

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1067

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the temporary expansion of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to ensure that judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims may enroll in the Federal Employee Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the temporary expansion of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to ensure that judges of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims may enroll in the Federal Employee Group Life Insurance program, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Court of Appeals
3 for Veterans Claims Reform Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. EXTENDING TEMPORARY EXPANSION OF UNITED**
5 **STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS**
6 **CLAIMS.**

7 Section 7253(i)(2) of title 38, United States Code,
8 is amended by striking “January 1, 2013” and inserting
9 “January 1, 2020”.

10 **SEC. 3. RECALL OF RETIRED JUDGES OF UNITED STATES**
11 **COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.**

12 Paragraph (1) of section 7257(b) of title 38, United
13 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

14 “(1)(A) The chief judge may recall for further service
15 on the Court a recall-eligible retired judge in accordance
16 with this section. Such a recall shall be made upon written
17 certification by the chief judge that substantial service is
18 expected to be performed by the retired judge for such
19 period, not to exceed 90 days (or the equivalent), as deter-
20 mined by the chief judge to be necessary to meet the needs
21 of the Court.

22 “(B)(i) A recall-eligible judge may request that the
23 chief judge recall the recall-eligible judge for a period of
24 service not to exceed 90 days (or the equivalent).

25 “(ii) The chief judge shall approve a request made
26 by a recall-eligible judge pursuant to clause (i) unless the

1 chief judge certifies, in writing, that the Court does not
2 have—

3 “(I) sufficient work to assign such recall-eligible
4 judge during the period of recalled service; or

5 “(II) sufficient resources to provide to such re-
6 call-eligible judge appropriate administrative and of-
7 fice support.

8 “(iii) At any time during the period of recalled service
9 of a judge who is recalled pursuant to clause (i), the chief
10 judge may terminate such recalled service if the chief
11 judge makes a written certification described in clause
12 (ii).”.

13 **SEC. 4. LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAM RELATING TO JUDGES**
14 **OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR**
15 **VETERANS CLAIMS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7281 of title 38, United
17 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(j) For purposes of chapter 87 of title 5, a judge
20 who is in regular active service and a judge who is retired
21 under section 7296 of this title or under chapter 83 or
22 84 of title 5 shall be treated as an employee described
23 in section 8701(a)(5) of title 5.”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
25 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to any payment

1 made on or after the first day of the first applicable pay
2 period beginning on or after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 5. VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENLARGE SUR-**
5 **VIVORS' ANNUITY.**

6 Section 7297 of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(p)(1) A covered judge who makes an election under
10 subsection (b) may purchase, in three-month increments,
11 up to an additional year of service credit for each year
12 of Federal judicial service completed, under the terms set
13 forth in this section.

14 “(2) In this subsection, the term ‘covered judge’
15 means any of the following:

16 “(A) A judge in regular active service.

17 “(B) A retired judge who is a recall-eligible re-
18 tired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of section
19 7257 of this title.

20 “(C) A retired judge who would be a recall-eli-
21 gible retired judge pursuant to subsection (a) of sec-
22 tion 7257 but for—

23 “(i) meeting the aggregate recall service
24 requirements under subsection (b)(3) of such
25 section; or

1 “(ii) being permanently disabled as de-
2 scribed by subsection (b)(4) of such section.”.

3 **SEC. 6. SALARIES OF JUDGES OF UNITED STATES COURT**
4 **OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.**

5 Section 7253(e) of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended by striking “district courts” and inserting
7 “courts of appeals”.

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