

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1018

To amend provisions of law governing benefits for certain children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 1997

Mr. SPECTER (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend provisions of law governing benefits for certain children of Vietnam veterans who are born with spina bifida, 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. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES**
4 **CODE.**

5 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
6 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
7 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
8 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
9 section or other provision of title 18, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS.**

2 Section 1801 is amended to read as follows:

3 “For the purposes of this chapter—

4 “(1) The term ‘child’, with respect to a Viet-
 5 nam veteran, means a natural child of a Vietnam
 6 veteran, regardless of age or marital status, who was
 7 conceived after the date on which the Vietnam vet-
 8 eran first entered the Republic of Vietnam during
 9 the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and end-
 10 ing on May 7, 1975.

11 “(2) The term ‘Vietnam veteran’ means an in-
 12 dividual who performed active military, naval, or air
 13 service in the Republic of Vietnam during the period
 14 beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May
 15 7, 1975, without regard to the character of such in-
 16 dividual’s service.”.

17 **SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE PRO-**
 18 **VISIONS TO CHAPTER 18.**

19 Section 1806 is amended to read as follows:

20 “The provisions of sections 5101(c), 5110(a), (b)(2),
 21 (g), and (i), 5111, and 5112(a), (b)(1), (b)(6), (b)(9), and
 22 (b)(10) of this title shall be deemed to apply to benefits
 23 under this chapter in the same manner in which they
 24 apply to veterans’ disability compensation.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**
2 **PROVISIONS.**

3 (a) Section 1804(c)(1)(B) is amended by striking out
4 “institution of higher education” and inserting in lieu
5 thereof “institution of higher learning”.

6 (b) Section 1804(d) is amended by adding after para-
7 graph (2) the following new paragraph:

8 “(3) A vocational training program under this
9 section may begin on the child’s eighteenth birthday,
10 or on the successful completion of the child’s second-
11 ary schooling, whichever first occurs, except that, if
12 the child is above the age of compulsory school at-
13 tendance under applicable State law, and the Sec-
14 retary determines that the child’s best interests will
15 be served thereby, the vocational training program
16 may begin before the child’s eighteenth birthday.”

17 **SEC. 5. CONFORMING CHANGES TO EFFECTIVE DATE PRO-**
18 **VISIONS.**

19 (a) Section 421(d) of Public Law 104–204, 110 Stat.
20 2926, is amended by striking out “January 1, 1997” and
21 inserting in lieu thereof “October 1, 1997”.

22 (b) Section 422(b)(1) of Public Law 104–204, 110
23 Stat. 2927, is amended by striking out “October 1, 1996”
24 and inserting in lieu thereof “October 1, 1997”.

25 (c) Section 422(c) of Public Law 104–204, 110 Stat.
26 2927, is repealed.

1 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 The amendments made by this Act shall be effective
3 on October 1, 1997.

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