

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2654

To provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To provide for enhanced reimbursement of servicemembers and veterans for certain travel expenses.

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 “Citizen Soldier and  
5 Military Veteran Travel Reimbursement Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. VETERANS BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PROGRAM.**

7 (a) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO ADJUST AMOUNTS  
8 DEDUCTED FROM PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES FOR BEN-  
9 EFICIARY TRAVEL.—Section 111(c) of title 38, United  
10 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking paragraph (5); and

2 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “, except as  
3 provided in paragraph (5) of this subsection,”.

4 (b) DETERMINATION OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT  
5 RATE.—Section 111(g) of such title is amended—

6 (1) by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-  
7 lows:

8 “(1) Subject to paragraph (3), in determining the  
9 amount of allowances or reimbursement to be paid under  
10 this section, the Secretary shall use the mileage reimburse-  
11 ment rate for the use of privately owned vehicles by Gov-  
12 ernment employees on official business (when a Govern-  
13 ment vehicle is available), as prescribed by the Adminis-  
14 trator of General Services under section 5707(b) of title  
15 5.”;

16 (2) by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
18 lowing new paragraph (3):

19 “(3) Subject to the availability of appropriations, the  
20 Secretary may modify the amount of allowances or reim-  
21 bursement to be paid under this section using a mileage  
22 reimbursement rate in excess of that prescribed under  
23 paragraph (1).”.

1 **SEC. 3. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCES FOR**  
2 **MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS**  
3 **FOR LONG DISTANCE TRAVEL TO INACTIVE**  
4 **DUTY TRAINING.**

5 (a) ALLOWANCES AUTHORIZED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 7 of title 37, United  
7 States Code, is amended by inserting after section  
8 411j the following new section:

9 **“§411k. Travel and transportation allowances: long**  
10 **distance travel to inactive duty training**  
11 **performed by members of the reserve**  
12 **components of the armed forces**

13 “(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary con-  
14 cerned may reimburse a member of a reserve component  
15 of the armed forces for expenses incurred in connection  
16 with round-trip travel in excess of 100 miles to an inactive  
17 duty training location, including mileage traveled and  
18 lodging and subsistence.

19 “(b) RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

20 “(1) MILEAGE.—In determining the amount of  
21 allowances or reimbursement to be paid for mileage  
22 traveled under this section, the Secretary concerned  
23 shall use the mileage reimbursement rate for the use  
24 of privately owned vehicles by Government employees  
25 on official business (when a Government vehicle is

1 available), as prescribed by the Administrator of  
2 General Services under section 5707(b) of title 5.

3 “(2) LODGING AND SUBSISTENCE.—In deter-  
4 mining the amount of allowances or reimbursement  
5 to be paid for lodging and subsistence under this  
6 section, the Secretary concerned shall use the per  
7 diem rate as prescribed by the Administrator of  
8 General Services under section 5707 of title 5.

9 “(3) AUTHORITY TO REIMBURSE AT HIGHER  
10 RATES.—Subject to the availability of appropriations  
11 and the approval of the Secretary of Defense, the  
12 Secretary concerned may modify the amount of al-  
13 lowances or reimbursement to be paid under this  
14 section using reimbursement rates in excess of those  
15 prescribed under paragraphs (1) and (2).

16 “(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary concerned shall  
17 prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Regulations  
18 prescribed by the Secretary of a military department shall  
19 be subject to the approval of the Secretary of Defense.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
21 at the beginning of chapter 7 of such title is amended by  
22 inserting after the item relating to section 411j the fol-  
23 lowing new item:

“411k. Travel and transportation allowances: long distance travel to inactive  
duty training performed by members of the reserve components  
of the armed forces.”.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       The amendments made by this Act shall apply with  
3 respect to travel expenses incurred after the expiration of  
4 the 90-day period that begins on the date of the enactment  
5 of this Act.

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