

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6048

AN ACT

To amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the protection of child custody arrangements for parents who are members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROTECTION OF CHILD CUSTODY ARRANGE-**
2 **MENTS FOR PARENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF**
3 **THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT**
4 **OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION.**

5 (a) CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION.—Title II of the
6 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 521 et
7 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new
8 section:

9 **“SEC. 208. CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION.**

10 “(a) RESTRICTION ON CHANGE OF CUSTODY.—If a
11 motion for change of custody of a child of a servicemember
12 is filed while the servicemember is deployed in support of
13 a contingency operation, no court may enter an order
14 modifying or amending any previous judgment or order,
15 or issue a new order, that changes the custody arrange-
16 ment for that child that existed as of the date of the de-
17 ployment of the servicemember, except that a court may
18 enter a temporary custody order if there is clear and con-
19 vincing evidence that it is in the best interest of the child.

20 “(b) COMPLETION OF DEPLOYMENT.—In any pre-
21 ceding covered under subsection (a), a court shall require
22 that, upon the return of the servicemember from deploy-
23 ment in support of a contingency operation, the custody
24 order that was in effect immediately preceding the date
25 of the deployment of the servicemember is reinstated, un-

1 less there is clear and convincing evidence that such a re-
2 instatement is not in the best interest of the child.

3 “(c) EXCLUSION OF MILITARY SERVICE FROM DE-
4 TERMINATION OF CHILD’S BEST INTEREST.—If a motion
5 for the change of custody of the child of a servicemember
6 is filed, no court may consider the absence of the
7 servicemember by reason of deployment, or possibility of
8 deployment, in determining the best interest of the child.

9 “(d) CONTINGENCY OPERATION DEFINED.—In this
10 section, the term ‘contingency operation’ has the meaning
11 given that term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, United
12 States Code, except that the term may include such other
13 deployments as the Secretary may prescribe.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
15 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the
16 end of the items relating to title II the following new item:

“208. Child custody protection.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 20, 2008.

Attest:

Clerk.

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