

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 274

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws relating to the payment of certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that are affected by death, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. KIM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws relating to the payment of certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that are affected by death, 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 “Next of Kin Collections
5 Protection Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PAYMENT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **OF CERTAIN BENEFITS AFFECTED BY DEATH.**

3 (a) EFFECTIVE DATE OF CERTAIN REDUCTIONS AND
4 DISCONTINUANCES OF COMPENSATION, DEPENDENCY
5 AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION, AND PENSION UNDER
6 LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-
7 FAIRS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5112(b) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended—

10 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “(except
11 in the case of a pension under an existing rat-
12 ing or decision),” after “death of a payee”;

13 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
14 through (10) as paragraphs (4) through (11),
15 respectively; and

16 (C) by inserting, after paragraph (2), the
17 following new paragraph (3):

18 “(3) by reason of death of a payee in the case
19 of a pension under an existing rating or decision,
20 shall be the last day of the month in which such
21 death occurs;”.

22 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
23 1832(b)(4) of such title is amended by striking
24 “paragraphs (1), (6), (9), and (10)” and inserting
25 “paragraphs (1), (7), (10), and (11)”.

1 (b) PAYMENT OF BENEFITS FOR MONTH OF
2 DEATH.—Section 5310(b) of title 38, United States Code,
3 is amended by inserting “, or in the case of a payment
4 for the month of the death of a payee under section
5 5112(b)(2) of this title,” before “an amount equal”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments to title 38,
7 United States Code, made by this section shall apply with
8 respect to a payment of a benefit affected by a death that
9 occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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