

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118-10

OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XVIII the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____ . PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DUR-**
2 **ING WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES**
3 **MERCHANT MARINE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION FUND.—
5 Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code,
6 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 534. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund**

8 “(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—(1) There is in the gen-
9 eral fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Mer-
10 chant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund’ (in this sec-
11 tion referred to as the ‘compensation fund’).

12 “(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations for
13 such purpose, amounts in the compensation fund shall be
14 available to the Secretary without fiscal year limitation to
15 make payments to eligible individuals in accordance with
16 this section.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—(1) An eligible indi-
18 vidual is an individual who—

1 “(A) during the one-year period beginning on
2 the date of the enactment of this section, submits to
3 the Secretary an application containing such infor-
4 mation and assurances as the Secretary may require;

5 “(B) has not received benefits under the Serv-
6 icemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law
7 78–346); and

8 “(C) has engaged in qualified service.

9 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has en-
10 gaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941,
11 and December 31, 1946, the person—

12 “(A) was a member of the United States mer-
13 chant marine (including the Army Transport Service
14 and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crew-
15 member of a vessel that was—

16 “(i) operated by the War Shipping Admin-
17 istration or the Office of Defense Transpor-
18 tation (or an agent of the Administration or Of-
19 fice);

20 “(ii) operated in waters other than inland
21 waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays,
22 and harbors of the United States;

23 “(iii) under contract or charter to, or prop-
24 erty of, the Government of the United States;
25 and

1 “(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

2 “(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise
3 documented for service as a crewmember of such a
4 vessel by an officer or employee of the United States
5 authorized to license or document the person for
6 such service.

7 “(3) In determining the information and assurances
8 required in the application pursuant to paragraph (1)(A),
9 the Secretary shall accept a DD-214 form as proof of
10 qualified service.

11 “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall
12 make one payment out of the compensation fund in the
13 amount of \$25,000 to an eligible individual. The Secretary
14 shall make such a payment to eligible individuals in the
15 order in which the Secretary receives the applications of
16 the eligible individuals.

17 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2024
19 \$125,000,000 for the compensation fund. Such amount
20 shall remain available until expended.

21 “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in docu-
22 ments submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support
23 of the President’s budget for each fiscal year, detailed in-
24 formation on the operation of the compensation fund, in-
25 cluding the number of applicants, the number of eligible

1 individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the
2 compensation fund, the administration of the compensa-
3 tion fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to
4 fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and
5 each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

6 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
7 regulations to carry out this section.”.

8 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
10 prescribe the regulations required under section 534(f) of
11 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

12 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
14 after the item related to section 533 the following new
15 item:

“534. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.”.

