

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 850

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide special compensation for former prisoners of war, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. SIMPSON (for himself, Mr. COX, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. DREIER, Mr. HYDE, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. LEACH, Mr. OTTER, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide special compensation for former prisoners 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 “Former Prisoners of  
5 War Special Compensation Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL COMPENSATION FOR FORMER PRISONERS**  
2 **OF WAR.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United  
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
5 lowing new subchapter:

6 “SUBCHAPTER VII—FORMER PRISONERS OF  
7 WAR

8 “§ 1181. **Special compensation: former prisoners of**  
9 **war**

10 “(a)(1) The Secretary shall pay monthly to each vet-  
11 eran who is a former prisoner of war and who while a  
12 prisoner of war was detained or interned for not less than  
13 30 days special compensation at the rate specified in sub-  
14 section (b).

15 “(2) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘vet-  
16 eran’ includes an individual serving on active duty.

17 “(b) The rate of special compensation for purposes  
18 of this section shall be as follows:

19 “(1) If the former prisoner of war was detained  
20 or interned for a period of not more than 120 days,  
21 the monthly amount of special compensation payable  
22 shall be \$150.

23 “(2) If the former prisoner of war was detained  
24 or interned for a period of more than 120 days and  
25 not more than 540 days, the monthly amount of spe-  
26 cial compensation payable shall be \$300.

1           “(3) If the former prisoner of war was detained  
2           or interned for a period of more than 540 days, the  
3           monthly amount of special compensation payable  
4           shall be \$450.

5           “(c) If a former prisoner of war was detained or in-  
6           terned on two or more separate occasions, the cumulative  
7           length of all occasions of confinement or internment as  
8           a prisoner of war shall determine the monthly compensa-  
9           tion rate payable under subsection (b).

10   **“§ 1182. Provisions relating to special compensation**  
11                           **for former prisoners of war**

12           “(a) Special compensation payable under this sub-  
13           chapter shall be paid in addition to any other payment  
14           under the laws of the United States. Amounts paid to an  
15           individual under this subchapter shall not be considered  
16           to be income or resources for purposes of determining eli-  
17           gibility to receive benefits under any Federal or federally  
18           assisted program.

19           “(b) Special compensation payable under this sub-  
20           chapter shall not be considered to be compensation within  
21           the meaning of that term in section 101(13) of this title.

22           “(c) The provisions of subsection (c) of section 1562  
23           of this title shall apply to special compensation under this  
24           subchapter in the same manner as to special pension  
25           under that section.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
 3 at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER VII—FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR

“1181. Special compensation: former prisoners of war.

“1182. Provisions relating to special compensation for former prisoners of war.”.

4 **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT**  
 5 **OF COMPENSATION FOR ALCOHOL OR DRUG-**  
 6 **RELATED DISABILITY.**

7 (a) CLARIFICATION.—Sections 1110 and 1131 of title  
 8 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting  
 9 “, even if the abuse is secondary to a service-connected  
 10 disability” before the period at the end.

11 (a) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
 12 section (a) apply to any claim—

13 (1) filed on or after the date of the enactment  
 14 of this Act; or

15 (2) filed before the date of the enactment of  
 16 this Act and not finally decided as of that date.

17 **SEC. 4. OUTPATIENT DENTAL CARE FOR ALL FORMER**  
 18 **PRISONERS OF WAR.**

19 Section 1712(a)(1)(F) of title 38, United States  
 20 Code, is amended by striking “and who was detained or  
 21 interned for a period of not less than 90 days”.

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