

Union Calendar No. 450

106TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4850

[Report No. 106-783]

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

JULY 24, 2000

Additional sponsors: Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. KLINK, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. REYES, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SHIMKUS, and Mr. BONIOR

JULY 24, 2000

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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”

6 **TITLE I—ANNUAL**
7 **COMPENSATION INCREASE**

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

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

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

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

22 (2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-**
23 **ENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under
24 sections 1115(1) of such title.

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

3 (4) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in
4 effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
5 1311(a) of such title.

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

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

12 (7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The
13 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and
14 1311(d) of such title.

15 (8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The
16 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and
17 1314 of such title.

18 (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-
19 crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar
20 amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-
21 ber 30, 2000. Each such amount shall be increased by the
22 same percentage as the percentage by which benefit
23 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act
24 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December

1 1, 2000, as a result of a determination under section
2 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

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

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

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

15 At the same time as the matters specified in section
16 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
17 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of
18 a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act
19 during fiscal year 2000, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
20 shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified
21 in subsection (b) of section 101, as increased pursuant to
22 that section.

1 **TITLE II—BENEFITS**
2 **IMPROVEMENTS**

3 **SEC. 201. STROKES AND HEART ATTACKS INCURRED OR**
4 **AGGRAVATED BY MEMBERS OF RESERVE**
5 **COMPONENTS IN THE PERFORMANCE OF**
6 **DUTY WHILE PERFORMING INACTIVE DUTY**
7 **TRAINING TO BE CONSIDERED TO BE SERV-**
8 **ICE-CONNECTED.**

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

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

14 “(A) active duty;

15 “(B) any period of active duty for training dur-
16 ing which the individual concerned was disabled or
17 died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated
18 in line of duty; and

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

22 “(i) from an injury incurred or aggravated
23 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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