

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5831

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to provide injured members of the Armed Forces information concerning benefits.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2008

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to provide injured members of the Armed Forces information concerning benefits.

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 “Separating
5 Servicemember Handbook Development Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVIDING INJURED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
2 **FORCES INFORMATION CONCERNING BENE-**
3 **FITS.**

4 Section 1651 of the National Defense Authorization
5 Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat.
6 476; 10 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 1651. HANDBOOK FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
8 **FORCES ON COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**
9 **AVAILABLE FOR SERIOUS INJURIES AND ILL-**
10 **NESSES.**

11 “(a) INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE COMPENSATION
12 AND BENEFITS.—Not later than October 1, 2008, the
13 Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain, in a
14 handbook and on a publically-available Internet website,
15 a comprehensive description of the compensation and
16 other benefits to which a member of the Armed Forces,
17 and the family of such member, would be entitled upon
18 the separation or retirement of the member from the
19 Armed Forces as a result of a serious injury or illness.

20 “(b) CONTENTS.—The handbook and Internet
21 website shall include the following:

22 “(1) The range of compensation and benefits
23 based on grade, length of service, degree of disability
24 at separation or retirement, and other factors affect-
25 ing compensation and benefits as the Secretary con-
26 siders appropriate.

1 “(2) Information concerning the Disability
2 Evaluation System of each military department, in-
3 cluding—

4 “(A) an explanation of the process of the
5 Disability Evaluation System;

6 “(B) a general timeline of the process of
7 the Disability Evaluation System;

8 “(C) the role and responsibilities of the
9 military department throughout the process of
10 the Disability Evaluation System; and

11 “(D) the role and responsibilities of a
12 member of the Armed Forces throughout the
13 process of the Disability Evaluation System.

14 “(3) Benefits administered by the Department
15 of Veterans Affairs that a member of the Armed
16 Forces would be entitled upon the separation or re-
17 tirement from the Armed Forces as a result of a se-
18 rious injury or illness.

19 “(4) The 20 most common serious injuries or
20 illnesses that result in a member of the Armed
21 Forces separating or retiring from the Armed
22 Forces, and the benefits associated with each injury
23 or illness.

24 “(5) A list of State veterans service organiza-
25 tions and nonprofit veterans service organizations,

1 and their contact information and Internet website
2 addresses.

3 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense
4 shall develop and maintain the comprehensive description
5 required by subsection (a) in consultation with the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services, and the Commissioner of Social Secu-
8 rity.

9 “(d) UPDATE.—The Secretary of Defense shall up-
10 date the comprehensive description required by subsection
11 (a) on a periodic basis, but not less often than annually.

12 “(e) PROVISION TO MEMBERS.—The Secretary of the
13 military department concerned shall provide the handbook
14 to each member of the Armed Forces under the jurisdic-
15 tion of that Secretary as soon as practicable following an
16 injury or illness for which the member may retire or sepa-
17 rate from the Armed Forces.

18 “(f) PROVISION TO REPRESENTATIVES.—If a mem-
19 ber is incapacitated or otherwise unable to receive the
20 handbook, the handbook shall be provided to the next of
21 kin or a legal representative of the member, as determined
22 in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary
23 of the military department concerned for purposes of this
24 section.”.

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