

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3350

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the waiver period with respect to a deductible made by a veteran for certain travel costs necessary to receive treatment at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2011

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the waiver period with respect to a deductible made by a veteran for certain travel costs necessary to receive treatment at facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Veterans Travel Bene-
5 fits Modernization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WAIVER PERIOD FOR DEDUCTIBLE REQUIRED BY**
2 **VETERANS TO RECEIVE CERTAIN TRAVEL**
3 **COSTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(c)(4) of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 “(4)(A) The Secretary may waive the deduction re-
7 quirement of paragraph (1) in the case of the travel of
8 any veteran for whom the imposition of the deduction
9 would cause severe financial hardship. Except as provided
10 by subparagraph (C), any waiver granted under this sub-
11 paragraph shall be valid until the date that is the earlier
12 of—

13 “(i) the date that is one year after the date on
14 which the waiver is granted; or

15 “(ii) the date on which the Secretary deter-
16 mines that the deduction would no longer cause the
17 veteran severe financial hardship.

18 “(B) The Secretary shall prescribe in regulations the
19 conditions under which a finding of severe financial hard-
20 ship is warranted for purposes of this paragraph.

21 “(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any waiver
22 granted under this paragraph to a veteran between the
23 period beginning on January 1, 2011, and ending on June
24 1, 2012, shall be deemed to be valid until the date that
25 is the earlier of—

1 “(i) the birthday of the veteran occurring after
2 June 1, 2012; or

3 “(ii) the date on which the Secretary deter-
4 mines that the deduction would no longer cause the
5 veteran severe financial hardship.”.

6 (b) CLARIFICATION IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-
7 TRATION HANDBOOK.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall revise the Veterans Health Administra-
10 tion Handbook to clarify the waiver period of waivers
11 granted under section 111(c)(4) of title 38, United States
12 Code, as amended by subsection (a).

13 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
14 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to waivers granted
15 under section 111(c)(4) of title 38, United States Code,
16 on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the
17 enactment of this Act.

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