

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2322

To amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a special subsistence allowance for certain members of the uniformed services who are eligible to receive food stamp assistance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 29, 2000

Mr. McCAIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to establish a special subsistence allowance for certain members of the uniformed services who are eligible to receive food stamp assistance, 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 “Remove  
5       Servicemembers from Food Stamps Act of 2000”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE FOR MEMBERS**  
2 **ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FOOD STAMP ASSIST-**  
3 **ANCE.**

4 (a) ALLOWANCE.—(1) Chapter 7 of title 37, United  
5 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 402 the  
6 following new section:

7 **“§ 402a. Special subsistence allowance**

8 “(a) ENTITLEMENT.—Upon the application of an eli-  
9 gible member of a uniformed service described in sub-  
10 section (b), the Secretary concerned shall pay the member  
11 a special subsistence allowance for each month for which  
12 the member is eligible to receive food stamp assistance.

13 “(b) COVERED MEMBERS.—An enlisted member re-  
14 ferred to in subsection (a) is an enlisted member in pay  
15 grade E-5 or below.

16 “(c) TERMINATION OF ENTITLEMENT.—The entitle-  
17 ment of a member to receive payment of a special subsist-  
18 ence allowance terminates upon the occurrence of any of  
19 the following events:

20 “(1) Termination of eligibility for food stamp  
21 assistance.

22 “(2) Payment of the special subsistence allow-  
23 ance for 12 consecutive months.

24 “(3) Promotion of the member to a higher  
25 grade.

1           “(4) Transfer of the member in a permanent  
2           change of station.

3           “(d) REESTABLISHED ENTITLEMENT.—(1) After a  
4           termination of a member’s entitlement to the special sub-  
5           sistence allowance under subsection (c), the Secretary con-  
6           cerned shall resume payment of the special subsistence al-  
7           lowance to the member if the Secretary determines, upon  
8           further application of the member, that the member is eli-  
9           gible to receive food stamps.

10          “(2) Payments resumed under this subsection shall  
11          terminate under subsection (c) upon the occurrence of an  
12          event described in that subsection after the resumption of  
13          the payments.

14          “(3) The number of times that payments are resumed  
15          under this subsection is unlimited.

16          “(e) DOCUMENTATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—A member  
17          of the uniformed services applying for the special subsist-  
18          ence allowance under this section shall furnish the Sec-  
19          retary concerned with such evidence of the member’s eligi-  
20          bility for food stamp assistance as the Secretary may re-  
21          quire in connection with the application.

22          “(f) AMOUNT OF ALLOWANCE.—The monthly  
23          amount of the special subsistence allowance under this  
24          section is \$180.

1       “(g) RELATIONSHIP TO BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR  
2 SUBSISTENCE.—The special subsistence allowance under  
3 this section is in addition to the basic allowance for sub-  
4 sistence under section 402 of this title.

5       “(h) FOOD STAMP ASSISTANCE DEFINED.—In this  
6 section, the term ‘food stamp assistance’ means assistance  
7 under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et  
8 seq.).

9       “(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No special sub-  
10 sistence allowance may be made under this section for any  
11 month beginning after September 30, 2005.”.

12       (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
13 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
14 to section 402 the following:

“402a. Special subsistence allowance.”.

15       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 402a of title 37,  
16 United States Code, shall take effect on the first day of  
17 the first month that begins on or after the date of the  
18 enactment of this Act.

19       (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—(1) Not later than March 1  
20 of each year after 2000, the Comptroller General of the  
21 United States shall submit to Congress a report setting  
22 forth the number of members of the uniformed services  
23 who are eligible for assistance under the Food Stamp Act  
24 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

1           (2) In preparing the report, the Comptroller General  
2 shall consult with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary  
3 of Transportation (with respect to the Coast Guard), the  
4 Secretary of Health and Human Services (with respect to  
5 the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service), and  
6 the Secretary of Commerce (with respect to the commis-  
7 sioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
8 Administration), who shall provide the Comptroller Gen-  
9 eral with any information that the Comptroller General  
10 determines necessary to prepare the report.

11           (3) No report is required under this subsection after  
12 March 1, 2005.

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