

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4850

To provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing compensation and life insurance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2000

Mr. STUMP (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. QUINN, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To provide a cost-of-living adjustment in rates of compensation paid to veterans with service-connected disabilities, to enhance programs providing compensation and life insurance benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

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 “Veterans Benefits Act
5 of 2000”

**TITLE I—ANNUAL
COMPENSATION INCREASE**

**SEC. 101. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-
TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY
COMPENSATION.**

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2000, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

(b) AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.—The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are the following:

(1) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under sections 1115(1) of such title.

(3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

(4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

1 (5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar
2 amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such
3 title.

4 (6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES
5 WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-
6 fect under section 1311(b) of such title.

7 (7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The
8 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and
9 1311(d) of such title.

10 (8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The
11 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and
12 1314 of such title.

13 (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-
14 crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar
15 amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-
16 ber 30, 2000. Each such amount shall be increased by the
17 same percentage as the percentage by which benefit
18 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act
19 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December
20 1, 2000, as a result of a determination under section
21 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

22 (2) In the computation of increased dollar amounts
23 pursuant to paragraph (1), any amount which as so com-
24 puted is not a whole dollar amount shall be rounded down
25 to the next lower whole dollar amount.

1 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust ad-
2 ministratively, consistent with the increases made under
3 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-
4 able to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public
5 Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of
6 compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38,
7 United States Code.

8 **SEC. 102. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

9 At the same time as the matters specified in section
10 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of
12 a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act
13 during fiscal year 2000, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
14 shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified
15 in subsection (b) of section 101, as increased pursuant to
16 that section.

TITLE II—BENEFITS IMPROVEMENTS

**SEC. 201. STROKES AND HEART ATTACKS INCURRED OR
AGGRAVATED BY MEMBERS OF RESERVE
COMPONENTS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
DUTY WHILE PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY
TRAINING TO BE CONSIDERED TO BE SERVICE-
CONNECTED.**

(a) SCOPE OF TERM “ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR
AIR SERVICE”.—Section 101(24) of title 38, United
States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(24) The term “active military, naval, or air service”
includes—

“(A) active duty;

“(B) any period of active duty for training during
which the individual concerned was disabled or
died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated
in line of duty; and

“(C) any period of inactive duty training during
which the individual concerned was disabled or
died—

“(i) from an injury incurred or aggravated
in line of duty; or

1 “(ii) from an acute myocardial infarction,
2 a cardiac arrest, or a cerebrovascular accident
3 occurring during such training.”.

4 (b) TRAVEL TO OR FROM TRAINING DUTY.—Section
5 106(d) of such title is amended—

6 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(d)”;

7 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
8 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

9 (3) by inserting “or covered disease” after “in-
10 jury” each place it appears;

11 (4) by designating the second sentence as para-
12 graph (2);

13 (5) by designating the third sentence as para-
14 graph (3); and

15 (6) by adding at the end the following new
16 paragraph:

17 “(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘cov-
18 ered disease’ means any of the following:

19 “(A) Acute myocardial infarction.

20 “(B) A cardiac arrest.

21 “(C) A cerebrovascular accident.”.

1 **SEC. 202. COMPENSATION TO BE PAID AT SO-CALLED “K”**
 2 **RATE FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED LOSS OF**
 3 **ONE OR BOTH BREASTS DUE TO RADICAL**
 4 **MASTECTOMY.**

5 Section 1114(k) of title 38, United States Code, is
 6 amended by inserting “or one or both breasts due to a
 7 radical mastectomy or modified radical mastectomy,” after
 8 “loss or loss of use of one or more creative organs,”.

9 **TITLE III—VETERANS LIFE**
 10 **INSURANCE**

11 **SEC. 301. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE INDI-**
 12 **VIDUAL READY RESERVE FOR**
 13 **SERVICEMEMBERS’ GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

14 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1965(5) of title 38,
 15 United States Code, is amended—

16 (1) by striking “and” at the end of subpara-
 17 graph (B);

18 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
 19 paragraph (D); and

20 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
 21 lowing new subparagraph (C):

22 “(C) a person who volunteers for assign-
 23 ment to a mobilization category in the Indi-
 24 vidual Ready Reserve, as defined in section
 25 12304(i)(1) of title 10; and”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Sections 1967(a),
2 1968(a), and 1969(a)(2)(A) of such title are amended by
3 striking “section 1965(5)(B) of this title” each place it
4 appears and inserting “subparagraphs (B) or (C) of sec-
5 tion 1965(5) of this title”.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 this section take effect on October 1, 2000.

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