

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 189

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

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

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 of 2021”.

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 amend-
 6 ed—

7 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 8 section (d);

9 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 10 lowing new subsection:

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

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

1 “(A) DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Each of the
2 dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of this
3 title.

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

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

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

12 “(E) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar
13 amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of this
14 title.

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

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

21 “(H) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Each
22 of the dollar amounts in effect under sections
23 1313(a) and 1314 of this title.”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end of subsection (d), as
2 redesignated by paragraph (1), the following new
3 paragraph:

4 “(3) Whenever there is an increase under subsection
5 (c)(1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability
6 compensation and dependency and indemnity compensa-
7 tion, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as in-
8 creased pursuant to such subsection, in the Federal Reg-
9 ister at the same time as the material required by section
10 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
11 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination
12 under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c) of section
14 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
15 section (a) of this section, shall take effect on the first
16 day of the first calendar year that begins after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act.

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