

Calendar No. 298104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**H. J. RES. 134**

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 21, 1995

Received and read the first time

DECEMBER 22, 1995

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

JOINT RESOLUTION

Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year
1996, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of
4 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
5 and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts,
6 and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corpora-
7 tions and other organizational units of Government for the
8 fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

1 **SEC. 101. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996**
2 **OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK**
3 **OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal
5 year 1996 in which appropriations are not otherwise avail-
6 able for programs, projects, and activities of the Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
8 fairs shall nevertheless ensure that—

9 (1) payments of existing veterans benefits are
10 made in accordance with regular procedures and
11 schedules and in accordance with eligibility require-
12 ments for such benefits; and

13 (2) payments to contractors of the Veterans
14 Health Administration of the Department of Veter-
15 ans Affairs are made when due in the case of serv-
16 ices provided that directly relate to patient health
17 and safety.

18 (b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such
19 sums as may be necessary for the payments pursuant to
20 subsection (a), including such amounts as may be nec-
21 essary for the costs of administration of such payments.

22 (c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIA-
23 TIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses
24 the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applica-
25 ble accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and
26 for the costs of administration of such payments, when

1 regular appropriations become available for those pur-
2 poses.

3 (d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes
4 of this section, existing veterans benefits are benefits
5 under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-
6 fairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for pay-
7 ment as of—

8 (1) December 15, 1995; or

9 (2) if appropriations for such benefits are avail-
10 able (other than pursuant to subsection (b)) after
11 December 15, 1995, the last day on which appro-
12 priations for payment of such benefits are available
13 (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

Passed the House of Representatives December 20,
1995.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.

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