

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1836

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in 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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in 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’ Disability
5 Compensation Automatic COLA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DIS-**
2 **ABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY**
3 **AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

4 (a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—
5 Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit
8 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination
10 made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)),
11 the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase
12 in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect
13 for the payment of disability compensation and depend-
14 ency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as
15 specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect
16 immediately before the date of such increase in benefit
17 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act,
18 by the same percentage as the percentage by which such
19 benefit amounts are increased.

20 “(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to
21 paragraph (1) are the following:

22 “(A) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar
23 amounts in effect under section 1114 of this title.

24 “(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DE-
25 PENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect
26 under section 1115(1) of this title.

1 “(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar
2 amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

3 “(D) NEW DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar
4 amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of
5 section 1311(a) of this title.

6 “(E) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar
7 amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of this
8 title.

9 “(F) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES
10 WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-
11 fect under section 1311(b) of this title.

12 “(G) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—Each
13 of the dollar amounts in effect under subsections (c)
14 and (d) of section 1311 of this title.

15 “(H) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Each
16 of the dollar amounts in effect under sections
17 1313(a) and 1314 of this title.

18 “(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph
19 (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-
20 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation,
21 the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased
22 pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at
23 the same time as the material required by section
24 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

1 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination
2 under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section
4 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
5 section (a) of this section, shall take effect on the first
6 day of the first calendar year that begins after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act.

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