

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3472

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the protection of members of the Armed Forces and their spouses from unscrupulous financial services sales practices through increased consumer education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the protection of members of the Armed Forces and their spouses from unscrupulous financial services sales practices through increased consumer education, 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 “Military Personnel Fi-
5 nancial Services Education Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSUMER EDUCATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
2 **ARMED FORCES AND THEIR SPOUSES ON IN-**
3 **SURANCE AND OTHER FINANCIAL SERVICES.**

4 (a) EDUCATION AND COUNSELING REQUIRE-
5 MENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 50 of title 10,
7 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
8 end the following new section:

9 **“§ 992. Consumer education: financial services**

10 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION
11 PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS.—(1) The Secretary concerned
12 shall carry out a program to provide comprehensive edu-
13 cation to members of the armed forces under the jurisdic-
14 tion of the Secretary on—

15 “(A) financial services that are available under
16 law to members;

17 “(B) financial services that are routinely of-
18 fered by private-sector sources to members;

19 “(C) practices relating to the marketing of pri-
20 vate-sector financial services to members;

21 “(D) such other matters relating to financial
22 services available to members, and the marketing of
23 financial services to members, as the Secretary con-
24 siders appropriate; and

25 “(E) such other financial practices as the Sec-
26 retary considers appropriate.

1 “(2) Training under this subsection shall be provided
2 to members—

3 “(A) as a component of the members’ initial
4 entry training;

5 “(B) as a component of each level of the mem-
6 bers’ professional development training that is re-
7 quired for promotion; and

8 “(C) as a component of periodically recurring
9 required training that is provided for the members
10 at military installations.

11 “(3) The training provided at a military installation
12 under paragraph (2)(C) shall include information on any
13 financial services marketing practices that are particularly
14 prevalent at that military installation and in the vicinity.

15 “(b) COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS AND SPOUSES.—
16 (1) The Secretary concerned shall provide counseling on
17 financial services to each member of the armed forces
18 under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

19 “(2) The Secretary concerned shall, upon request,
20 provide counseling on financial services to the spouse of
21 any member of the armed forces under the jurisdiction of
22 the Secretary.

23 “(3) The Secretary concerned shall provide coun-
24 seling on financial services under this subsection as fol-
25 lows:

1 “(A) In the case of members, and the spouses
2 of members, assigned to a military installation to
3 which at least 750 members of the armed forces are
4 assigned, through a full-time financial services coun-
5 selor at such installation.

6 “(B) In the case of members, and the spouses
7 of members, assigned to a military installation other
8 than an installation described in subparagraph (A),
9 through such mechanisms as the Secretary considers
10 appropriate, including through the provision of coun-
11 seling by a member of the armed forces in pay grade
12 E-7 or above, or a civilian, at such installation who
13 provides such counseling as a part of the other du-
14 ties performed by such member or civilian, as the
15 case may be, at such installation.

16 “(4) Each financial services counselor under para-
17 graph (2)(A), and each individual providing counseling on
18 financial services under paragraph (2)(B), shall be an in-
19 dividual who, by reason of education, training, or experi-
20 ence, is qualified to provide helpful counseling to members
21 of the armed forces and their spouses on financial services
22 and marketing practices described in subsection (a)(1).
23 Such individual may be a member of the armed forces or
24 an employee of the Federal Government.

1 “(5) The Secretary concerned shall take such action
2 as is necessary to ensure that each financial services coun-
3 selor under paragraph (2)(A), and each individual pro-
4 viding counseling on financial services under paragraph
5 (2)(B), is free from conflicts of interest relevant to the
6 performance of duty under this section and, in the per-
7 formance of that duty, is dedicated to furnishing members
8 of the armed forces and their spouses with helpful infor-
9 mation and counseling on financial services and related
10 marketing practices.

11 “(6) The Secretary concerned may authorize financial
12 services counseling to be provided to members of a unit
13 of the armed forces by unit personnel under the guidance
14 and with the assistance of a financial services counselor
15 under paragraph (2)(A) or an individual providing coun-
16 seling on financial services under paragraph (2)(B), as ap-
17 plicable.

18 “(c) LIFE INSURANCE.—(1) In counseling a member
19 of the armed forces, or the spouse of a member of the
20 armed forces, under this section regarding life insurance
21 offered by a private-sector source, a financial services
22 counselor under subsection (b)(2)(A), or an individual pro-
23 viding counseling on financial services under subsection
24 (b)(2)(B), shall furnish the member or spouse, as the case
25 may be, with information on the availability of

1 Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance under subchapter
2 III of chapter 19 of title 38, including information on the
3 amounts of coverage available and the procedures for
4 electing coverage and the amount of coverage.

5 “(2)(A) A junior enlisted member may not authorize
6 payment to be made for private-sector life insurance by
7 means of an allotment of pay to which the member is enti-
8 tled under chapter 3 of title 37 unless the authorization
9 of allotment is accompanied by a written certification by
10 a commander of the member, or by a financial services
11 counselor referred to in subsection (b)(2)(A) or an indi-
12 vidual providing counseling on financial services under
13 subsection (b)(2)(B), as applicable, that the member has
14 received counseling under paragraph (1) regarding the
15 purchase of coverage under that private-sector life insur-
16 ance.

17 “(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), a written certifi-
18 cation described in subparagraph (A) may not be made
19 with respect to a member's authorization of allotment as
20 described in subparagraph (A) until 7 days after the date
21 of the member's authorization of allotment in order to fa-
22 cilitate the provision of counseling to the member under
23 paragraph (1).

1 “(C) The commander of a member may waive the ap-
2 plicability of subparagraph (B) to a member for good
3 cause, including the member’s imminent change of station.

4 “(D) In this paragraph, the term ‘junior enlisted
5 member’ means a member of the armed forces in any of
6 pay grades E–1 through E–4.

7 “(d) FINANCIAL SERVICES DEFINED.—In this sec-
8 tion, the term ‘financial services’ includes the following:

9 “(1) Life insurance, casualty insurance, and
10 other insurance.

11 “(2) Investments in securities or financial in-
12 struments.”.

13 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
14 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
15 by adding at the end the following new item:

“992. Consumer education: financial services.”.

16 (b) CONTINUING EFFECT OF EXISTING ALLOTMENTS
17 FOR LIFE INSURANCE.—Subsection (c)(2) of section 992
18 of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection
19 (a)), shall not affect any allotment of pay authorized by
20 a member of the Armed Forces before the effective date
21 of such section.

22 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this section shall take effect on the first day of the first

1 month that begins more than 120 days after the date of
2 the enactment of this Act.

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