

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3798

To amend title 37, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to make temporary, emergency adjustments in the monthly rates of the basic allowance for housing and the cost-of-living allowance for members of the uniformed services in response to sudden increases in energy and gasoline prices.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

Ms. GRANGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to make temporary, emergency adjustments in the monthly rates of the basic allowance for housing and the cost-of-living allowance for members of the uniformed services in response to sudden increases in energy and gasoline prices.

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 “Military Family Assist-
5 ance Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY ADJUSTMENT IN BASIC ALLOWANCE**
2 **FOR HOUSING IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED**
3 **ENERGY COSTS.**

4 Section 403(b)(4) of title 37, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “An adjustment” and inserting
7 “(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an
8 adjustment”; and

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

11 “(B) The Secretary may make an emergency adjust-
12 ment in the rates of the basic allowance for housing for
13 a particular military housing area in response to a sudden
14 increase in energy costs in the area as a result of higher
15 charges for utilities or other causes. An adjustment in the
16 rates of the basic allowance for housing under the author-
17 ity of this subparagraph may take effect in advance of the
18 effective date specified in subparagraph (A), and, notwith-
19 standing paragraph (6), shall remain in effect for a period
20 determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed six months.
21 The Secretary shall provide written notice to Congress of
22 any rate adjustment made under this subparagraph and
23 the reasons for the adjustment.”.

1 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY ADJUSTMENT IN COST-OF-LIVING AL-**
2 **LOWANCE IN RESPONSE TO INCREASED GAS-**
3 **OLINE COSTS.**

4 Section 403b(d) of title 37, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2)
7 and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph
8 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B) and clauses (i)
9 and (ii), respectively;

10 (2) by inserting “(1)” before “The cost-of-liv-
11 ing”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following new
13 paragraph:

14 “(2) The Secretary may make an emergency adjust-
15 ment in the amount of the cost-of-living allowance other-
16 wise in effect under paragraph (1), and establish tem-
17 porary high cost areas for purposes of this section during
18 a fiscal year, in response to a sudden increase in gasoline
19 prices in an area. An adjustment in the amount of a cost-
20 of-living allowance or the establishment of a temporary
21 high cost area under the authority of this subparagraph
22 shall take effect on such date as determined by the Sec-
23 retary to be appropriate and shall remain in effect for a
24 period determined by the Secretary, but not to exceed six
25 months. The Secretary shall provide written notice to Con-
26 gress of any cost-of-living allowance adjustment made or

- 1 temporary high cost area established under this paragraph
- 2 and the reasons therefor.”.

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