

## TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR U.S. CITIZENS RETURNED FROM ABROAD

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JUNE 5, 1975.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. LONG, from the Committee on Finance,  
submitted the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 6698]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 6698) to amend section 1113 of the Social Security Act to make permanent the program of temporary assistance for United States citizens returned from abroad, subject to specific limitations on the aggregate dollar amount of such assistance which may be provided and on the period for which such assistance may be furnished in any particular case having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 6698 is to make permanent the authority under section 1113 of the Social Security Act permitting the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to provide temporary assistance to American citizens and their dependents who have been repatriated from foreign countries. A limitation of \$8 million is provided on the authorization for the period from enactment of the bill through September 30, 1976, and of \$300,000 for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1976. The immediate need for legislation arises from the evacuation of substantial numbers of American citizens and their dependents from South Vietnam.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

It is estimated that more than a million U.S. citizens and their dependents live, work, study, and travel abroad. These people are subject to the same hazards as Americans living at home, including ill-

ness, loss of employment, desertion, and family breakup. In the event that these U.S. citizens become public charges in foreign countries, they are subject to deportation.

Section 1113 of the Social Security Act authorizes the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to provide temporary assistance to citizens of the United States who are without resources and who are identified by the Department of State as having returned or having been brought from foreign countries to the United States because they are destitute, or ill, or because of war, invasion, or a similar crisis.

Temporary assistance, financed from Federal funds, to the extent needed, includes financial assistance, reception, medical care, and transportation from the port of entry to the individual's final destination. The program also provides for help in planning for resettlement, obtaining and using existing resources, and locating friends and relatives.

While this program has helped only a relatively few people, the help has been vital to the individuals who have been involved. The Department of State is responsible for bringing the individuals to the shores of the United States, but it has no authority to provide help after arrival in the United States. Under section 1113, temporary assistance is provided only after an individual returns to the United States and has been referred to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare by the Department of State, which certifies that the repatriate is a citizen and states the reason for his return.

Provisions are also included in the program for reception, medical care and temporary assistance for U.S. citizens evacuated to the United States in the event of an international crisis. The range of available assistance and services, the requirement for certification by the Department of State, and the operating methods are essentially the same as those listed above. Most evacuees, however, need only reception services at the port of entry, temporary care, and help in locating friends or relatives. Since 1961, the program has assisted U.S. citizens repatriated from two countries because of international crises—Cuba and the Dominican Republic. The potential need arising from the evacuation of American citizens from South Vietnam greatly exceeds amounts which have actually been used in former international crises.

The Social and Rehabilitation Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare is responsible for the administration of this program and arranges for the facilities of State and local welfare agencies to be utilized in carrying out the program. These agencies are reimbursed for their costs.

Section 1113 was originally enacted in 1961 and has been extended on several occasions for periods of 1 or 2 years. Expenditures in recent years have ranged from \$146,000 to \$252,000. The number of cases referred has been approximately 500 per year.

#### COSTS OF CARRYING OUT THE BILL AND VOTE OF THE COMMITTEE IN REPORTING THE BILL

In compliance with section 252(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the following statement is made relative to the costs incurred in carrying out this bill. The authorization figures contained in the bill represent the maximum estimates by the committee of the

amounts likely to be needed for the program for the period from the date of enactment to September 30, 1976 (primarily the fiscal year 1976). The committee believes that \$8 million will be sufficient even if the temporary needs of Americans and their dependents returned from Vietnam have to be fully met under this authority. The authorization of \$300,000 for each of the succeeding 4 fiscal years is slightly larger than the recent rate of expenditure—\$252,000. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare agrees with these estimates.

In compliance with section 133 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the following statement is made relative to the vote by the committee to report the bill. The bill was ordered reported by voice vote.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with subsection (4) of Rule XXIX of the standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman) :

#### SECTION 1113 OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

##### ASSISTANCE FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS RETURNED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

SEC. 1113. (a) (1) The Secretary is authorized to provide temporary assistance to citizens of the United States and to dependents of citizens of the United States, if they (A) are identified by the Department of State as having returned, or been brought, from a foreign country to the United States because of the destitution of the citizen of the United States or the illness of such citizen or any of his dependents or because of war, threat of war, invasion, or similar crisis, and (B) are without available resources.

(2) Except in such cases or classes of cases as are set forth in regulations of the Secretary, provision shall be made for reimbursement to the United States by the recipients of the temporary assistance to cover the cost thereof.

(3) The Secretary may provide assistance under paragraph (1) directly or through utilization of the services and facilities of appropriate public or private agencies and organizations, in accordance with agreements providing for payment, in advance or by way of reimbursement, as may be determined by the Secretary, of the cost thereof. Such cost shall be determined by such statistical, sampling, or other method as may be provided in the agreement.

(b) The Secretary is authorized to develop plans and make arrangements for provision of temporary assistance within the United States to individuals specified in subsection (a) (1). Such plans shall be developed and such arrangements shall be made after consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Defense. To the extent feasible, assistance provided under subsection

(a) shall be provided in accordance with the plans developed pursuant to this subsection, as modified from time to time by the Secretary.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "temporary assistance" means money payments, medical care, temporary billeting, transportation, and other goods and services necessary for the health or welfare of individuals (including guidance, counseling, and other welfare services) furnished to them within the United States upon their arrival in the United States and for such period after their arrival, *not exceeding 90 days*, as may be provided in regulations of the Secretary; *except that assistance under this section may be furnished beyond such 90-day period in the case of any citizen or dependent upon a finding by the Secretary that the circumstances involved necessitate or justify the furnishing of assistance beyond such period in that particular case.*

[(d) No temporary assistance may be provided under this section after June 30, 1973.]

(d) *The total amount of temporary assistance provided under this section shall not exceed—*

(1) *\$8,000,000 during the fiscal years ending June 30, 1975, and June 30, 1976, and the succeeding calendar quarter, or*

(2) *\$300,000 during any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1976.*

