

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4798

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide an increase in the maximum annual rates of pension payable to surviving spouses of veterans of a period of war, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2002

Mr. BERRY (for himself, Mr. BACA, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide an increase in the maximum annual rates of pension payable to surviving spouses of veterans of a period of war, 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 “Widows of Wartime
5 Veterans Assistance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ANNUAL RATES OF PEN-**
2 **SION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS**
3 **OF A PERIOD OF WAR.**

4 (a) INCREASE.—Section 1541 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “as increased”
7 and inserting “as increased under subsection (f),
8 and as further increased”;

9 (2) by redesignating subsections (f), (g), and
10 (h) as subsections (g), (h), and (i), respectively; and

11 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
12 lowing new subsection (f):

13 “(f)(1) Effective for months after November of the
14 year of the enactment of this subsection, the annual rate
15 of pension payable to a surviving spouse under a provision
16 referred to in paragraph (2) shall be increased for any
17 year by the amount equal to the difference between—

18 “(A) the current poverty line (as that term is
19 defined in section 673(2) of the Community Services
20 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) for that year
21 for a one-person family unit in the 48 contiguous
22 States and the District of Columbia; and

23 “(B) the annual rate of pension in effect under
24 subsection (b) in November of that year.

25 “(2) A provision referred to in this paragraph is any
26 of the following provisions of this section:

1 “(A) Subsection (b).

2 “(B) The first sentence of subsection (c).

3 “(C) Subsection (d)(1).

4 “(D) The first sentence of subsection (d)(2).

5 “(E) The first sentence of subsection (e)(1).”.

6 (b) DISREGARD OF INCREASED AMOUNT FOR PUR-
7 POSES OF MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1902(r)(1) of
8 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(r)(1)) is amend-
9 ed by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

10 “(C) In determining for purposes of this title the in-
11 come of a surviving spouse of a veteran who receives a
12 monthly pension under section 1541 of title 38, United
13 States Code, such income shall not include any amount
14 attributable to the application of subsection (f) of that sec-
15 tion.”.

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