

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. J. RES. 134**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION**

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

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## 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,

1 and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corpora-  
2 tions and other organizational units of Government for the  
3 fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

4 **SEC. 101. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996**  
5 **OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK**  
6 **OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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

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

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

1           (c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIA-  
2 TIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses  
3 the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applica-  
4 ble accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and  
5 for the costs of administration of such payments, when  
6 regular appropriations become available for those pur-  
7 poses.

8           (d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes  
9 of this section, existing veterans benefits are benefits  
10 under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
11 fairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for pay-  
12 ment as of—

13                   (1) December 15, 1995; or

14                   (2) if appropriations for such benefits are avail-  
15 able (other than pursuant to subsection (b)) after  
16 December 15, 1995, the last day on which appro-  
17 priations for payment of such benefits are available  
18 (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

Passed the House of Representatives December 20,  
1995.

Attest:

*Clerk.*