In the Senate of the United States,

September 26, 2002.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 4085) entitled "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living increase in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disability and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses of such veterans, to expand certain benefits for veterans and their survivors, and for other purposes.", do pass with the following

AMENDMENTS:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2   *This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation*

3 *Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002".*

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2002, 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 section 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.

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

1   *(6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES*

2   *WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in effect*

3   *under section 1311(b) of such title.*

4   *(7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The dol-*

5   *lar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and*

6   *1311(d) of such title.*

7   *(8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dol-*

8   *lar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and*

9   *1314 of such title.*

10   *(c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The increase*

11 *under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts*

12 *specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30,*

13 *2002.*

14   *(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such*

15 *amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the*

16 *percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II*

17 *of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are in-*

18 *creased effective December 1, 2002, as a result of a deter-*

19 *mination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.*

20 *415(i)).*

21   *(3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to para-*

22 *graph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded*

23 *down to the next lower whole dollar amount.*

24   *(d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust ad-*

25 *ministratively, consistent with the increases made under*

1 *subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable*

2 *to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law*

3 *85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensa-*

4 *tion payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United*

5 *States Code.*

6 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

7 *At the same time as the matters specified in section*

8 *215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*

9 *415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a*

10 *determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during*

11 *fiscal year 2003, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pub-*

12 *lish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in sub-*

13 *section (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that sec-*

14 *tion.*

Amend the title so as to read: ''An Act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2002, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.''.

Attest:

Secretary.