

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2227**

**(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)**

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2227

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2019

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. CROW, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. PAPPAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, 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 “Gold Star Spouses and  
3 Spouses of Injured Servicemembers Leasing Relief Expan-  
4 sion Act of 2019”.

5 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF LEASES OF**  
6 **PREMISES AND MOTOR VEHICLES OF**  
7 **SERVICEMEMBERS WHO INCUR CATA-**  
8 **STROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OR DIE**  
9 **WHILE IN MILITARY SERVICE.**

10 (a) CATASTROPHIC INJURIES AND ILLNESSES.—  
11 Paragraph (4) of section 305(a) of the Servicemembers  
12 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3955(a)), as added by section  
13 545 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
14 Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92), is amended to read as  
15 follows:

16 “(4) CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS OF  
17 LESSEE.—

18 “(A) TERMINATION.—If the lessee on a  
19 lease described in subsection (b) incurs a cata-  
20 strophic injury or illness during a period of  
21 military service or while performing covered  
22 service, during the one-year period beginning on  
23 the date on which the lessee incurs such injury  
24 or illness—

25 “(i) the lessee may terminate the  
26 lease; or

1           “(ii) in the case of a lessee who lacks  
2           the mental capacity to contract or to man-  
3           age his or her own affairs (including dis-  
4           bursement of funds without limitation) due  
5           to such injury or illness, the spouse or de-  
6           pendent of the lessee may terminate the  
7           lease.

8           “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9           “(i) The term ‘catastrophic injury or  
10          illness’ has the meaning given that term in  
11          section 439(g) of title 37, United States  
12          Code.

13          “(ii) The term ‘covered service’ means  
14          full-time National Guard duty, active  
15          Guard and Reserve duty, or inactive-duty  
16          training (as such terms are defined in sec-  
17          tion 101(d) of title 10, United States  
18          Code)”.

19          (b) DEATHS.—Paragraph (3) of such section is  
20          amended by striking “The spouse of the lessee” and in-  
21          serting “The spouse or dependent of the lessee”.

        Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the  
        Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to clarify the authority  
        of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or ill-  
        ness while in military service to terminate leases of prem-  
        ises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes.”.