

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3854

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 1, 2020

Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Leasing Relief for De-
5 pendants of Fallen Heroes and Injured Servicemembers
6 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF LEASES OF**
 2 **PREMISES AND MOTOR VEHICLES OF**
 3 **SERVICEMEMBERS WHO INCUR CATA-**
 4 **STROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OR DIE**
 5 **WHILE IN MILITARY SERVICE.**

6 (a) CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.—
 7 Paragraph (4) of section 305(a) of the Servicemembers
 8 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(a)), as added by section
 9 545 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
 10 Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92), is amended to read as
 11 follows:

12 “(4) CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OF
 13 LESSEE.—

14 “(A) TERMINATION.—If the lessee on a
 15 lease described in subsection (b) incurs a cata-
 16 strophic injury or illness during a period of
 17 military service or while performing covered
 18 service, during the one-year period beginning on
 19 the date on which the lessee incurs such injury
 20 or illness—

21 “(i) the lessee may terminate the
 22 lease; or

23 “(ii) in the case of a lessee who lacks
 24 the mental capacity to contract or to man-
 25 age his or her own affairs (including dis-

1 bursement of funds without limitation) due
 2 to such injury or illness—

3 “(I) in a case in which the lessee
 4 has a spouse, the spouse may termi-
 5 nate the lease;

6 “(II) in a case in which the les-
 7 see does not have a spouse but does
 8 have an adult dependent, the depend-
 9 ent may terminate the lease;

10 “(III) in a case in which the les-
 11 see does not have a spouse or an adult
 12 dependent, a person who has been
 13 granted a power of attorney by the
 14 lessee may terminate the lease; or

15 “(IV) in any other case, such
 16 other person as a court of competent
 17 jurisdiction may appoint to manage
 18 the affairs of the lessee may terminate
 19 the lease.

20 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

21 “(i) CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILL-
 22 NESS.—The term ‘catastrophic injury or
 23 illness’ has the meaning given that term in
 24 section 439(g) of title 37, United States
 25 Code.

1 “(ii) COVERED SERVICE.—The term
2 ‘covered service’ means full-time National
3 Guard duty, active Guard and Reserve
4 duty, or inactive-duty training (as such
5 terms are defined in section 101(d) of title
6 10, United States Code).”.

7 (b) DEATHS.—Paragraph (3) of such section is
8 amended by striking “The spouse of the lessee” and in-
9 serting “The spouse or dependent of the lessee”.

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