

108<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1683

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2003

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## AN ACT

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2003, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled 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’ Compensa-  
5 tion Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-**  
7                   **TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**  
8                   **COMPENSATION.**

9       (a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans  
10 Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2003, increase the  
11 dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
12 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by  
13 the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16          (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-  
17 crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar  
18 amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-  
19 ber 30, 2003.

20          (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such  
21 amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the  
22 percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title  
23 II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are  
24 increased effective December 1, 2003, as a result of a de-

1 termination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 415(i)).

3 (3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to para-  
4 graph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded  
5 down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

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

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

14 At the same time as the matters specified in section  
15 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of  
17 a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act  
18 during fiscal year 2004, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
19 shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified  
20 in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to  
21 that section.

Passed the House of Representatives May 22, 2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*