

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 6590

To defer action regarding certain debts arising from benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a period of time including the COVID-19 emergency period.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2020

Mr. Pappas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To defer action regarding certain debts arising from benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a period of time including the COVID-19 emergency period.

- 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. DEFERRAL OF CERTAIN DEBTS ARISING FROM
- 4 BENEFITS UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY
- 5 THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.
- 6 (a) IN GENERAL.—During the covered period, the
- 7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not—

1	(1) take any action to collect a covered debt (in-
2	cluding the offset of any payment by the Secretary);
3	(2) record a covered debt;
4	(3) issue notice of a covered debt to a person
5	or a consumer reporting agency;
6	(4) allow any interest to accrue on a covered
7	debt; or
8	(5) apply any administrative fee to a covered
9	debt.
10	(b) Exception.—Notwithstanding subsection (a),
11	the Secretary may collect a payment regarding a covered
12	debt (including interest or any administrative fee) from
13	a person (or the fiduciary of that person) who elects to
14	make such a payment during the covered period.
15	(c) Definitions.—In this section:
16	(1) The term "consumer reporting agency" has
17	the meaning given that term in section 5701 of title
18	38, United States Code.
19	(2) The term "covered debt" means a debt—
20	(A) owed by a person (including a fidu-
21	ciary) to the United States;
22	(B) arising from a benefit under a covered
23	law; and
24	(C) that is not subject to recovery under—

1	(i) section 3729 of title 31, United
2	States Code;
3	(ii) section 1729 of title 38, United
4	States Code; or
5	(iii) Public Law 87–693 (42 U.S.C.
6	2651).
7	(3) The term "covered law" means any law ad-
8	ministered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9	through—
10	(A) the Under Secretary for Health; or
11	(B) the Under Secretary for Benefits.
12	(4) The term "covered period" means—
13	(A) the COVID-19 emergency period; and
14	(B) the 60 days immediately following the
15	date of the end of the COVID-19 emergency pe-
16	riod.
17	(5) The term "COVID-19 emergency period"
18	means the emergency period described in section
19	1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
20	1320b-5(g)(1)(B)).

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