

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2243

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2009

Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. WALZ, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. ROONEY, Mrs. BONO MACK, Mr. KLINE of Minnesota, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. JONES, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Surviving Spouses’
5 Benefit Improvement Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DEPENDENCY AND IN-**
2 **DEMNITY COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO SUR-**
3 **VIVING SPOUSES BY THE SECRETARY OF**
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) INCREASE.—Section 1311 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “of
9 \$1,091” and inserting “equal to 55 percent of
10 the rate of monthly compensation in effect
11 under section 1114(j) of this title”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (3)—

13 (i) by striking “\$1,067” each place it
14 appears and inserting “\$1,292”;

15 (ii) by striking “1,104” and inserting
16 “\$1,337”;

17 (iii) by striking “\$1,165” both places
18 it appears and inserting “\$1,411”;

19 (iv) by striking “\$1,215” and insert-
20 ing “\$1,472”;

21 (v) by striking “\$1,128” both places
22 it appears and inserting “\$1,365”;

23 (vi) by striking “\$1,172” and insert-
24 ing “\$1,419”;

25 (vii) by striking “\$1,207” and insert-
26 ing “\$1,462”;

1 (viii) by striking “\$1,276” and insert-
2 ing “\$1,546”;

3 (ix) by striking “\$1,246” and insert-
4 ing “\$1,509”;

5 (x) by striking “\$1,319” and inserting
6 “\$1,598”;

7 (xi) by striking “\$1,452” and insert-
8 ing “\$1,760”;

9 (xii) by striking “\$1,637” and insert-
10 ing “\$1,984”;

11 (xiii) by striking “\$1,768” and insert-
12 ing “\$2,141”;

13 (xiv) by striking “\$1,941” and insert-
14 ing “\$2,352”;

15 (xv) by striking “\$2,076” and insert-
16 ing “\$2,516”;

17 (xvi) by striking “\$2,276” and insert-
18 ing “\$2,759”;

19 (xvii) by striking “\$1,342” and insert-
20 ing “\$1,589”; and

21 (xviii) by striking “\$2,499” and in-
22 sserting “\$2,960”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
24 section:

1 “(g) In the case of an individual who is eligible for
2 dependency and indemnity compensation under this sec-
3 tion who is also eligible for benefits under another provi-
4 sion of law by reason of such individual’s status as the
5 surviving spouse of a veteran, then, notwithstanding any
6 other provision of law (other than section 5304(b)(3) of
7 this title), neither a reduction nor an offset in benefits
8 under such provision shall be made by reason of such indi-
9 vidual’s eligibility for benefits under this section.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to compensation
12 paid under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code,
13 for months beginning after the date that is 6 months after
14 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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