AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117–54

OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY OF VIRGINIA

At the end of title LI of division E, add the following:

SEC. 5103. IMPROVEMENT TO REPAYMENT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN MISUSED BENEFITS.

Section 6107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 6107. Reissuance of benefits

“(a) Reissuance of Misused Benefits.—(1) In any case in which a fiduciary misuses all or part of an individual’s benefit paid to such fiduciary, the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary or the beneficiary’s successor fiduciary an amount equal to the amount of such benefit so misused.

“(2) In any case in which the Secretary reissues a benefit payment (in whole or in part) under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to obtain recoupment from the fiduciary to whom the payment was originally made.
“(3) In any case in which the Secretary obtains recoupment from a fiduciary who has misused benefits, the Secretary shall promptly remit payment of the recouped amounts to the beneficiary or the beneficiary’s successor fiduciary, as the case may be, to the extent that such amounts have not been paid under paragraph (1).

“(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT PAID.—The total of the amounts paid to a beneficiary or the beneficiary’s successor fiduciary under this section may not exceed the total benefit amount misused by the fiduciary with respect to that beneficiary.

“(c) OVERSIGHT OF NEGLIGENCE.—(1) The Secretary shall establish methods and timing with respect to determining whether an instance of misuse by a fiduciary, of all or part of an individual’s benefit paid to such fiduciary, is the result of negligence by the Secretary.

“(2) The Secretary may not withhold the reissuing of a benefit payment under subsection (a)(1) by reason of a pending determination under paragraph (1).

“(3) The Secretary is not required to make a determination under paragraph (1) for each instance of misuse by a fiduciary, of all or part of an individual’s benefit paid to such fiduciary.”.