117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize the termination of certain consumer service contracts by a servicemember who enters into such a contract after receiving military orders for permanent change of station, but then receives a stop movement order due to an emergency situation, or a dependent of such a servicemember.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. Levin of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize the termination of certain consumer service contracts by a servicemember who enters into such a contract after receiving military orders for permanent change of station, but then receives a stop movement order due to an emergency situation, or a dependent of such a servicemember.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Emergency Relief for Servicemembers Act”.

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF CERTAIN CONSUMER CONTRACTS BY SERVICEMEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS WHO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS AFTER RECEIVING MILITARY ORDERS FOR PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION BUT THEN RECEIVE STOP MOVEMENT ORDERS DUE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 305A of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. 3956) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “TELEPHONE, MULTICHANNEL VIDEO PROGRAMMING, AND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE” and inserting “CERTAIN CONSUMER”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by adding “OR DEPENDENT OF A SERVICEMEMBER” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “after the date the servicemember receives military orders to relocate for a period of not less than 90 days to a location that does not support the contract.” and inserting “after—”; and
(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(A) the date the servicemember receives military orders to relocate for a period of not less than 90 days to a location that does not support the contract; or

“(B) the date the servicemember, while in military service, receives military orders for a permanent change of station, thereafter enters into the contract, and then receives a stop movement order issued by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security in response to a local, national, or global emergency, effective for an indefinite period or for a period of not less than 30 days, that prevents the servicemember from using the services provided under the contract.”; and

(C) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) The spouse or dependent of a servicemember, described in paragraph (1)(B), who accompanies such servicemember during the period of relocation.”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:
“(b) COVERED CONTRACTS.—A contract described in this subsection is a contract—

“(1) for—

“(A) commercial mobile service;

“(B) telephone exchange service;

“(C) internet access service;

“(D) multichannel video programming service;

“(E) a gym membership or fitness program; or

“(F) home security services; and

“(2) entered into by a servicemember before receiving the military orders referred to in subsection (a)(1).”; and

(4) in subsection (g)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively; and

(B) by inserting, after paragraph (1), the following new paragraph (2):

“(2) The terms ‘military orders’ and ‘permanent change of station’ have the meanings given such terms in section 305.”.
(b) Retroactive Application.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to stop movement orders issued on or after March 1, 2020.