117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H. R. 4633

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 22, 2021

Mr. Connolly introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the repayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of benefits misused by a fiduciary.

- 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. IMPROVEMENT TO REPAYMENT BY SECRETARY
- 4 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN MIS-
- 5 USED BENEFITS.
- 6 Section 6107 of title 38, United States Code, is
- 7 amended to read as follows:
- 8 "§ 6107. Reissuance of benefits
- 9 "(a) Reissuance of Misused Benefits.—(1) In
- 10 any case in which a fiduciary misuses all or part of an

- 1 individual's benefit paid to such fiduciary, the Secretary
- 2 shall pay to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's successor
- 3 fiduciary an amount equal to the amount of such benefit
- 4 so misused.
- 5 "(2) In any case in which the Secretary reissues a
- 6 benefit payment (in whole or in part) under paragraph (1),
- 7 the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to obtain
- 8 recoupment from the fiduciary to whom the payment was
- 9 originally made.
- 10 "(3) In any case in which the Secretary obtains
- 11 recoupment from a fiduciary who has misused benefits,
- 12 the Secretary shall promptly remit payment of the re-
- 13 couped amounts to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's suc-
- 14 cessor fiduciary, as the case may be, to the extent that
- 15 such amounts have not been paid under paragraph (1).
- 16 "(b) Limitation on Total Amount Paid.—The
- 17 total of the amounts paid to a beneficiary or the bene-
- 18 ficiary's successor fiduciary under this section may not ex-
- 19 ceed the total benefit amount misused by the fiduciary
- 20 with respect to that beneficiary.
- 21 "(c) Oversight of Negligence.—The Secretary
- 22 shall establish methods and timing with respect to deter-
- 23 mining whether an instance of misuse by a fiduciary of

- 1 all or part of an individual's benefit paid to such fiduciary
- 2 is the result of negligence by the Secretary.".

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