post-Deployment/Mobilization
23 Respite Absence program” means the program of a
24 military department to provide days of administra-
25 tive absence not chargeable against available leave to

1 certain deployed or mobilized members of the Armed
2 Forces in order to assist such members in reinte-
3 grating into civilian life after deployment or mobili-
4 zation.

5 (2) The term “Secretary concerned” has the
6 meaning given that term in section 101(5) of title
7 37, United States Code.

8 (h) TERMINATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authority to provide
10 benefits under this section shall expire on the date
11 that is one year after the date of the enactment of
12 this Act.

13 (2) CONSTRUCTION.—Expiration under this
14 subsection of the authority to provide benefits under
15 this section shall not affect the utilization of any day
16 of administrative absence provided a member of the
17 Armed Forces under subsection (b)(2), or the pay-
18 ment of any payment authorized a member or
19 former member of the Armed Forces under sub-
20 section (b), before the expiration of the authority in
21 this section.

○