

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 299, with an Amendment**  
**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 299

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. McEACHIN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MENG, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BEYER, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CORREA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOST, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LAMB, Mr. BARR, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COOK, and Mr. PALAZZO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

# A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Blue Water Navy Viet-  
5 nam Veterans Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF PRESUMPTIONS OF EXPOSURE**  
7                   **FOR VETERANS WHO SERVED IN VICINITY OF**  
8                   **REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.**

9       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United  
10 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116  
11 the following new section:

12 **“§ 1116A. Presumptions of service connection for vet-**  
13                   **erans who served offshore of the Repub-**  
14                   **lic of Vietnam**

15       “(a) SERVICE CONNECTION.—For the purposes of  
16 section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of  
17 this title, a disease covered by section 1116 of this title  
18 becoming manifest as specified in that section in a veteran  
19 who, during active military, naval, or air service, served  
20 offshore of the Republic of Vietnam during the period be-  
21 ginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975,

1 shall be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated  
2 by such service, notwithstanding that there is no record  
3 of evidence of such disease during the period of such serv-  
4 ice.

5 “(b) EXPOSURE.—A veteran who, during active mili-  
6 tary, naval, or air service, served offshore of the Republic  
7 of Vietnam during the period beginning on January 9,  
8 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, shall be presumed to  
9 have been exposed during such service to an herbicide  
10 agent unless there is affirmative evidence to establish that  
11 the veteran was not exposed to any such agent during that  
12 service.

13 “(c) EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD.—(1) Except as  
14 provided by paragraph (2), the effective date of an award  
15 under this section shall be determined in accordance with  
16 section 5110 of this title.

17 “(2)(A) Notwithstanding subsection (g) of section  
18 5110 of this title, the Secretary shall determine the effec-  
19 tive date of an award based on a claim under this section  
20 for an individual described in subparagraph (B) by treat-  
21 ing the date on which the individual filed the prior claim  
22 specified in clause (i) of such subparagraph as the date  
23 on which the individual filed the claim so awarded under  
24 this section.

1 “(B) An individual described in this subparagraph is  
 2 a veteran, or a survivor of a veteran, who meets the fol-  
 3 lowing criteria:

4 “(i) The veteran or survivor submitted a claim  
 5 for disability compensation on or after September  
 6 25, 1985, and before January 1, 2020, for a disease  
 7 covered by this section, and the claim was denied by  
 8 reason of the claim not establishing that the disease  
 9 was incurred or aggravated by the service of the vet-  
 10 eran.

11 “(ii) The veteran or survivor submits a claim  
 12 for disability compensation on or after January 1,  
 13 2020, for the same condition covered by the prior  
 14 claim under clause (i), and the claim is approved  
 15 pursuant to this section.

16 “(d) DETERMINATION OF OFFSHORE.—Notwith-  
 17 standing any other provision of law, for purposes of this  
 18 section, the Secretary shall treat a location as being off-  
 19 shore of Vietnam if the location is not more than 12 nau-  
 20 tical miles seaward of a line commencing on the south-  
 21 western demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and  
 22 Cambodia and intersecting the following points:

“Points Geographic Names	Latitude North	Longitude East
At Hon Nhan Island, Tho Chu Archipelago Kien Giang Province	9°15.0′	103°27.0′

<b>“Points Geographic Names</b>	<b>Latitude North</b>	<b>Longitude East</b>
At Hon Da Island southeast of Hon Khoai Island Minh Hai Province	8°22.8′	104°52.4′
At Tai Lon Islet, Con Dao Islet in Con Dao-Vung Toa Special Sector	8°37.8′	106°37.5′
At Bong Lai Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°38.9′	106°40.3′
At Bay Canh Islet, Con Dao Islet	8°39.7′	106°42.1′
At Hon Hai Islet (Phu Qui group of islands) Thuan Hai Province	9°58.0′	109°5.0′
At Hon Doi Islet, Thuan Hai Province	12°39.0′	109°28.0′
At Dai Lanh point, Phu Khanh Province	12°53.8′	109°27.2′
At Ong Can Islet, Phu Khanh Province	13°54.0′	109°21.0′
At Ly Son Islet, Nghia Binh Province	15°23.1′	109° 9.0′
At Con Co Island, Binh Tri Thien Province	17°10.0′	107°20.6′

1           “(e) HERBICIDE AGENT.—In this section, the term  
2 ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given that term in sec-  
3 tion 1116(a)(3) of this title.”.

4           (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
5 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
6 after the item relating to section 1116 the following new  
7 item:

          “1116A. Presumptions of service connection for veterans who served offshore of  
          the Republic of Vietnam.”.

8           (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

9           (1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501  
10 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may  
11 issue guidance to implement section 1116A of title  
12 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),

1 before prescribing new regulations under such sec-  
2 tion.

3 (2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days  
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary shall submit a report to the Committees on  
6 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
7 and the Senate regarding the plans of the Sec-  
8 retary—

9 (i) to conduct outreach under subsection  
10 (d); and

11 (ii) to respond to inquiries from veterans  
12 regarding claims for disability compensation  
13 under section 1116A of title 38, United States  
14 Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

15 (B) On a quarterly basis during the period be-  
16 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and  
17 ending on the date on which regulations are pre-  
18 scribed to carry out such section 1116A, the Sec-  
19 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
20 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-  
21 ate updates on the status of such regulations.

22 (3) PENDING CASES.—

23 (A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary  
24 may stay a claim described in subparagraph

25 (B) until the date on which the Secretary com-

1 mences the implementation of such section  
2 1116A.

3 (B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim de-  
4 scribed in this subparagraph is a claim for dis-  
5 ability compensation—

6 (i) relating to the service and diseases  
7 covered by such section 1116A; and

8 (ii) that is pending at the Veterans  
9 Benefits Administration or the Board of  
10 Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of  
11 the enactment of this Act and before the  
12 date on which the Secretary commences  
13 the implementation of such section 1116A.

14 (d) OUTREACH.—

15 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
16 Affairs shall conduct outreach to inform veterans de-  
17 scribed in paragraph (2) of the ability to submit a  
18 claim for disability compensation under section  
19 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as added by  
20 subsection (a). Such outreach shall include the fol-  
21 lowing:

22 (A) The Secretary shall publish on the  
23 website of the Department a notice that a vet-  
24 erans described in paragraph (2) may submit or

1           resubmit a claim for disability compensation  
2           under such section 1116A.

3           (B) The Secretary shall notify in writing  
4           the veteran service organization community of  
5           the ability of veterans described in paragraph  
6           (2) to submit or resubmit claims for disability  
7           compensation under such section 1116A.

8           (2) VETERAN DESCRIBED.—A veteran described  
9           in this paragraph is a veteran who, during active  
10          military, naval, or air service, served offshore of the  
11          Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning on  
12          January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975.

13          (e) REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2021, and  
14          annually thereafter for two years, the Secretary of Vet-  
15          erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
16          Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
17          a report regarding claims for disability compensation  
18          under section 1116A of title 38, United States Code, as  
19          added by subsection (a). Each report shall include, with  
20          respect to the calendar year preceding the report,  
21          disaggregated by the regional offices of the Department  
22          of Veterans Affairs, the following:

23                 (1) The number of claims filed under such sec-  
24                 tion.

25                 (2) The number of such claims granted.



1 (3) The number of such claims denied.

2 (f) HEALTH CARE.—Section 1710(e)(4) of title 38,  
3 United States Code, is amended by inserting “(including  
4 offshore of such Republic as described in section 1116A(d)  
5 of this title)” after “served on active duty in the Republic  
6 of Vietnam”.

7 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
8 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

9 **SEC. 3. PRESUMPTION OF HERBICIDE EXPOSURE FOR CER-**  
10 **TAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN KOREA.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United  
12 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116A,  
13 as added by section 2, the following new section:

14 **“§ 1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for cer-**  
15 **tain veterans who served in Korea**

16 “(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION.—(1)  
17 For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject  
18 to section 1113 of this title, a disease specified in sub-  
19 section (b) that becomes manifest as specified in that sub-  
20 section in a veteran described in paragraph (2) shall be  
21 considered to have been incurred or aggravated in the line  
22 of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, not-  
23 withstanding that there is no record of evidence of such  
24 disease during the period of such service.

1       “(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a vet-  
2 eran who, during active military, naval, or air service,  
3 served in or near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ),  
4 during the period beginning on September 1, 1967, and  
5 ending on August 31, 1971.

6       “(b) DISEASES.—A disease specified in this sub-  
7 section is—

8               “(1) a disease specified in paragraph (2) of  
9 subsection (a) of section 1116 of this title that be-  
10 comes manifest as specified in that paragraph; or

11               “(2) any additional disease that—

12                       “(A) the Secretary determines in regula-  
13 tions warrants a presumption of service-conne-  
14 ction by reason of having positive association  
15 with exposure to an herbicide agent; and

16                       “(B) becomes manifest within any period  
17 prescribed in such regulations.

18       “(c) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this sec-  
19 tion, the term ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given  
20 such term in section 1821(d) of this title.”.

21       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
22 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
23 after the item relating to section 1116A, as added by sec-  
24 tion 2, the following new item:

“1116B. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in  
Korea.”.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

2 (1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501  
3 of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may  
4 issue guidance to implement section 1116B of title  
5 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a),  
6 before prescribing new regulations under such sec-  
7 tion.

8 (2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days  
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
10 retary shall submit a report to the Committees on  
11 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
12 and the Senate regarding the plans of the Secretary  
13 to respond to inquiries from veterans regarding  
14 claims for disability compensation under section  
15 1116B of title 38, United States Code, as added by  
16 subsection (a) of this section.

17 (B) On a quarterly basis during the period be-  
18 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and  
19 ending on the date on which regulations are pre-  
20 scribed to carry out such section 1116B, the Sec-  
21 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'  
22 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Sen-  
23 ate updates on the status of such regulations.

24 (3) PENDING CASES.—

1 (A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary  
2 may stay a claim described in subparagraph  
3 (B) until the date on which the Secretary com-  
4 mences the implementation of section 1116B of  
5 title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
6 section (a).

7 (B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim de-  
8 scribed in this subparagraph is a claim for dis-  
9 ability compensation—

10 (i) relating to the service and diseases  
11 covered by such section 1116B; and

12 (ii) that is pending at the Veterans  
13 Benefits Administration or the Board of  
14 Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of  
15 the enactment of this Act and before the  
16 date on which the Secretary commences  
17 the implementation of such section 1116B.

18 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
19 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

20 **SEC. 4. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN THAILAND**  
21 **SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA**  
22 **BIFIDA.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 18 of  
24 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
25 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand**  
2 **service veterans born with spina bifida**

3 “(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may  
4 provide to any child of a veteran of covered service in  
5 Thailand who is suffering from spina bifida the health  
6 care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary  
7 allowance required to be paid to a child of a Vietnam vet-  
8 eran who is suffering from spina bifida under subchapter  
9 I of this chapter as if such child of a veteran of covered  
10 service in Thailand were a child of a Vietnam veteran who  
11 is suffering from spina bifida under such subchapter.

12 “(b) SPINA BIFIDA CONDITIONS COVERED.—This  
13 section applies with respect to all forms and manifesta-  
14 tions of spina bifida, except spina bifida occulta.

15 “(c) VETERAN OF COVERED SERVICE IN THAI-  
16 LAND.—For purposes of this section, a veteran of covered  
17 service in Thailand is any individual, without regard to  
18 the characterization of that individual’s service, who—

19 “(1) served in the active military, naval, or air  
20 service in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary  
21 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, dur-  
22 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and  
23 ending on May 7, 1975; and

24 “(2) is determined by the Secretary, in con-  
25 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have been

1 exposed to a herbicide agent during such service in  
2 Thailand.

3 “(d) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this sec-  
4 tion, the term ‘herbicide agent’ means a chemical in a her-  
5 bicide used in support of United States and allied military  
6 operations in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in  
7 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the pe-  
8 riod beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May  
9 7, 1975.”.

10 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF  
11 “CHILD”.—Section 1831(1) of such title is amended—

12 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

13 (A) by striking “subchapter III of this  
14 chapter” and inserting “section 1821 of this  
15 title”; and

16 (B) in clause (i), by striking “section 1821  
17 of this title” and inserting “that section”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
19 paragraph:

20 “(C) For purposes of section 1822 of this  
21 title, an individual, regardless of age or marital  
22 status, who—

23 “(i) is the natural child of a veteran  
24 of covered service in Thailand (as deter-  
25 mined for purposes of that section); and

1                   “(ii) was conceived after the date on  
2                   which that veteran first entered service de-  
3                   scribed in subsection (c) of that section.”.

4           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

5           (1) SUBCHAPTER HEADING.—The heading for  
6           subchapter III of chapter 18 of such title is amend-  
7           ed by inserting “AND THAILAND” after  
8           “KOREA”.

9           (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections  
10          at the beginning of chapter 18 of such title is  
11          amended—

12                   (A) by striking the item relating to sub-  
13                   chapter III and inserting the following new  
14                   item:

                  “SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA AND THAILAND SERVICE  
                  VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA”;

15          and

16                   (B) by inserting after the item relating to  
17                   section 1821 the following new item:

                  “1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina  
                  bifida.”.

18          (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

19           (1) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501  
20           of such title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may  
21           issue guidance to implement section 1822 of title 38,  
22           United States Code, as added by subsection (a), be-  
23           fore prescribing new regulations under such section.

1           (2) UPDATES.—(A) Not later than 120 days  
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary shall submit a report to the Committees on  
4 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives  
5 and the Senate regarding the plans of the Secretary  
6 to respond to inquiries from veterans regarding  
7 claims for disability compensation under section  
8 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added by  
9 subsection (a) of this section.

10           (B) On a quarterly basis during the period be-  
11 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and  
12 ending on the date on which regulations are pre-  
13 scribed to carry out such section 1822, the Secretary  
14 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs  
15 of the House of Representatives and the Senate up-  
16 dates on the status of such regulations.

17           (3) PENDING CASES.—

18           (A) AUTHORITY TO STAY.—The Secretary  
19 may stay a claim described in subparagraph  
20 (B) until the date on which the Secretary com-  
21 mences the implementation of section 1822 of  
22 title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
23 section (a).



1 (B) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—A claim de-  
2 scribed in this subparagraph is a claim for ben-  
3 efits—

4 (i) relating to the spina bifida and  
5 service covered by such section 1822; and

6 (ii) that is pending at the Veterans  
7 Benefits Administration or the Board of  
8 Veterans' Appeals on or after the date of  
9 the enactment of this Act and before the  
10 date on which the Secretary commences  
11 the implementation of such section 1822.

12 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans  
14 Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense,  
15 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of  
16 the House of Representatives and the Senate a report  
17 identifying—

18 (1) the military installations of the United  
19 States located in Thailand during the period begin-  
20 ning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7,  
21 1975, at which an herbicide agent (as defined in sec-  
22 tion 1822 of title 38, United States Code, as added  
23 by subsection (a)) was actively used; and

24 (2) the period of such use.

1 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall take effect on January 1, 2020.

3 **SEC. 5. UPDATED REPORT ON CERTAIN GULF WAR ILLNESS**  
4 **STUDY.**

5 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
7 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the  
8 House of Representatives and the Senate an updated re-  
9 port on the findings, as of the date of the updated report,  
10 of the Follow-up Study of a National Cohort of Gulf War  
11 and Gulf Era Veterans under the epidemiology program  
12 of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

13 **SEC. 6. LOANS GUARANTEED UNDER HOME LOAN PRO-**  
14 **GRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
15 **FAIRS.**

16 (a) ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN LIMIT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3703(a)(1) of title  
18 38, United States Code, is amended—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (i) in clause (i)(IV), by striking “the  
21 lesser of the maximum guaranty amount  
22 (as defined in subparagraph (C)) or”;

23 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “sub-  
24 paragraph (B) of this paragraph” and in-  
25 serting “subparagraph (B) or (C)”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (i) by striking “The maximum” and  
3 inserting “With respect to loans described  
4 in subclauses (I), (II), or (III) of subpara-  
5 graph (A)(i), the maximum”; and

6 (ii) by striking “or in the case” and  
7 all that follows through “subparagraph  
8 (C),”; and

9 (C) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-  
10 serting the following new subparagraph (C):

11 “(C)(i) With respect to loans described in subclause  
12 (IV) of subparagraph (A)(i) made to a veteran not covered  
13 by clause (ii), the maximum amount of guaranty entitle-  
14 ment available to the veteran shall be 25 percent of the  
15 loan.

16 “(ii) With respect to loans described in subclause  
17 (IV) of subparagraph (A)(i) made to a covered veteran,  
18 the maximum amount of guaranty entitlement available  
19 to the veteran shall be 25 percent of the Freddie Mac con-  
20 forming loan limit, reduced by the amount of entitlement  
21 previously used by the veteran under this chapter and not  
22 restored as a result of the exclusion in section 3702(b)  
23 of this title.

24 “(iii) In this subparagraph:

1           “(I) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-  
2           eran who has previously used entitlement under this  
3           chapter and for whom the full amount of entitlement  
4           so used has not been restored as a result of the ex-  
5           clusion in section 3702(b) of this title.

6           “(II) The term ‘Freddie Mac conforming loan  
7           limit’ means the limit determined under section  
8           305(a)(2) of the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Cor-  
9           poration Act (12 U.S.C. 1454(a)(2)) for a single-  
10          family residence, as adjusted for the year involved.”.

11          (2) LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.—  
12          Section 3762(c) of such title is amended—

13                 (A) by striking paragraph (1); and

14                 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and  
15                 (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

16          (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
17          3710(d)(4) of such title is amended by striking “sec-  
18          tion 3703(a)(1)(B) of this title” and inserting “sub-  
19          paragraph (B) or (C) of section 3703(a)(1) of this  
20          title”.

21          (b) ADJUSTMENT OF LOAN FEES.—Section  
22          3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
23          by striking the loan fee table and inserting the following:

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(A)(i) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)	2.15	2.40	NA
(A)(ii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	2.30	2.30	NA
(A)(iii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	2.15	2.15	NA
(A)(iv) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	1.40	1.40	NA
(B)(i) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020)	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(ii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	3.60	3.60	NA
(B)(iii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	3.30	3.30	NA

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(B)(iv) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(C)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.50	1.75	NA
(C)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	1.65	1.65	NA
(C)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	1.50	1.50	NA
(C)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.75	0.75	NA
(D)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed before January 1, 2020)	1.25	1.50	NA
(D)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before January 1, 2022)	1.40	1.40	NA
(D)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2022, and before October 1, 2029)	1.25	1.25	NA
(D)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2029)	0.50	0.50	NA
(E) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan	0.50	0.50	NA
(F) Direct loan under section 3711	1.00	1.00	NA
(G) Manufactured home loan under section 3712 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.00	1.00	NA
(H) Loan to Native American veteran under section 3762 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan)	1.25	1.25	NA

“Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(I) Loan assumption under section 3714	0.50	0.50	0.50
(J) Loan under section 3733(a)	2.25	2.25	2.25”.

1 (c) WAIVER OF FEES FOR PURPLE HEART RECIPI-  
2 ENTS.—Section 3729(c)(1) of such title is amended—

3 (1) by striking “or from a surviving spouse”  
4 and inserting “, from a surviving spouse”; and

5 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the  
6 following: “, or from a member of the Armed Forces  
7 who is serving on active duty and who provides, on  
8 or before the date of loan closing, evidence of having  
9 been awarded the Purple Heart”.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
11 this section shall apply with respect to a loan guaranteed  
12 under section 3710 of title 38, United States Code, on  
13 or after January 1, 2020.

14 (e) GUIDANCE.—Notwithstanding section 501 of title  
15 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
16 may issue guidance to implement this section before pre-  
17 scribing new regulations under sections 3703, 3729, and  
18 3762 of such title, as amended by this section.

1 **SEC. 7. INFORMATION GATHERING FOR DEPARTMENT OF**  
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS HOME LOAN APPRAIS-**  
3 **ALS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3731(b) of title 38,  
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
6 following new paragraph:

7 “(3) The Secretary shall permit an appraiser on a  
8 list developed and maintained under subsection (a)(3) to  
9 make an appraisal for the purposes of this chapter based  
10 solely on information gathered by a person with whom the  
11 appraiser has entered into an agreement for such serv-  
12 ices.”.

13 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
14 this section shall apply with respect to an appraisal under  
15 section 3731 of such title, on or after January 1, 2020.

16 (c) **GUIDANCE.**—Notwithstanding section 501 of such  
17 title, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may issue guidance  
18 to implement this section before prescribing new regula-  
19 tions under sections 3731 of such title, as amended by  
20 subsection (a).

21 **SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

22 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
23 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
24 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
25 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
26 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record



1 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-  
2 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the  
3 vote on passage.