

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3976

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the provision of legal assistance to junior enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces and their dependents in connection with their personal civil legal affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to require the provision of legal assistance to junior enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces and their dependents in connection with their personal civil legal affairs.

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 “Enlisted Legal Assist-
5 ance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GUARANTEED PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE**
2 **TO JUNIOR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES AND THEIR DEPENDENTS.**

4 (a) PROVISION OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE.—Section
5 1044 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsections (a) through (e)
7 as subsections (b) through (f), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting before subsection (b), as so re-
9 designated, the following new subsection (a):

10 “(a) Utilizing such legal staff resources as may be
11 necessary, the Secretary of the department concerned shall
12 provide legal assistance in connection with their personal
13 civil legal affairs to the following persons:

14 “(1) Members of the armed forces under the ju-
15 risdiction of that Secretary in pay grades E-1
16 through E-5 who are on active duty.

17 “(2) Dependents of members described in para-
18 graph (1).

19 “(3) Survivors of a deceased member described
20 in paragraph (1) who were dependents of the mem-
21 ber at the time of the death of the member, except
22 that the eligibility of such survivors shall be deter-
23 mined pursuant to regulations prescribed by that
24 Secretary.”.

25 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(1) Section 1044
26 of title 10, United States Code, is further amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (1) of subsection (b), as re-
2 designated by subsection (a)(1), by inserting “not
3 covered by subsection (a)(1)” after “armed forces”;
4 and

5 (B) in subsection (d), as redesignated by sub-
6 section (a)(1), by striking “ subsection (a)” and in-
7 serting “ subsection (b)”.

8 (2) Section 1044e(d)(1) of title 10, United States
9 Code, is amended by striking “section 1044(d)(2)” and
10 inserting “section 1044(e)(2)”.

○