

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1551

To prioritize certain Government obligations for continued payment in the event that the statutory debt limit is reached, to appropriate funds for the pay and allowances of all members of the Armed Forces, and for those civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard serving in a combat zone, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2011

Mr. HUNTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, 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 prioritize certain Government obligations for continued payment in the event that the statutory debt limit is reached, to appropriate funds for the pay and allowances of all members of the Armed Forces, and for those civilian employees of the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard serving in a combat zone, 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 “Guarantee Paychecks
3 for America’s Military Families Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this section:

6 (1) The term “Armed Forces” means the
7 Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast
8 Guard, including reserve components thereof.

9 (2) The term “combat zone” has the meaning
10 given that term in section 112(c)(2) of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986.

12 (3) The term “contingency operation” has the
13 meaning given that term in section 101(a)(13) of
14 title 10, United States Code.

15 (4) The term “military personnel accounts”
16 mean the military personnel, reserve personnel, and
17 National Guard personnel accounts of the Depart-
18 ment of Defense, generally title I of an annual De-
19 partment of Defense appropriations Act, and the
20 corresponding accounts for the Department of
21 Homeland Security used to provide pay and allow-
22 ances for members of the Coast Guard.

23 (5) The term “pay and allowances” means
24 basic pay, bonuses and special pay, allowances and
25 any other forms of compensation available for mem-
26 bers of the Armed Forces under title 37, United

1 States Code, or otherwise paid from military per-
2 sonnel accounts.

3 (6) The term “period of lapsed appropriations”
4 means any period during which appropriations are
5 not available due to the absence of the timely enact-
6 ment of any Act or joint resolution (whether a gen-
7 eral appropriations Act or and Act or joint resolu-
8 tion making continuing appropriations) appro-
9 priating funds for the payment of the pay and allow-
10 ances of members of the Armed Forces or civilian
11 employees of the Department of Defense and the
12 Coast Guard.

13 **SEC. 3. PRIORITY GIVEN TO PAYMENT OF CERTAIN GOV-**
14 **ERNMENT OBLIGATIONS IN EVENT DEBT**
15 **LIMIT IS REACHED.**

16 In the event that the debt of the United States Gov-
17 ernment, as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United
18 States Code, reaches the statutory limit, the following obli-
19 gations shall take priority over all other obligations in-
20 curred by the Government of the United States:

21 (1) The obligation of the Secretary of the
22 Treasury provided in section 3123 of title 31,
23 United States Code, to pay with legal tender the
24 principal and interest on debt held by the public.

1 (2) The obligation of the Secretary of Defense
2 (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case
3 of the Coast Guard) to pay members of the Armed
4 Forces the pay and allowances earned under title 37,
5 United States Code, and other compensation paid
6 from the military personnel accounts.

7 (3) The obligations incurred by the Secretary of
8 Defense (and the Secretary of Homeland Security in
9 the case of the Coast Guard) to carry out a contin-
10 gency operation (as defined in section 101(a)(13) of
11 title 10, United States Code), including the pay
12 earned by civilian employees of the Department of
13 Defense and the Coast Guard serving in a combat
14 zone (as defined in section 112(c)(2) of the Internal
15 Revenue Code of 1986).

16 **SEC. 4. PERMANENT APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO PRO-**
17 **VIDE PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS**
18 **OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CERTAIN CIVIL-**
19 **IAN EMPLOYEES DURING PERIOD OF LAPSED**
20 **APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 For any period of lapsed appropriations, there are ap-
22 propriated, out of any moneys in the Treasury not other-
23 wise appropriated, to the Secretary of Defense (and the
24 Secretary of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast
25 Guard) such amounts as may be necessary to allow the

1 Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary of Homeland Se-
2 curity in the case of the Coast Guard) to provide, during
3 the period of lapsed appropriations and without interrup-
4 tion—

5 (1) pay and allowances to members of armed
6 forces, including reserve components thereof, who
7 perform active service during the period of lapsed
8 appropriations; and

9 (2) pay to civilian employees of the Department
10 of Defense and the Coast Guard serving in a combat
11 zone.

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