

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# **S. 2617**

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## **AN ACT**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to codify increases in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans that were effective as of December 1, 2007, to provide for an increase in the rates of such compensation effective December 1, 2008, 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 2008”.

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

9       (a) RATE ADJUSTMENT.—Effective on December 1,  
10      2008, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in  
11      accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in ef-  
12      fect on November 30, 2008, for the payment of disability  
13      compensation and dependency and indemnity compensa-  
14      tion under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

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

18               (1) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—  
19      Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of  
20      title 38, United States Code.

21               (2) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-  
22      ENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts under section  
23      1115(1) of such title.

24               (3) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar  
25      amount under section 1162 of such title.

1           (4) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSA-  
2           TION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the dollar  
3           amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of sec-  
4           tion 1311 of such title.

5           (5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSA-  
6           TION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts  
7           under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

8           (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—

9           (1) PERCENTAGE.—Except as provided in para-  
10          graph (2), each dollar amount described in sub-  
11          section (b) shall be increased by the same percentage  
12          as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable  
13          under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
14          401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1,  
15          2008, as a result of a determination under section  
16          215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

17          (2) ROUNDING.—Each dollar amount increased  
18          under paragraph (1), if not a whole dollar amount,  
19          shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar  
20          amount.

21          (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
22          fairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the in-  
23          creases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability  
24          compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Pub-  
25          lic Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received

1 compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States  
2 Code.

3 (e) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.—The Sec-  
4 retary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal  
5 Register the amounts specified in subsection (b), as in-  
6 creased under that subsection, not later than the date on  
7 which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the  
8 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required  
9 to be published by reason of a determination made under  
10 section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2009.

11 **SEC. 3. CODIFICATION OF 2007 COST-OF-LIVING ADJUST-**  
12 **MENT IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-**  
13 **TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**  
14 **COMPENSATION.**

15 (a) VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Sec-  
16 tion 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$115” and  
18 inserting “\$117”;

19 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$225” and  
20 inserting “\$230”;

21 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$348” and  
22 inserting “\$356”;

23 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “\$501” and  
24 inserting “\$512”;

1           (5) in subsection (e), by striking “\$712” and  
2     inserting “\$728”;

3           (6) in subsection (f), by striking “\$901” and  
4     inserting “\$921”;

5           (7) in subsection (g), by striking “\$1,135” and  
6     inserting “\$1,161”;

7           (8) in subsection (h), by striking “\$1,319” and  
8     inserting “\$1,349”;

9           (9) in subsection (i), by striking “\$1,483” and  
10    inserting “\$1,517”;

11          (10) in subsection (j), by striking “\$2,471” and  
12    inserting “\$2,527”;

13          (11) in subsection (k)—

14                (A) by striking “\$89” both places it ap-  
15    pears and inserting “\$91”; and

16                (B) by striking “\$3,075” and “\$4,313”  
17    and inserting “\$3,145” and “\$4,412”, respec-  
18    tively;

19          (12) in subsection (l), by striking “\$3,075” and  
20    inserting “\$3,145”;

21          (13) in subsection (m), by striking “\$3,392”  
22    and inserting “\$3,470”;

23          (14) in subsection (n), by striking “\$3,860”  
24    and inserting “\$3,948”;

1           (15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking  
2       “\$4,313” each place it appears and inserting  
3       “\$4,412”;

4           (16) in subsection (r), by striking “\$1,851” and  
5       “\$2,757” and inserting “\$1,893” and “\$2,820”, re-  
6       spectively; and

7           (17) in subsection (s), by striking “\$2,766” and  
8       inserting “\$2,829”.

9       (b) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-  
10   ENTS.—Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

11           (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$139”  
12       and inserting “\$142”;

13           (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$240”  
14       and “\$70” and inserting “\$245” and “\$71”, respec-  
15       tively;

16           (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$94” and  
17       “\$70” and inserting “\$96” and “\$71”, respectively;

18           (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking “\$112”  
19       and inserting “\$114”;

20           (5) in subparagraph (E), by striking “\$265”  
21       and inserting “\$271”; and

22           (6) in subparagraph (F), by striking “\$222”  
23       and inserting “\$227”.

1 (c) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED  
 2 VETERANS.—Section 1162 of such title is amended by  
 3 striking “\$662” and inserting “\$677”.

4 (d) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION  
 5 FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.—

6 (1) NEW LAW DIC.—Section 1311(a) of such  
 7 title is amended—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1,067”  
 9 and inserting “\$1,091”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$228”  
 11 and inserting “\$233”.

12 (2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3)  
 13 of such section is amended to read as follows:

| “Pay grade | Monthly rate         | Pay grade  | Monthly rate         |
|------------|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| E-1 .....  | \$1,091              | W-4 .....  | \$1,305              |
| E-2 .....  | \$1,091              | O-1 .....  | \$1,153              |
| E-3 .....  | \$1,091              | O-2 .....  | \$1,191              |
| E-4 .....  | \$1,091              | O-3 .....  | \$1,274              |
| E-5 .....  | \$1,091              | O-4 .....  | \$1,349              |
| E-6 .....  | \$1,091              | O-5 .....  | \$1,485              |
| E-7 .....  | \$1,129              | O-6 .....  | \$1,674              |
| E-8 .....  | \$1,191              | O-7 .....  | \$1,808              |
| E-9 .....  | \$1,242 <sup>1</sup> | O-8 .....  | \$1,985              |
| W-1 .....  | \$1,153              | O-9 .....  | \$2,123              |
| W-2 .....  | \$1,198              | O-10 ..... | \$2,328 <sup>2</sup> |
| W-3 .....  | \$1,234              |            |                      |

<sup>1</sup> If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$1,342.

<sup>2</sup> If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$2,499.”

14 (3) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN OR DIS-  
 15 ABILITY.—Section 1311 of such title is amended—

1 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “\$265”  
 2 and inserting “\$271”;

3 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “\$265”  
 4 and inserting “\$271”; and

5 (C) in subsection (d), by striking “\$126”  
 6 and inserting “\$128”.

7 (e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION  
 8 FOR CHILDREN.—

9 (1) DIC WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Section  
 10 1313(a) of such title is amended—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$452”  
 12 and inserting “\$462”;

13 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$649”  
 14 and inserting “\$663”;

15 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$846”  
 16 and inserting “\$865”; and

17 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$846”  
 18 and “\$162” and inserting “\$865” and “\$165”,  
 19 respectively.

20 (2) SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR CERTAIN CHIL-  
 21 DREN.—Section 1314 of such title is amended—

22 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$265”  
 23 and inserting “\$271”;

24 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$452”  
 25 and inserting “\$462”; and

1                   (C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$225”  
2                   and inserting “\$230”.

3           (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
4 this section shall take effect on December 1, 2007.

Passed the Senate July 30, 2008.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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