

SHARRI BRILEY AND ERIC EDMUNDSON VETERANS
BENEFITS EXPANSION ACT OF 2026

APRIL 2, 2026.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. BOST, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 6047]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6047) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the dollar amounts for the payment of certain disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under the laws administered by the Secretary, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF CERTAIN DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) INCREASE TO RATES OF WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(u) In the case of a veteran eligible for a monthly aid and attendance allowance under subsection (r) or subsection (t) of this section, the Secretary shall, in addition to the total amount of compensation for which the veteran is eligible under this section, pay the veteran a supplemental monthly allowance at the rate of \$833.33.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (u) of such section (as added by paragraph (1)) shall take effect on December 1, 2026, and shall apply to months beginning on or after such date.

(b) INCREASE TO RATES OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.—Section 5312 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, except as provided in paragraph (2), effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311(a) of this title, as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by a percentage equal to the sum of—

“(A) the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased; and

“(B) one percent.

“(2) After the first increase under paragraph (1) to the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311(a) of this title, the Secretary shall carry out paragraph (1)(B) by substituting ‘one half of one percent’ for ‘one percent’.

“(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

“(4) The requirement to increase, pursuant to paragraph (1), the amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311 (a) of this title by the Secretary shall—

“(A) take effect on December 1, 2026, and shall apply with respect to months beginning on or after such date; and

“(B) terminate after the date on which the second increase to such amounts pursuant to such paragraph occurs.”.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF WAIVERS OF FEES COLLECTED FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED, INSURED, OR MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 3729(b)(2) of such title is amended, in the loan fee table—

(1) by striking “June 9, 2034” each place it appears and inserting “September 30, 2036”;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “0.50” both places it appears and inserting “1.40”; and

(3) in subparagraph (I), by striking “0.50” each place it appears and inserting “1.0”.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF PENSION.

Section 5503(d)(7) of such title is amended by striking “January 31, 2033” and inserting “September 30, 2036”.

SEC. 5. HOME AFFORDABILITY FOR GUARD AND RESERVE.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Home Affordability for Guard and Reserve Act”.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS AND THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR GUARANTEED HOUSING LOANS.**—

(1) **EXPANDED DEFINITION OF “ACTIVE DUTY” FOR PURPOSES OF HOUSING LOANS.**—Section 3701(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(9) The term ‘active duty’ has the meanings as follows:

“(A) In the case of members of the regular components of the Armed Forces, the meaning given such term in section 101(21)(A).

“(B) In the case of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces—

“(i) service on active duty (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10), inactive-duty training (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10), or annual training duty; or

“(ii) service on active duty under a call or order to active duty under section 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, or 12304b of title 10 or section 713 of title 14, but not including inactive duty training (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10) or annual training duty.

“(C) In the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, in addition to service described in subparagraph (B), full-time service—

“(i) in the National Guard of a State for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard;

“(ii) in the National Guard when performing full-time National Guard duty (as defined in section 101 of title 32); or

“(iii) in the National Guard when performing active duty (as defined in section 101 of title 32).”.

(2) **RETROACTIVE APPLICABILITY TO SERVICE PERFORMED.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to any service performed on or after September 11, 2001.

(c) **EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GUARANTEED HOUSING LOANS TO CERTAIN ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL UPON PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL LOAN FEE.**—

(1) **EXPANSION TO INDIVIDUALS WITH AT LEAST 14 DAYS OF SERVICE.**—Section 3701(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after paragraph (7) the following new paragraph:

“(8) The term ‘veteran’ also includes, for purposes of home loans (subject to the additional loan fee in section 3729(b)(4)(J) of this title), an individual who—

“(A) is not otherwise eligible for the benefits of this chapter;

“(B) has completed a total service of at least 14 days on active duty under paragraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (9); and

“(C) following completion of such service, continued to serve until the completion of entry level and skill training (as defined in section 3301(3) of this title).”.

(2) **BASIC ENTITLEMENT.**—Section 3702(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(H) Each individual described in section 3701(b)(8) of this title.”.

(3) **ADDITIONAL LOAN FEE FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS.**—Section 3729(b)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(J) In the case of a housing loan in which the veteran has eligibility under section 3701(b)(8) of this title and does not otherwise have eligibility, the loan fee table in paragraph (2) shall be applied to the veteran or other obligor (as applicable) by adding 1.00 to the percentage in the table.”.

(4) **NOTIFICATION TO PERSONNEL.**—The Secretary of Veteran Affairs shall provide information about this benefit to the Secretary of Defense to ensure that each member of a reserve component or a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States who completes entry level and skill training (as defined in section 3301(3) of title 38, United States Code) after the date of the enactment of this Act is notified of their eligibility for housing loan benefits under chapter 37 of such title, including eligibility (subject to the additional loan fee) under section 3701(b)(8) of such title.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 6047, the “Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026,” was introduced by Representative

Tom Barrett of Michigan on November 17, 2025. The bill would increase the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) monthly payment to veterans eligible for Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) R1, R2, and T. A veteran may qualify for these designations due to multiple, severe service-connected disabilities that preclude that veteran from being able to work or perform daily living tasks, as well as require regular in-home aid and attendance from a family member or medical professional. This bill would also provide an increase to VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefit by 1.5% over the next two years. This increase would be included when VA implements the Veterans Cost of Living Adjustment Act, passed by Congress annually to ensure the benefit keeps pace with inflation. It would result in a 1% increase in the first year followed by a 0.5% increase in the second year. Further, this bill, as amended, would expand eligibility for the VA home loan to Guard and Selected Reserve members with 14 days of active-duty training, with a 1% increase on the VA home loan funding fee.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Section 1: Short Title

This section would establish the short title of the bill as the "Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026."

Section 2: Increase in Rates of Certain Disability Compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Under Laws Administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Veterans with catastrophic, service-connected disabilities and their families often face lifelong financial, medical, and caregiving challenges that extend well beyond those contemplated when many VA benefit programs were originally created. To compensate for these deficiencies in the standard disability compensation system, Congress established Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) rates.¹ SMC R1, SMC R2, and SMC T are three rates that address the most severely disabled veterans, with veterans qualifying due to a confluence of severe injuries and a need for regular aid and attendance. These conditions result in an inability to work and care for one's daily needs.

The Committee understands from information provided by VA that the number of veterans qualifying for SMC is small. In 2025, according to VA's numbers, approximately 5,046 veterans qualified for SMC R1, approximately 2,459 veterans qualified for SMC R2, and approximately 267 qualified for SMC T. In many cases, compensation rates for SMC have remained static for decades, despite rising costs of living, increased caregiving demands, and evolving medical understanding of severe disability.

At a Full Committee legislative hearing, the Committee heard from Mr. Edgar Edmundson, the father of catastrophically disabled veteran Sgt. Eric Edmundson (Ret.), who spoke about the challenges and sacrifices of families caring for a veteran receiving SMC. Mr. Edmundson spoke about the specialized caregiving needs and the hours of caregiving required to care for his son Eric:

¹ See 38 U.S.C. § 1114(k-t).

“Eric requires constant supervision—not because he is unsafe, but because the environment around him can become unsafe for someone with his impairments. Trained caregivers prevent falls, prevent choking or aspiration, ensure proper transfers, assist with personal care, monitor health changes, and provide engagement that keeps him connected to the world. While I am enrolled in the VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, these hours add up, and families cannot shoulder them alone forever.”²

Mr. Edmundson also testified about the unique equipment, therapies, and activities that are provided by VA for Eric’s care, including VA home modifications and the need for an accessible environment, transportation and mobility support, adaptive equipment and assistive technology, and therapeutic and quality of life activities.³ Mr. Edmundson described the additional costs that must be paid out of pocket by the family:

“The federal government provides many benefits and services for veterans like Eric, but sometimes agencies like the VA are so difficult to navigate that families like ours end up paying out of pocket for needed services like wet wipes, 4x4 gauze for stomach tube, catheters, dental appointments. In addition, arbitrary caps, misaligned programs, and increased costs of living mean that available programs don’t cover Eric’s needs. And sometimes, Eric, who will never be able to work again, needs to simply have cash on hand to be able to support his family. These are the things additional funding supports. These are the things that allow my son—and others like him—to experience life with dignity, purpose, and comfort.”⁴

To address this issue, this section would increase the amount of compensation payable under SMC R1, R2, and T by a supplemental amount of \$833.33 per month. This would amount to an extra \$10,000 in these benefits per year.

The Committee believes that this subsection is crucial to ensure that VA benefits more accurately reflect the scope and permanence of catastrophic service-connected disabilities and that veterans with the most serious conditions, and the families who support them, receive assistance commensurate with their level of need.

Surviving family members of veterans who passed away: (1) due to a service-connected condition, (2) during active-duty service, or (3) after having been rated as 100% disabled by the VA for 10 continuous years might qualify for DIC, which is VA’s largest survivor’s benefit. In FY2024, 519,450 survivors were actively receiving DIC. Under current law, survivors receive a tax-free base amount of roughly \$1,700 per month. While DIC is meant to help support survivors after the death of their veteran spouse, this ben-

² Mr. Edgar Edmundson, Testimony in his Personal Capacity (December 3, 2025), HHRG-119-VR00-Bio-EdmundsonE-20251203.pdf (house.gov).

³ Mr. Edgar Edmundson, Testimony in his Personal Capacity (December 3, 2025), HHRG-119-VR00-Bio-EdmundsonE-20251203.pdf (house.gov).

⁴ Mr. Edgar Edmundson, Testimony in his Personal Capacity (December 3, 2025), HHRG-119-VR00-Bio-EdmundsonE-20251203.pdf (house.gov).

efit's base rate has not been increased except for the annual Cost of Living adjustment since 1993.

Surviving spouses are often left to care for the shared family and must assume the financial obligations of their deceased service-member. At a Full Committee legislative hearing, members heard from Mrs. Sharri Briley, the surviving spouse of CW-03 Donovan "Bull" Briley (KIA). The Committee learned about CW-03 Briley's heroic service in Operation Gothic Serpent, which later became known as the "Blackhawk Down" incident in Mogadishu, Somalia. As Mrs. Briley testified at a Full Committee legislative hearing:

"Survivors have not received a real increase in over 30 years. During that time, the cost of food, housing, childcare, and medical care has grown dramatically. A modest but meaningful DIC increase will help surviving spouses put food on the table, cover rent, and provide stability for their children."⁵

To address this need, this subsection would raise the base-rate of DIC by 1.5 percent over two years, with a one percent increase in the first year followed by a 0.5 percent increase in the second year. Importantly, this adjustment would be in addition to, and initiated by, the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) that account for inflation. This subsection would provide the first increase to DIC, aside from inflationary increases, since 1993.

The Committee believes that this subsection would help to ensure that these families receive the recognition and support they deserve after decades without a real adjustment to the underlying benefit.

Section 3: Modification of Waivers of Fees Collected for Housing Loans Guaranteed, Insured, or Made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Under current law, veterans who utilize the VA Home Loan Program pay a small fee that can be rolled into their monthly mortgage payment. Additionally, under current law, the Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL) is a VA home loan product that allows a veteran with an existing VA home loan to refinance their existing mortgage to a lower interest rate and reduce their monthly payment.

This section would increase the IRRRL funding fee from 0.5% to 1.40%. Under current law, an individual who assumes or takes over a VA Home Loan from a veteran, pays a 0.5% funding fee. This section would change the funding fee to 1%. This section would cover the costs of the other section of this bill by extending the current rates for VA home loan funding fees from June 9, 2034, to September 30, 2036.

Extending the funding fee would increase a veteran's monthly cost by about \$8 on top of the monthly mortgage. Disabled veterans would be exempt and would not pay the funding fee and would not be affected by the extension of the home loan fees in this bill. The Committee believes this short-term extension of current funding fee rates is a reasonable way to cover the costs associated with the other sections of this bill.

⁵Mrs. Sharri Briley, Testimony in her Personal Capacity (December 3, 2025), HHRG-119-VR00-Wstate-BrileyS-20251203.pdf (house.gov).

This section would not change other advantageous aspects of the VA home loan for veterans including the option to put no money down, not pay private mortgage insurance, and to re-use the benefit in the future.

The Committee believes that this section would provide reasonable rate increases to the VA home loan to cover the costs associated with the other sections of this bill.

Section 4: Extension of Certain Limits on Payments of Pension

Under current law (38 U.S.C. § 5503(d)), the amount of VA pension paid to a veteran without a spouse or children, a veteran's surviving spouse with no children, or a veteran's child who is admitted to a VA or Medicaid sponsored nursing facility, is capped at \$90 a month. This section would cover the costs of the other sections of this bill by extending this pension limitation to September 30, 2036. Because they receive government sponsored care in a nursing home, these pension beneficiaries do not require the full amount of pension to cover their cost of living.

The Committee believes this short-term extension of the current limit on pension payments would be a reasonable way to cover the costs associated with the other sections of this bill.

Section 5: Home Affordability for Guard and Reserve

Under current law, members of the National Guard must have 90 days of active-duty service, not including training, under Title 10, or 90 days of full-time National Guard duty (Title 32) service, with at least 30 consecutive days of Title 32 activation, to be eligible for the VA Home Loan program. If these activation requirements are not met, there is an option for members of the National Guard to be eligible for a VA Home Loan program with six creditable years in the Guard, and an honorable discharge or retirement status.

Additionally, members of the Selected Reserve would be eligible for the VA Home Loan program if they have served at least 90 days of non-training active-duty service or have been in the Selected Reserve for at least six years and were discharged honorably or retired with an honorable discharge. This section would expand VA Home Loan program eligibility to Guard and Reservists with 14 days of active-duty service but would require this population to pay an additional 1% fee.

The Committee believes that expanding VA Home Loan program eligibility to allow Guard and Reserve members to be eligible after 14 days of active-duty service with a 1% fee, rather than 90 days, would allow more members of the Guard and Reserve to be able to live the American dream, build equity, and own their first home. The Committee believes this 1% fee is a recognition of the commitment difference between full-time, active-duty military status for 90 days otherwise required to qualify for the VA Home Loan compared to the 14 days of service allowed under this section. The VA Home Loan program remains the best home buying option, and the Committee believes this VA benefit should be expanded to individuals who have served alongside full-time active duty servicemembers.

HEARINGS

On December 3, 2025, the Full Committee held a legislative hearing on H.R. 6047 and other bills that were pending before the Committee.

The following witnesses testified:

Mrs. Sharri Briley, Surviving Spouse of Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donovan 'Bull' Briley; Mr. Edgar Edmundson, Father of Seargent (Retired) Eric Edmundson; Mr. Tom Wheaton, National Treasurer, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Dr. Brian Miller, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Ms. Margarita Devlin, Principal Deputy Undersecretary for Benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Stephanie Li, Associate Director of Regulations, Legislation, Engagement, and Training, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Heather Ford, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Kevin Johnson, Director of Revenue Operations, Office of Finance, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following individuals and organizations submitted statements for the record:

The Honorable French Hill of Arkansas; Gold Star Spouses of America, Inc.; Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; David J. Meyers, Brown University School of Public Health; The American Legion; Disabled American Veterans.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On February 12, 2026, the Full Committee met in open markup session with a quorum being present, to consider H.R. 6047. During consideration of the legislation, the following amendments were offered:

An amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Chairman Mike Bost of Illinois, which would strike the text of the bill and instead increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by an additional one-percent after the first Cost of Living Adjustment Act (COLA) increase following the passage of this Act, and an additional one-half of one-percent after the second Cost of Living Adjustment Act increase. This amendment in the nature of a substitute would remove the provision requiring veterans with a disability rating of 70% and below to pay the VA home loan funding fee on their second use of the VA home loan. This amendment in the nature of a substitute would also add two new sections, one of which extends current law regarding the offset of veteran's pensions for those residing in government funded nursing homes, and a section that would expand the VA home loan funding fees until September 30, 2036, increase IRRRLs funding fees from 0.5% to 1.4%, and increase the funding fee for borrowers assuming a VA home loan from .5% to 1.0%. The amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 nays.

Amendment #6 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Representative Kelly Morrison of Minnesota, which would strike sections 3 and 4, and insert a new sec-

tion 3 that would reduce the unobligated balance of funds appropriated for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement by \$5,000,000,000. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 nays.

Amendment #7 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Representative Herb Conaway of New Jersey, which would increase IRRRLs from 0.5% to 1.4%, extend home loan funding fee rates, and add an additional 0.5% to VA home loan assumptions, but would only apply to future servicemembers after the enactment of this bill. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 nays.

Amendment #12 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Representative Maxine Dexter of Oregon, which would strike section 3 and 4, and insert a reduction to the estate tax exemption. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 nays.

Amendment #13 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Ranking Member Mark Takano of California that would strike sections 3 and 4. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 nays.

Amendment #14 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Representative Maxine Dexter of Oregon, which would extend current VA home loan fees, but would strike the pension offset and would also strike sections that would increase IRRRL fees for veterans who choose to refinance their home loan and raise assumption fees for individuals who assume a veterans home loan. The amendment failed by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 nays.

Amendment #1 to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 was offered by Representative Tom Barrett of Michigan, which would expand VA home loan eligibility to members of the Guard and Reserve with 90 days to those with just 14 days of active-duty service with a 1% increase in the VA home loan funding fee. The amendment was agreed to by a recorded vote of 23 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion by Representative Jack Bergman of Michigan to report H.R. 6047, as amended, favorably to the House of Representatives, was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report the legislation and amendments thereto.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Representative Morrison of Minnesota (#6) was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Ms. Morrison was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Morrison Amendment #6 to the
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeke		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	11	12	

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Representative Conaway of New Jersey (#7) was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Mr. Conaway was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Conaway Amendment #7 to the
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeks		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	11	12	

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Representative Dexter of Oregon (#12) was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Ms. Dexter was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Dexter Amendment #12 to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeks		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	11	12	

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Ranking Member Mark Takano of California (#13) was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Mr. Takano was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Takano Amendment #13 to the
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeks		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	11	12	

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Representative Dexter of Oregon (#14) was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Ms. Dexter was not agreed to by a recorded vote of 11 ayes, 12 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2026
 Subject: Approval of Dexter Amendment #14 to the Amendment
 in the Nature of a Substitute

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost		X	
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen		X	
Jack Bergman		X	
Nancy Mace		X	
Mariannette Miller-Meeks		X	
Gregory F. Murphy		X	
Derrick Van Orden			
Morgan Luttrell		X	
Juan Ciscomani			
Keith Self		X	
Jennifer A. Kiggans		X	
Abraham J. Hamadeh		X	
Kimberlyn King-Hinds		X	
Tom Barrett		X	
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	11	12	

An amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Representative Barrett of Michigan (#1) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 23 ayes, 0 noes.

An amendment to the amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Mr. Barrett was agreed to by a recorded vote of 23 ayes, 0 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Barrett Amendment #1 to the Amendment
in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost	X		
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen	X		
Jack Bergman	X		
Nancy Mace	X		
Mariannette Miller-Meeks	X		
Gregory F. Murphy	X		
Derrick Van Orden	X		
Morgan Luttrell	X		
Juan Ciscomani	X		
Keith Self	X		
Jennifer A. Kiggans	X		
Abraham J. Hamadeh	X		
Kimberlyn King-Hinds	X		
Tom Barrett	X		
Mark Takano	X		
Julia Brownley	X		
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick	X		
Morgan McGarvey	X		
Delia C. Ramirez	X		
Nikki Budzinski	X		
Timothy M. Kennedy	X		
Maxine Dexter	X		
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.	X		
Kelly Morrison	X		
Total	23	0	

An amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Chairman Mike Bost of Illinois was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 noes.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6047 offered by Mr. Bost was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date: **Wednesday, February 12, 2026**
Subject: **Approval of Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute**

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost	X		
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen	X		
Jack Bergman	X		
Nancy Mace	X		
Mariannette Miller-Meeks	X		
Gregory F. Murphy	X		
Derrick Van Orden	X		
Morgan Luttrell	X		
Juan Ciscomani	X		
Keith Self	X		
Jennifer A. Kiggans	X		
Abraham J. Hamadeh	X		
Kimberlyn King-Hinds	X		
Tom Barrett	X		
Mark Takano		X	
Julia Brownley		X	
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick		X	
Morgan McGarvey		X	
Delia C. Ramirez		X	
Nikki Budzinski		X	
Timothy M. Kennedy		X	
Maxine Dexter		X	
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.		X	
Kelly Morrison		X	
Total	13	10	

A motion to favorably report H.R. 6047, as amended, to the Full House was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 noes.

Motion to Favorably Report H.R. 6047, as amended, offered by Mr. Bost was agreed to by a recorded vote of 13 ayes, 10 noes. The names of Members voting for and against follow:

**ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH CONGRESS
U.S. STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
MIKE BOST, CHAIRMAN**

MARKUP

FULL COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES

Date:

Wednesday, February 12, 2026

Subject:

Motion to Favorably Report H.R.6047, as amended

NAME	YEA/AYE	NAY/NO	Present
Mike Bost	X		
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen	X		
Jack Bergman	X		
Nancy Mace	X		
Mariannette Miller-Meeks	X		
Gregory F. Murphy	X		
Derrick Van Orden	X		
Morgan Luttrell	X		
Juan Ciscomani	X		
Keith Self	X		
Jennifer A. Kiggans	X		
Abraham J. Hamadeh	X		
Kimberlyn King-Hinds	X		
Tom Barrett	X		
Mark Takano		X	
Julia Brownley		X	
Chris Pappas	X		
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick		X	
Morgan McGarvey		X	
Delia C. Ramirez		X	
Nikki Budzinski		X	
Timothy M. Kennedy		X	
Maxine Dexter		X	
Herbert C. Conaway, Jr.		X	
Kelly Morrison		X	
Total	13	10	

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause (2)(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in the descriptive portions of this report.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In accordance with clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's performance goals and objectives of H.R. 6047, as amended, would provide members of the National Guard and Reserve a more affordable home loan option, by expanding eligibility of the VA home loan to Guard and Reserve members with 14 days of active duty service, and increase the benefits received by surviving spouses and veterans receiving special monthly compensation to better reflect the unique circumstances faced by these populations.

EARMARKS AND TAX AND TARIFF BENEFITS

H.R. 6047, as amended, does not contain any Congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

The Committee adopts as its own the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate on this measure.

BUDGET AUTHORITY AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause (3)(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following is the cost estimate for H.R. 6047, as amended, provided by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

At a Glance			
H.R. 6047, Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on February 12, 2026			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2026	2026-2031	2026-2036
Direct Spending (Outlays)	*	508	-42
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	*	508	-42
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	27	65
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	> \$2.5 billion	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Yes
Mandate Effects			
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037?	> \$5 billion	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between -\$500,000 and \$500,000.			

The bill would:

- Provide cost-of-living adjustments for dependency and indemnity compensation
- Create a new monthly benefit for certain disabled veterans who receive aid and attendance benefits
- Increase the rates for fees that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) charges borrowers for home loan guarantees
- Expand eligibility for VA-guaranteed home loans to certain members of the military's reserve component
- Extend a temporary limitation on certain pension payments

Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from:

- Increasing monthly benefits paid to recipients of dependency and indemnity compensation
- Paying a new monthly benefit to disabled veterans
- Increasing rates for fees that VA charges borrowers for home loan guarantees
- Providing federal guarantees for home loans and mortgage-backed securities

Areas of significant uncertainty include:

- Anticipating the change in the number of home loans guaranteed or securitized by federal agencies and entities.

Bill summary: H.R. 6047 would increase benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) by providing a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) and by creating a new monthly benefit for certain disabled veterans. The bill also would increase the rate for fees that VA charges borrowers for home loan guarantees and expand eligibility for such guarantees to certain members of the military reserves. Finally, the bill would extend a temporary limitation on certain pension payments through September 30, 2036.

Estimated Federal cost: The estimated budgetary effects of H.R. 6047 are shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within

budget functions 370 (commerce and housing credit), 550 (health), and 700 (veterans benefits and services).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF H.R. 6047

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—												
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2026– 2031	2026– 2036
INCREASES OR DECREASES (–) in DIRECT SPENDING													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	11	68	111	144	174	184	185	–9	* –453	–457	508	–42
Estimated Outlays	*	11	68	111	144	174	184	185	–9	–453	–457	508	–42
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION													
Estimated Authorization	*	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	27	65
Estimated Outlays	*	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	8	8	9	27	65

* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that the legislation will be enacted in fiscal year 2026 and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the affected programs.

Direct spending: Enacting the changes to disability benefits, loan guarantees, and pensions would reduce net direct spending by \$42 million over the 2026–2036 period, CBO estimates (see Table 2).

TABLE 2.—ESTIMATED CHANGES IN DIRECT SPENDING UNDER H.R. 6047

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—												
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2026– 2031	2026– 2036
Dependency and Indemnity Compensation:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	164	247	274	289	305	320	338	356	376	397	1,279	3,066
Estimated Outlays	0	164	247	274	289	305	320	338	356	376	397	1,279	3,066
Additional Disability Compensation:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	68	87	92	96	100	105	109	114	118	123	443	1,012
Estimated Outlays	0	68	87	92	96	100	105	109	114	118	123	443	1,012
Home Loan Fees:													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	–217	–261	–250	–236	–226	–236	–247	–459	–927	–954	–1,190	–4,013
Estimated Outlays	*	–217	–261	–250	–236	–226	–236	–247	–459	–927	–954	–1,190	–4,013
Home Loans for Reserve Duty:													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	–4	–5	–5	–5	–5	–5	–7	–8	–8	–11	–24	–63
Estimated Outlays	*	–4	–5	–5	–5	–5	–5	–7	–8	–8	–11	–24	–63
Pensions and Medicaid:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–8	–12	–12	–12	0	–44
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	–8	–12	–12	–12	0	–44
Total Changes:													
Estimated Budget Authority	*	11	68	111	144	174	184	185	–9	–453	–457	508	–42
Estimated Outlays	*	11	68	111	144	174	184	185	–9	–453	–457	508	–42

* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.

Dependency and indemnity compensation. H.R. 6047 would provide two COLAs to dependency and indemnity compensation, a benefit paid to certain surviving dependents of veterans who die from service-connected disabilities or who die after being rated totally disabled by VA for at least 10 years prior to death. The first increase would be 1 percentage point more than the COLA that Social Security recipients will receive in December 2026.

The second increase would be 0.5 percentage points more than the adjustment that will occur in December 2027. Section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 requires that CBO's baseline projections incorporate the assumption that Social Security COLAs will be provided to DIC beneficiaries; thus, this estimate accounts for the differences between the increases specified in the bill and the Social Security COLAs projected in CBO's February 2026 baseline. The adjustments would increase the average monthly DIC payment for nearly 600,000 recipients by about \$23 in calendar year 2027 and by about \$34 in calendar year 2028; by 2036, the average monthly payment for nearly 800,000 recipients would be about \$42 greater. In total, CBO estimates that enacting the provision would increase outlays for DIC by \$3 billion over the 2026–2036 period.

Additional disability compensation. H.R. 6047 would create a new monthly benefit for disabled veterans who receive a monthly aid and attendance allowance from VA. That allowance is paid to disabled veterans who meet additional criteria, such as requiring assistance to perform daily activities. CBO estimates that about 8,000 veterans currently receive aid and attendance allowances and that, by 2036, that number will increase to about 10,000. The new benefit would be \$833 per month, and payments would begin in December 2026; after future COLAs, CBO estimates that the benefit amount would increase to \$1,026 per month in 2036. In total, CBO estimates that enacting the provision would increase outlays for disability compensation by \$1 billion over the 2026–2036 period.

Home loan fees. H.R. 6047 would make two changes to the fees that VA charges borrowers for its loan guarantees.

First, the bill would extend, for almost 28 months, the current rates for loan guarantees. VA provides loan guarantees to lenders that allow eligible borrowers to obtain better loan terms—such as lower interest rates or smaller down payments—to purchase, construct, improve, or refinance a home. VA typically pays lenders up to 25 percent of the outstanding mortgage balance if a borrower's home is foreclosed upon. Those payments, net of fees paid by borrowers and recoveries by lenders, constitute the subsidy cost for the loan guarantees.¹

CBO's baseline projects that, on average, VA will annually guarantee around 600,000 loans of roughly \$490,000 each at a subsidy rate of 0.93 percent and that those loan guarantees will cost \$27.5 billion over the 2026–2036 period. Under current law, the rates for

¹ Under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, the subsidy cost of a loan guarantee is the net present value of estimated payments by the government to cover defaults and delinquencies, interest subsidies, or other expenses offset by any payments to the government, including origination or other fees, penalties, and recoveries on defaulted loans. Such subsidy costs are calculated by discounting those expected cash flows using the rate on Treasury securities of comparable maturity. The resulting estimated subsidy costs are recorded in the budget when the loans are disbursed or modified. A positive subsidy indicates that the loan results in net outlays from the Treasury; a negative subsidy indicates that the loan results in net receipts to the Treasury.

most of the fees that borrowers currently pay average about 2.3 percent of their loan amount; for loans guaranteed after June 9, 2034, those rates will drop to about 1.2 percent of the loan amount. H.R. 6047 would extend the higher rates through September 30, 2036, which would reduce the subsidy cost of loans guaranteed during that period.

Second, the bill would increase the fees that VA charges borrowers for certain refinancing loans and people who take over—that is, assume—existing VA-guaranteed loans from a seller. Under current law, the rate is 0.5 percent of the amount loaned or assumed. The bill would increase those rates to 1.4 percent for refinancing loans and 1.0 percent for loan assumptions. Those rate increases would decrease the subsidy cost of the loans, which would reduce direct spending.

Using its forecast of loan volume based on data provided by VA, CBO estimates that extending and increasing the fee rates as specified in the bill would decrease net direct spending by \$4 billion over the 2026–2036 period.

Home loans for reserve duty. H.R. 6047 would count specified reserve-component duty as active duty when calculating eligibility for home loans guaranteed by VA. That duty would include basic or initial training and other types of training, such as the two weeks of annual training and monthly weekend drills that are required for nearly all members of the military’s reserve component (which consists of the federal reserves and the National Guard). Currently, reservists must serve at least six years in the Selected Reserve or 90 days on active or full-time National Guard duty to be eligible for the loan-guarantee benefit. Counting the time spent on training duties toward the active-duty requirement, as specified in H.R. 6047, would increase the number of people who would obtain a VA-guaranteed home loan.

The bill also would grant eligibility for VA loan guarantees to reservists after 14 days of active-duty service. Under current law, reservists must serve 90 days on active duty to be eligible for VA loan guarantees. Reservists who become eligible because of that change would be charged an additional 1 percent fee for a loan guarantee; however, because the bill would count reserve training duty as active duty, CBO expects that most reservists would meet the current 90-day criteria during their first year of service and thus avoid paying that additional fee.

Using data from VA on the veteran population and loan guarantees and from the Department of Defense on military separations, CBO estimates that about 1,600 reservists would obtain VA-guaranteed home loans each year at an average amount of \$475,000. Of those borrowers, 300 would obtain a VA-guaranteed loan because of the bill, and 1,300 would have otherwise obtained a loan guaranteed or securitized by other federal programs under current law. Those changes in loan activity would reduce direct spending by \$63 million over the 2026–2036 period. Those changes also would affect spending for programs managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the budgetary effects of those programs are discussed under “Spending Subject to Appropriation.”

VA home loans. CBO estimates that the home loans guaranteed by VA under the bill would have an average subsidy rate of -0.6

percent and that those loans would decrease direct spending by \$48 million over the 2026–2036 period.

Government-Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are GSEs whose operations CBO treats as part of the federal budget in its baseline projections.² CBO estimates the cost of the GSEs’ guarantees of mortgage-backed securities on a fair-value basis, rather than on a cash basis or using the process specified in the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990. The fair value of a loan guarantee is the market price that a private-sector financial institution would charge to assume the guarantee.

On a fair-value basis, CBO estimates that the guarantees issued by the GSEs under current law have an average subsidy rate of 0.56 percent over the 2026–2036 period. CBO estimates that the increase in VA-guaranteed loans made under the bill would reduce the number of loans backed by the GSEs annually by about 500 and decrease annual volume by \$250 million, and thus would reduce direct spending by \$15 million over the 2026–2036 period.

Pensions and Medicaid. Under current law, VA reduces pension payments to veterans and survivors who reside in Medicaid nursing homes to \$90 per month. That required reduction expires January 31, 2033. H.R. 6047 would extend that reduction for 44 months, through September 30, 2036. CBO estimates that extending that requirement would reduce VA benefits by \$2 million per month. As a result of that reduction in beneficiaries’ income, Medicaid would pay more of the cost of their care, increasing spending for that program by \$1 million per month. Thus, enacting the provision would reduce net direct spending by \$44 million over the 2026–2036 period.

Spending subject to appropriation: Costs for federal loan guarantees issued by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae, both managed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, are recorded in the budget as discretionary spending. Because of the increase in VA loan guarantees discussed under “Home Loans for Reserve Duty,” CBO expects changes in the number of guarantees made by FHA and Ginnie Mae and estimates that implementing H.R. 6047 would, on net, increase spending subject to appropriation by \$65 million over the 2026–2036 period, assuming appropriation actions consistent with that estimate (see Table 1).

Federal Housing Administration. In CBO’s estimation, the present value of federal receipts from FHA’s housing loan guarantee program exceeds the present value of payments made by the federal government to mortgage lenders; thus, those loans have a negative subsidy rate. That negative subsidy is classified in the budget as offsetting collections that reduce spending subject to appropriation. CBO estimates that the increase in VA-guaranteed loans under H.R. 6047 would, on average, reduce the number of loans that FHA guarantees annually by about 800 and decrease annual volume by \$375 million over the 2026–2036 period. The loss of the negative subsidy from those loans would increase spending subject to appropriation for FHA by \$75 million over the 2026–2036 period.

²For more information about how CBO estimates the costs of the GSEs, see Congressional Budget Office, *Accounting for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the Federal Budget* (September 2018), www.cbo.gov/publication/54475.

Ginnie Mae. Ginnie Mae is a federal government corporation that guarantees securities backed mostly by single-family mortgages originated through FHA, the Rural Housing Service, and VA. As the number of VA loans increases under the bill, by an average of 800 loans annually, Ginnie Mae's volume also increases. In CBO's estimation, Ginnie Mae's mortgage-backed securities have a negative subsidy rate. As with FHA, that negative subsidy is classified in the budget as offsetting collections that reduce spending subject to appropriation. CBO estimates that the increase in VA-guaranteed loans would increase the volume of mortgage-backed securities guaranteed by Ginnie Mae by \$400 million annually over the 2026–2036 period. On that basis, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would decrease spending subject to appropriation for Ginnie Mae by \$10 million over that same period.

Uncertainty: CBO's estimate for H.R. 6047 is subject to uncertainty. In particular, the changes in the number of home loans for reservists that would be guaranteed by FHA, Ginnie Mae, the GSEs, and VA could be higher or lower than we project. To the extent that those changes differ from CBO's estimates, subsidy costs could be higher or lower than those estimated.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—CBO'S ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS OF H.R. 6047, THE SHARRI BRILEY AND ERIC EDMUNDSON VETERANS BENEFITS EXPANSION ACT OF 2026, AS ORDERED REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS ON FEBRUARY 12, 2026

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—													
	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2026–2031	2026–2036	
	NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN THE DEFICIT													
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	0	11	68	111	144	174	184	185	–9	–453	–457	508	–42	

Increase in long-term net direct spending and deficits: CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6047 would increase net direct spending by more than \$2.5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 6047 would increase on budget deficits by more than \$5 billion in each of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2037.

Mandates: The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Estimate prepared by: Federal costs: Julia Aman (for the Department of Housing and Urban Development), Paul B.A. Holland (for the Department of Veterans Affairs' home loans), Zunara Naeem (for government-sponsored enterprises), David Rafferty (for disability compensation), Logan Smith (for disability compensation); Mandates: Brandon Lever.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; David Newman, Chief, Defense, International Affairs, and Veterans' Affairs Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Man-

dates Unit; Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act (as amended by Section 101(a)(2) of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act, P.L. 104–4, is inapplicable to H.R. 6047, as amended.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act would be created by H.R. 6047, as amended.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 6047, as amended, does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

STATEMENT ON DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds that no provision of H.R. 6047, as amended, would establish or reauthorize a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program, a program that was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139, or a program related to a program identified in the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section would establish the short title of the bill as the “Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2026.”

Section 2. Increase in rates of certain disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs

This section would amend 38 U.S.C. § 1114 to pay veterans eligible for aid and attendance allowance under subsection (r) or (t) an additional amount of compensation at the monthly rate of \$833.33. The change would take effect on December 1, 2026.

This section would amend 38 U.S.C. § 5312 to require the Secretary to add one percent to the percentage by which dependency and indemnity compensation is increased by the veterans’ cost of living adjustment act.

After the first one-percent additional increase is made to dependency and indemnity compensation, the VA Secretary would provide a second increase of one half of one percent.

Whenever there is an increase made to dependency and indemnity compensation, the VA Secretary would also publish the

amounts of the increase in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by the cost-of-living adjustment act.

This section would take effect on December 1, 2026, and the requirement to increase dependency and indemnity compensation by additional amounts would terminate after the second increase.

Section 3. Modification of waivers of fees collected for housing loans guaranteed, insured, or made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

This section would increase the IRRRL funding fee from 0.5% to 1.40% for when a veteran refinances their VA home loan and would extend the current VA home loan funding fee rates from June 9, 2034, to September 30, 2036, to help offset the legislation. Finally, this section would also increase the fee for when an individual assumes a VA home loan from a veteran from 0.5% to 1%.

Section 4. Extension of certain limits on payments of pension

This section would extend the limitation of pension payable to certain veterans, their surviving spouses, and their children as established in 38 U.S.C. § 5503(d)(7) from January 31, 2033, to September 30, 2036.

Section. 5. Home affordability for Guard and Reserve

This section would extend the VA home loan program to allow eligibility for Guard and Select Reservists that have served at least 14 days of active duty, including active-duty training, with an additional 1% increase on the VA home loan funding fee.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE

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PART II—GENERAL BENEFITS

* * * * *

CHAPTER 11—COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR DEATH

* * * * *

SUBCHAPTER II—WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION

* * * * *

§ 1114. Rates of wartime disability compensation

For the purposes of section 1110 of this title—

(a) if and while the disability is rated 10 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$123;

(b) if and while the disability is rated 20 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$243;

(c) if and while the disability is rated 30 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$376;

(d) if and while the disability is rated 40 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$541;

(e) if and while the disability is rated 50 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$770;

(f) if and while the disability is rated 60 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$974;

(g) if and while the disability is rated 70 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$1,228;

(h) if and while the disability is rated 80 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$1,427;

(i) if and while the disability is rated 90 percent the monthly compensation shall be \$1,604;

(j) if and while the disability is rated as total the monthly compensation shall be \$2,673;

(k) if the veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, has suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of one or more creative organs, or one foot, or one hand, or both buttocks, or blindness of one eye, having only light perception, has suffered complete organic aphonia with constant inability to communicate by speech, or deafness of both ears, having absence of air and bone conduction, or, in the case of a woman veteran, has suffered the anatomical loss of 25 percent or more of tissue from a single breast or both breasts in combination (including loss by mastectomy or partial mastectomy) or has received radiation treatment of breast tissue, the rate of compensation therefor shall be \$96 per month for each such loss or loss of use independent of any other compensation provided in subsections (a) through (j) or subsection (s) of this section but in no event to exceed \$3,327 per month; and in the event the veteran has suffered one or more of the disabilities heretofore specified in this subsection, in addition to the requirement for any of the rates specified in subsections (l) through (n) of this section, the rate of compensation shall be increased by \$96 per month for each such loss or loss of use, but in no event to exceed \$4,667 per month;

(l) if the veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, has suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of both feet, or of one hand and one foot, or is blind in both eyes, with 5/200 visual acuity or less, or is permanently bedridden or with such significant disabilities as to be in need of regular aid and attendance, the monthly compensation shall be \$3,327;

(m) if the veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, has suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of both hands, or of both legs with factors preventing natural knee action with prostheses in place, or of one arm and one leg with factors preventing natural elbow and knee action with prostheses in place, or has suf-

ferred blindness in both eyes having only light perception, or has suffered blindness in both eyes, rendering such veteran so significantly disabled as to be in need of regular aid and attendance, the monthly compensation shall be \$3,671;

(n) if the veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, has suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use of both arms with factors preventing natural elbow action with prostheses in place, has suffered the anatomical loss of both legs with factors that prevent the use of prosthetic appliances, or has suffered the anatomical loss of one arm and one leg with factors that prevent the use of prosthetic appliances, or has suffered the anatomical loss of both eyes, or has suffered blindness without light perception in both eyes, the monthly compensation shall be \$4,176;

(o) if the veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, has suffered disability under conditions which would entitle such veteran to two or more of the rates provided in one or more subsections (l) through (n) of this section, no condition being considered twice in the determination, or if the veteran has suffered bilateral deafness (and the hearing impairment in either one or both ears is service connected) rated at 60 percent or more disabling and the veteran has also suffered service-connected total blindness with 20/200 visual acuity or less, or if the veteran has suffered service-connected total deafness in one ear or bilateral deafness (and the hearing impairment in either one or both ears is service connected) rated at 40 percent or more disabling and the veteran has also suffered service-connected blindness having only light perception or less, or if the veteran has suffered the anatomical loss of both arms with factors that prevent the use of prosthetic appliances, the monthly compensation shall be \$4,667;

(p) in the event the veteran's service-connected disabilities exceed the requirements for any of the rates prescribed in this section, the Secretary may allow the next higher rate or an intermediate rate, but in no event in excess of \$4,667. In the event the veteran has suffered service-connected blindness with 5/200 visual acuity or less and (1) has also suffered bilateral deafness (and the hearing impairment in either one or both ears is service connected) rated at no less than 30 percent disabling, the Secretary shall allow the next higher rate, or (2) has also suffered service-connected total deafness in one ear or service-connected anatomical loss or loss of use of one hand or one foot, the Secretary shall allow the next intermediate rate, but in no event in excess of \$4,667. In the event the veteran has suffered service-connected blindness, having only light perception or less, and has also suffered bilateral deafness (and the hearing impairment in either one or both ears is service connected) rated at 10 or 20 percent disabling, the Secretary shall allow the next intermediate rate, but in no event in excess of \$4,667. In the event the veteran has suffered the anatomical loss or loss of use, or a combination of anatomical loss and loss of use, of three extremities, the Secretary shall allow the next higher rate or intermediate rate, but in no event in excess of \$4,667. Any intermediate rate under this subsection shall be established at the arithmetic mean, rounded down to the nearest dollar, between the two rates concerned.

(r) Subject to section 5503(c) of this title, if any veteran, otherwise entitled to compensation authorized under subsection (o) of

this section, at the maximum rate authorized under subsection (p) of this section, or at the intermediate rate authorized between the rates authorized under subsections (n) and (o) of this section and at the rate authorized under subsection (k) of this section, is in need of regular aid and attendance, then, in addition to such compensation—

(1) the veteran shall be paid a monthly aid and attendance allowance at the rate of \$2,002; or

(2) if the veteran, in addition to such need for regular aid and attendance, is in need of a higher level of care, such veteran shall be paid a monthly aid and attendance allowance at the rate of \$2,983, in lieu of the allowance authorized in clause (1) of this subsection, if the Secretary finds that the veteran, in the absence of the provision of such care, would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care.

For the purposes of clause (2) of this subsection, need for a higher level of care shall be considered to be need for personal health-care services provided on a daily basis in the veteran's home by a person who is licensed to provide such services or who provides such services under the regular supervision of a licensed health-care professional. The existence of the need for such care shall be determined by a physician employed by the Department or, in areas where no such physician is available, by a physician carrying out such function under contract or fee arrangement based on an examination by such physician. For the purposes of section 1134 of this title, such allowance shall be considered as additional compensation payable for disability.

(s) If the veteran has a service-connected disability rated as total, and (1) has additional service-connected disability or disabilities independently ratable at 60 percent or more, or, (2) by reason of such veteran's service-connected disability or disabilities, is permanently housebound, then the monthly compensation shall be \$2,993. For the purpose of this subsection, the requirement of "permanently housebound" will be considered to have been met when the veteran is substantially confined to such veteran's house (ward or clinical areas, if institutionalized) or immediate premises due to a service-connected disability or disabilities which it is reasonably certain will remain throughout such veteran's lifetime.

(t) Subject to section 5503(c) of this title, if any veteran, as the result of service-connected disability, is in need of regular aid and attendance for the residuals of traumatic brain injury, is not eligible for compensation under subsection (r)(2), and in the absence of such regular aid and attendance would require hospitalization, nursing home care, or other residential institutional care, the veteran shall be paid, in addition to any other compensation under this section, a monthly aid and attendance allowance equal to the rate described in subsection (r)(2), which for purposes of section 1134 of this title shall be considered as additional compensation payable for disability. An allowance authorized under this subsection shall be paid in lieu of any allowance authorized by subsection (r)(1).

(u) *In the case of a veteran eligible for a monthly aid and attendance allowance under subsection (r) or subsection (t) of this section, the Secretary shall, in addition to the total amount of compensation*

for which the veteran is eligible under this section, pay the veteran a supplemental monthly allowance at the rate of \$833.33.

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PART III—READJUSTMENT AND RELATED BENEFITS

* * * * *

CHAPTER 37—HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

* * * * *

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL

§ 3701. Definitions

(a) For the purpose of this chapter, the term “housing loan” means a loan for any of the purposes specified by sections 3710(a) and 3712(a)(1) of this title.

(b) For the purposes of housing loans under this chapter—

(1) The term “World War II” (A) means the period beginning on September 16, 1940, and ending on July 25, 1947, and (B) includes, in the case of any veteran who enlisted or reenlisted in a Regular component of the Armed Forces after October 6, 1945, and before October 7, 1946, the period of the first such enlistment or reenlistment.

(2) The term “veteran” includes the surviving spouse of any veteran (including a person who died in the active military, naval, air, or space service) who died from a service-connected disability, but only if such surviving spouse is not eligible for benefits under this chapter on the basis of the spouse’s own active duty. The active duty or service in the Selected Reserve of the deceased spouse shall be deemed to have been active duty or service in the Selected Reserve by such surviving spouse for the purposes of this chapter.

(3) The term “veteran” also includes, for purposes of home loans, the spouse of any member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty who is listed, pursuant to section 556 of title 37, United States Code, and regulations issued thereunder, by the Secretary concerned in one or more of the following categories and has been so listed for a total of more than ninety days: (A) missing in action, (B) captured in line of duty by a hostile force, or (C) forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power. The active duty of the member shall be deemed to have been active duty by such spouse for the purposes of this chapter. The loan eligibility of such spouse under this paragraph shall be limited to one loan guaranteed or made for the acquisition of a home, and entitlement to such loan shall terminate automatically, if not used, upon receipt by such spouse of official notice that the member is no longer listed in one of the categories specified in the first sentence of this paragraph.

(4) The term “veteran” also includes an individual serving on active duty.

(5)(A) The term “veteran” also includes an individual who is not otherwise eligible for the benefits of this chapter and (i) who has completed a total service of at least 6 years in the Selected Reserve and, following the completion of such service, was discharged from service with an honorable discharge, was placed on the retired list, was transferred to the Standby Reserve or an element of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve after service in the Selected Reserve characterized by the Secretary concerned as honorable service, or continues serving in the Selected Reserve, or (ii) who was discharged or released from the Selected Reserve before completing 6 years of service because of a service-connected disability.

(B) The term “Selected Reserve” means the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of any of the reserve components (including the Army National Guard of the United States and the Air National Guard of the United States) of the Armed Forces, as required to be maintained under section 10143(a) of title 10.

(6) The term “veteran” also includes, for purposes of home loans, the surviving spouse of a veteran who died and who was in receipt of or entitled to receive (or but for the receipt of retired or retirement pay was entitled to receive) compensation at the time of death for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling if—

(A) the disability was continuously rated totally disabling for a period of 10 or more years immediately preceding death;

(B) the disability was continuously rated totally disabling for a period of not less than five years from the date of such veteran’s discharge or other release from active duty; or

(C) the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999, and the disability was continuously rated totally disabling for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding death.

(7) The term “veteran” also includes, for purposes of home loans, an individual who performed full-time National Guard duty (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 10) for a period—

(A) of not less than 90 cumulative days; and

(B) that includes 30 consecutive days.

(8) *The term “veteran” also includes, for purposes of home loans (subject to the additional loan fee in section 3729(b)(4)(J) of this title), an individual who—*

(A) is not otherwise eligible for the benefits of this chapter;

(B) has completed a total service of at least 14 days on active duty under paragraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (9); and

(C) following completion of such service, continued to serve until the completion of entry level and skill training (as defined in section 3301(3) of this title).

(9) *The term “active duty” has the meanings as follows:*

(A) *In the case of members of the regular components of the Armed Forces, the meaning given such term in section 101(21)(A).*

(B) *In the case of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces—*

(i) service on active duty (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10), inactive-duty training (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10), or annual training duty; or

(ii) service on active duty under a call or order to active duty under section 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12301(h), 12302, 12304, 12304a, or 12304b of title 10 or section 713 of title 14, but not including inactive duty training (as defined in section 101(d) of title 10) or annual training duty.

(C) *In the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, in addition to service described in subparagraph (B), full-time service—*

(i) in the National Guard of a State for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard;

(ii) in the National Guard when performing full-time National Guard duty (as defined in section 101 of title 32); or

(iii) in the National Guard when performing active duty (as defined in section 101 of title 32).

(c) Benefits shall not be afforded under this chapter to any individual on account of service as a commissioned officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (or predecessor entity), or of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, unless such service would have qualified such individual for benefits under title III of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944.

§ 3702. Basic entitlement

(a)(1) The veterans described in paragraph (2) of this subsection are eligible for the housing loan benefits of this chapter. In the case of any veteran who served on active duty during two or more of the periods specified in paragraph (2) for which eligibility for the housing loan benefits under this chapter may be granted, entitlement derived from service during the most recent such period (A) shall cancel any unused entitlement derived from service during any earlier such period, and (B) shall be reduced by the amount by which entitlement from service during any earlier such period has been used to obtain a direct, guaranteed, or insured housing loan—

(i) on real property which the veteran owns at the time of application; or

(ii) as to which the Secretary has incurred actual liability or loss, unless in the event of loss or the incurrence and payment of such liability by the Secretary the resulting indebtedness of the veteran to the United States has been paid in full.

(2) The veterans referred to in the first sentence of paragraph (1) of this subsection are the following:

(A) Each veteran who served on active duty at any time during World War II, the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam era and whose total service was for 90 days or more.

(B) Each veteran who after September 15, 1940, was discharged or released from a period of active duty for a service-connected disability.

(C) Each veteran, other than a veteran described in clause (A) or (B) of this paragraph, who—

(i) served after July 25, 1947, for a period of more than 180 days and was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable; or

(ii) has served more than 180 days in active duty status and continues on active duty without a break therein.

(D) Each veteran who served on active duty for 90 days or more at any time during the Persian Gulf War, other than a veteran ineligible for benefits under this title by reason of section 5303A(b) of this title.

(E) Each veteran described in section 3701(b)(5) of this title.

(F) Each veteran who was discharged or released from a period of active duty of 90 days or more by reason of a sole survivorship discharge (as that term is defined in section 1174(i) of title 10).

(G) Each individual described in section 3701(b)(7) of this title.

(H) *Each individual described in section 3701(b)(8) of this title.*

(3) Any unused entitlement of World War II or Korean conflict veterans which expired under provisions of law in effect before October 23, 1970, is hereby restored and shall not expire until used.

(4) A veteran's entitlement under this chapter shall not be reduced by any entitlement used by the veteran's spouse which was based upon the provisions of paragraph (3) of section 3701(b) of this title.

(b) In computing the aggregate amount of guaranty or insurance housing loan entitlement available to a veteran under this chapter, the Secretary may exclude the amount of guaranty or insurance housing loan entitlement used for any guaranteed, insured, or direct loan under the following circumstances:

(1)(A) The property which secured the loan has been disposed of by the veteran or has been destroyed by fire or other natural hazard; and

(B) the loan has been repaid in full, or the Secretary has been released from liability as to the loan, or if the Secretary has suffered a loss on such loan, the loss has been paid in full.

(2) A veteran-transferee has agreed to assume the outstanding balance on the loan and consented to the use of the veteran-transferee's entitlement, to the extent that the entitlement of the veteran-transferor had been used originally, in place of the veteran-transferor's for the guaranteed, insured, or direct loan, and the veteran-transferee otherwise meets the requirements of this chapter.

(3)(A) The loan has been repaid in full; and

(B) the loan for which the veteran seeks to use entitlement under this chapter is secured by the same property which se-

cured the loan referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(4) In a case not covered by paragraph (1) or (2)—

(A) the loan has been repaid in full and, if the Secretary has suffered a loss on the loan, the loss has been paid in full; or

(B) the Secretary has been released from liability as to the loan and, if the Secretary has suffered a loss on the loan, the loss has been paid in full.

The Secretary may, in any case involving circumstances the Secretary deems appropriate, waive one or more of the conditions prescribed in paragraph (1). The authority of the Secretary under this subsection to exclude an amount of guaranty or insurance housing loan entitlement previously used by a veteran may be exercised only once for that veteran under the authority of paragraph (4).

(c) An honorable discharge shall be deemed to be a certificate of eligibility to apply for a guaranteed loan. Any veteran who does not have a discharge certificate, or who received a discharge other than honorable, may apply to the Secretary for a certificate of eligibility. Upon making a loan guaranteed or insured under this chapter, the lender shall forthwith transmit to the Secretary a report thereon in such detail as the Secretary may, from time to time, prescribe. Where the loan is guaranteed, the Secretary shall provide the lender with a loan guaranty certificate or other evidence of the guaranty. The Secretary shall also endorse on the veteran's discharge, or eligibility certificate, the amount and type of guaranty used, and the amount, if any, remaining. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the assignment of any guaranteed loan or the security therefor.

(d) Housing loans will be automatically guaranteed under this chapter only if made (1) by any Federal land bank, national bank, State bank, private bank, building and loan association, insurance company, credit union, or mortgage and loan company, that is subject to examination and supervision by an agency of the United States or of any State, or (2) by any State, or (3) by any lender approved by the Secretary pursuant to standards established by the Secretary. Any housing loan proposed to be made to a veteran pursuant to this chapter by any lender not of a class specified in the preceding sentence may be guaranteed by the Secretary if the Secretary finds that it is in accord otherwise with the provisions of this chapter.

(e) The Secretary may at any time upon thirty days' notice require housing loans to be made by any lender or class of lenders to be submitted to the Secretary for prior approval. No guaranty or insurance liability shall exist with respect to any such loan unless evidence of guaranty or insurance is issued by the Secretary.

(f) Any housing loan at least 20 percent of which is guaranteed under this chapter may be made by any national bank or Federal savings and loan association, or by any bank, trust company, building and loan association, or insurance company, organized or authorized to do business in the District of Columbia. Any such loan may be so made without regard to the limitations and restrictions of any other law relating to—

- (1) ratio of amount of loan to the value of the property;
- (2) maturity of loan;

- (3) requirement for mortgage or other security;
- (4) dignity of lien; or
- (5) percentage of assets which may be invested in real estate loans.

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SUBCHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

* * * * *

§ 3729. Loan fee

(a) REQUIREMENT OF FEE.—(1) Except as provided in subsection (c), a fee shall be collected from each person obtaining a housing loan guaranteed, insured, or made under this chapter, and each person assuming a loan to which section 3714 of this title applies. No such loan may be guaranteed, insured, made, or assumed until the fee payable under this section has been remitted to the Secretary.

(2) The fee may be included in the loan and paid from the proceeds thereof.

(b) DETERMINATION OF FEE.—(1) The amount of the fee shall be determined from the loan fee table in paragraph (2). The fee is expressed as a percentage of the total amount of the loan guaranteed, insured, or made, or, in the case of a loan assumption, the unpaid principal balance of the loan on the date of the transfer of the property.

(2) The loan fee table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(A)(i) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020).	2.15	2.40	NA

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(A)(ii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023).	2.30	2.30	NA
(A)(iii) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	2.15	2.15	NA
(A)(iv) Initial loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other initial loan described in section 3710(a) other than with 5-down or 10-down (closed on or after June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	1.40	1.40	NA
(B)(i) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after October 1, 2004, and before January 1, 2020).	3.30	3.30	NA

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(B)(ii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023).	3.60	3.60	NA
(B)(iii) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	3.30	3.30	NA
(B)(iv) Subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 0-down, or any other subsequent loan described in section 3710(a) (closed on or after June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	1.25	1.25	NA
(C)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed before January 1, 2020).	1.50	1.75	NA
(C)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023).	1.65	1.65	NA

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(C)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	1.50	1.50	NA
(C)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 5-down (closed on or after June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	0.75	0.75	NA
(D)(i) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed before January 1, 2020).	1.25	1.50	NA
(D)(ii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after January 1, 2020, and before April 7, 2023).	1.40	1.40	NA
(D)(iii) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after April 7, 2023, and before June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	1.25	1.25	NA
(D)(iv) Loan described in section 3710(a) to purchase or construct a dwelling with 10-down (closed on or after June 9, 2034 <i>September 30, 2036</i>).	0.50	0.50	NA
(E) Interest rate reduction refinancing loan.	0.50 <i>1.40</i>	0.50 <i>1.40</i>	NA
(F) Direct loan under section 3711.	1.00	1.00	NA

Type of loan	Active duty veteran	Reservist	Other obligor
(G) Manufactured home loan under section 3712 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan).	1.00	1.00	NA
(H) Loan to Native American veteran under section 3762 (other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan).	1.25	1.25	NA
(I) Loan assumption under section 3714.	[0.50] 1.0	[0.50] 1.0	[0.50] 1.0
(J) Loan under section 3733(a).	2.25	2.25	2.25.

(3) Any reference to a section in the “Type of loan” column in the loan fee table in paragraph (2) refers to a section of this title.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (2):

(A) The term “active duty veteran” means any veteran eligible for the benefits of this chapter other than a Reservist.

(B) The term “Reservist” means a veteran described in section 3701(b)(5)(A) of this title who is eligible under section 3702(a)(2)(E) of this title.

(C) The term “other obligor” means a person who is not a veteran, as defined in section 101 of this title or other provision of this chapter.

(D)(i) The term “initial loan” means a loan to a veteran guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title if the veteran has never obtained a loan guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title.

(ii) If a veteran has obtained a loan guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title and the dwelling securing such loan was substantially damaged or destroyed by a major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170), the Secretary shall treat as an initial loan, as defined in clause (i), the next loan the Secretary guarantees or makes to such veteran under section 3710 or 3711, respectively, if—

(I) such loan is guaranteed or made before the date that is three years after the date on which the dwelling was substantially damaged or destroyed; and

(II) such loan is only for repairs or construction of the dwelling, as determined by the Secretary.

(E) The term “subsequent loan” means a loan to a veteran, other than an interest rate reduction refinancing loan, guaranteed under section 3710 or made under section 3711 of this title that is not an initial loan.

(F) The term “interest rate reduction refinancing loan” means a loan described in section 3710(a)(8), 3710(a)(9)(B)(i), 3710(a)(11), 3712(a)(1)(F), or 3762(h)(1) of this title.

(G) The term “0-down” means a downpayment, if any, of less than 5 percent of the total purchase price or construction cost of the dwelling.

(H) The term “5-down” means a downpayment of at least 5 percent or more, but less than 10 percent, of the total purchase price or construction cost of the dwelling.

(I) The term “10-down” means a downpayment of 10 percent or more of the total purchase price or construction cost of the dwelling.

(J) In the case of a housing loan in which the veteran has eligibility under section 3701(b)(8) of this title and does not otherwise have eligibility, the loan fee table in paragraph (2) shall be applied to the veteran or other obligor (as applicable) by adding 1.00 to the percentage in the table.

(c) **WAIVER OF FEE.**—(1) A fee may not be collected under this section from a veteran who is receiving compensation (or who, but for the receipt of retirement pay or active service pay, would be entitled to receive compensation), from a surviving spouse of any veteran (including a person who died in the active military, naval, air, or space service) who died from a service-connected disability, or from a member of the Armed Forces who is serving on active duty and who provides, on or before the date of loan closing, evidence of having been awarded the Purple Heart.

(2)(A) A veteran described in subparagraph (B) shall be treated as receiving compensation for purposes of this subsection as of the date of the rating described in such subparagraph without regard to whether an effective date of the award of compensation is established as of that date.

(B) A veteran described in this subparagraph is a veteran who is rated eligible to receive compensation—

(i) as the result of a pre-discharge disability examination and rating; or

(ii) based on a pre-discharge review of existing medical evidence (including service medical and treatment records) that results in the issuance of a memorandum rating.

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PART IV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

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CHAPTER 53—SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO BENEFITS

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§ 5312. Annual adjustment of certain benefit rates

(a) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase each maximum annual rate of pension under sections 1521, 1541, and 1542 of this title, the rate of increased pension paid under such sections 1521 and 1541

on account of children, and each rate of monthly allowance paid under section 1805 of this title, as such rates were in effect immediately prior to the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased.

(b)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the maximum monthly rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for parents payable under subsections (b), (c), and (d), and the monthly rate provided in subsection (g), of section 1315 of this title and the annual income limitations prescribed in subsections (b)(3), (c)(3), and (d)(3) of such section, and the annual benefit amount limitations under sections 5507(c)(2)(D) and 5508 of this title, as such rates and limitations were in effect immediately prior to the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by the same percentage as the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased.

(2)(A) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) of this subsection in such rates and annual income limitations, the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase in such rates and limitations, adjust (as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph) the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation payable under subsection (b)(1) or (c)(1) of section 1315 of this title to any parent whose annual income is more than \$800 but not more than the annual income limitation in effect under subsection (b)(3) or (c)(3) of such section, as appropriate, and adjust the rates of such compensation payable under subsection (d)(1) of such section to any parent whose annual income is more than \$1,000 but not more than the annual income limitation in effect under subsection (d)(3) of such section.

(B) The adjustment in rates of dependency and indemnity compensation referred to in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall be made by the Secretary in accordance with regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe.

(c)(1) Whenever there is an increase under subsection (a) in benefit rates payable under sections 1521, 1541, 1542, and 1805 of this title and an increase under subsection (b) in benefit rates and annual income limitations under section 1315 of this title, the Secretary shall publish such rates and limitations (including those rates adjusted by the Secretary under subsection (b)(2) of this section), as increased pursuant to such subsections, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) Whenever such rates and income limitations are so increased, the Secretary may round such rates and income limitations in such manner as the Secretary considers equitable and appropriate for ease of administration.

(d)(1) *Whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as*

a result of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)), the Secretary shall, except as provided in paragraph (2), effective on the date of such increase in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311(a) of this title, as such amounts were in effect immediately before the date of such increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act, by a percentage equal to the sum of—

(A) the percentage by which such benefit amounts are increased; and

(B) one percent.

(2) After the first increase under paragraph (1) to the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311(a) of this title, the Secretary shall carry out paragraph (1)(B) by substituting “one half of one percent” for “one percent”.

(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation, the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at the same time as the material required by section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(4) The requirement to increase, pursuant to paragraph (1), the amounts in effect for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation under paragraph (1) and paragraph (3) of section 1311 (a) of this title by the Secretary shall—

(A) take effect on December 1, 2026, and shall apply with respect to months beginning on or after such date; and

(B) terminate after the date on which the second increase to such amounts pursuant to such paragraph occurs.

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CHAPTER 55—MINORS, INCOMPETENTS, AND OTHER WARDS

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§ 5503. Hospitalized veterans and estates of incompetent institutionalized veterans

(a)(1)(A) Where any veteran having neither spouse nor child is being furnished domiciliary care by the Department, no pension in excess of \$90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the third full calendar month following the month of admission for such care.

(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, where any veteran having neither spouse nor child is being furnished nursing home care by the Department, no pension in excess of \$90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the end of the third full calendar month following the month of admission for such care. Any amount in excess of \$90 per month to which the veteran would be entitled but for the application of the preceding sentence shall be deposited in a revolving fund at the

Department medical facility which furnished the veteran nursing care, and such amount shall be available for obligation without fiscal year limitation to help defray operating expenses of that facility.

(C) No pension in excess of \$90 per month shall be paid to or for a veteran having neither spouse nor child for any period after the month in which such veteran is readmitted for care described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph and furnished by the Department if such veteran is readmitted within six months of a period of care in connection with which pension was reduced pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph.

(D) In the case of a veteran being furnished nursing home care by the Department and with respect to whom subparagraph (B) of this paragraph requires a reduction in pension, such reduction shall not be made for a period of up to three additional calendar months after the last day of the third month referred to in such subparagraph if the Secretary determines that the primary purpose for the furnishing of such care during such additional period is for the Department to provide such veteran with a prescribed program of rehabilitation services, under chapter 17 of this title, designed to restore such veteran's ability to function within such veteran's family and community. If the Secretary determines that it is necessary, after such period, for the veteran to continue such program of rehabilitation services in order to achieve the purposes of such program and that the primary purpose of furnishing nursing home care to the veteran continues to be the provision of such program to the veteran, the reduction in pension required by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph shall not be made for the number of calendar months that the Secretary determines is necessary for the veteran to achieve the purposes of such program.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) shall also apply to a veteran being furnished such care who has a spouse but whose pension is payable under section 1521(b) of this title. In such a case, the Secretary may apportion and pay to the spouse, upon an affirmative showing of hardship, all or any part of the amounts in excess of the amount payable to the veteran while being furnished such care which would be payable to the veteran if pension were payable under section 1521(c) of this title.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law, no reduction shall be made in the pension of any veteran for any part of the period during which the veteran is furnished hospital treatment, or institutional or domiciliary care, for Hansen's disease, by the United States or any political subdivision thereof.

(c) Where any veteran in receipt of an aid and attendance allowance described in subsection (r) or (t) of section 1114 of this title is hospitalized at Government expense, such allowance shall be discontinued from the first day of the second calendar month which begins after the date of the veteran's admission for such hospitalization for so long as such hospitalization continues. Any discontinuance required by administrative regulation, during hospitalization of a veteran by the Department, of increased pension based on need of regular aid and attendance or additional compensation based on need of regular aid and attendance as described in subsection (l) or (m) of section 1114 of this title, shall not be ef-

fective earlier than the first day of the second calendar month which begins after the date of the veteran's admission for hospitalization. In case a veteran affected by this subsection leaves a hospital against medical advice and is thereafter admitted to hospitalization within six months from the date of such departure, such allowance, increased pension, or additional compensation, as the case may be, shall be discontinued from the date of such readmission for so long as such hospitalization continues.

(d)(1) For the purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term “Medicaid plan” means a State plan for medical assistance referred to in section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)); and

(B) the term “nursing facility” means a nursing facility described in section 1919 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r), other than a facility that is a State home with respect to which the Secretary makes per diem payments for nursing home care pursuant to section 1741(a) of this title.

(2) If a veteran having neither spouse nor child is covered by a Medicaid plan for services furnished such veteran by a nursing facility, no pension in excess of \$90 per month shall be paid to or for the veteran for any period after the month of admission to such nursing facility.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of title XIX of the Social Security Act, the amount of the payment paid a nursing facility pursuant to a Medicaid plan for services furnished a veteran may not be reduced by any amount of pension permitted to be paid such veteran under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(4) A veteran is not liable to the United States for any payment of pension in excess of the amount permitted under this subsection that is paid to or for the veteran by reason of the inability or failure of the Secretary to reduce the veteran's pension under this subsection unless such inability or failure is the result of a willful concealment by the veteran of information necessary to make a reduction in pension under this subsection.

(5)(A) The provisions of this subsection shall apply with respect to a surviving spouse having no child in the same manner as they apply to a veteran having neither spouse nor child.

(B) The provisions of this subsection shall apply with respect to a child entitled to pension under section 1542 of this title in the same manner as they apply to a veteran having neither spouse nor child.

(6) The costs of administering this subsection shall be paid for from amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the payment of compensation and pension.

(7) This subsection expires on **[January 31, 2033]** *September 30, 2036*.

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MINORITY VIEWS

On February 12, 2026, the House Committee on Veterans Affairs met in open markup session to consider H.R. 6047, *the Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act of 2025*, and other bills. H.R. 6047 was ordered reported by the Committee as amended on a roll call vote of 13 yeas and 10 nays, with all but one Committee Democrat voting nay.

Committee Democrats strongly support the goals of increasing Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) for catastrophically injured servicemembers and raising Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for surviving spouses and children of veterans and servicemembers. However, we have deep reservations about the continued insistence of the Majority that any increase to veterans' benefits must necessarily be offset by a corresponding diminishment of benefits for other veterans or increases in fees on active duty servicemembers. We resoundingly reject that premise. And we would posit instead that there are numerous and distinct paths forward for legislation to increase veterans' benefits by even a greater degree, that do not require us to lower benefits for any other cohort. Indeed, Committee Democrats submitted numerous alternative offsets at the Committee's markup of this legislation. But all were rejected by the Majority on a party line vote.

Nevertheless, Committee Democrats remain committed to increasing SMC and DIC. But we assert that this must be done in a way that does not negatively affect the lives and livelihoods of others. At a time when this Congress has seen fit to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on priorities both foreign and domestic, we feel the modest ask in H.R. 6047 can and should be accommodated without asking the very same people who may benefit from these programs to sacrifice more.

INCREASE TO SPECIAL MONTHLY COMPENSATION

A veteran receiving disability compensation may also receive additional Special Monthly Compensation if his or her disability results in a loss, or loss of use, of an extremity or organ or if the disability renders him or her housebound or in need of daily aid and attendance by another person. Various types of extreme disabilities qualify for SMC, including but not limited to "the anatomical loss or loss of use of one or more creative organs, or one foot, or one hand, or both buttocks, or blindness of one eye." This includes most if not all veterans who have service-connected paralysis or blindness. The severity of the disability or combination of disabilities determines the compensation. SMC rates are increased on an annual basis through the annual veterans' cost of living adjustment (COLA). However, the base rate has not been increased since 2009.

H.R. 6047 would increase the base rates of SMC paid to certain veterans in need of aid and attendance, 38USC1114(r) and

38USC1114(t), by an additional \$833 per month (\$10,000 annually). Often our most catastrophically injured servicemembers and veterans need round-the-clock care. And that care is typically provided by spouses, children and parents, who must put their own careers on hold in order to provide that care. They do so willingly. But their sacrifice underscores the need to ensure the government is stepping up to support these veterans and their caregivers with their day-to-day expenses. This SMC increase works toward that end, and Committee Democrats support this increase.

INCREASE TO DIC

When a veteran with a service-connected disability (SCD) passes, their survivors may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is a tax-free monetary benefit generally payable to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of servicemembers who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training; or to survivors of veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities; or to certain survivors of veterans who were totally disabled due to service-connected causes at the time of their death.

Currently, DIC is paid at the rate of 43 percent of the compensation owed to a veteran with a 100 percent SCD rating. There are several circumstances that can increase that amount. For example, the length of the veteran's injury or illness, the recipient's own disability status, and the presence of dependents. The base amount, which was established by law in 1993, is increased every year after the passage of the annual COLA bill. That COLA rate is equal to the rate of the annual Social Security COLA. The current base rate for DIC is \$1,653.07.

In contrast, survivors of other federal employees are currently paid at 55 percent of their loved-one's pension rate upon their death, as compared to 43 percent for military and veteran survivors. Accordingly, advocates have for years been championing legislation to bring parity to this cohort. The most current version is H.R. 2055, the *Caring for Survivors Act*, introduced by Rep. Jahnnna Hayes, which has over 100 cosponsors, mostly Democratic. Committee Democrats strongly support that legislation and have been advocating that the Committee pass the measure in order to bring true parity to DIC recipients. However, to date the Majority has refused.

Instead, the Majority chose to put forward H.R. 6047 which would increase DIC by 1 percent above and beyond the annual COLA the first year after enactment, and increase DIC 0.5 percent over COLA the second year. This would amount to a change in the base rate of DIC of less than 0.5 percent (from 43 percent to 43.4 percent). Committee Democrats acknowledge that any additional money in the pockets of survivors is welcomed during a time of skyrocketing costs and when affordability is among Americans' chief concerns. However, this modest amount barely moves the needle on what is truly necessary, and more importantly what is deserved by our veterans' survivors. Such a modest amount coupled with the mechanism that the Majority is using to offset the cost of this provision shortchanges our nation's veterans and survivors and their sacrifice.

BUDGET OFFSET

The introduced version of H.R. 6047 would have imposed a VA home loan financing fee on veterans with a disability rating of 70 percent and below for the first time ever. The Majority thankfully removed that language due to strong opposition expressed by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), other VSOs, and Committee Democrats in the legislative hearing in December 2025. The Majority then proposed in January 2026 to raise VA home loan fee rates from 2.15 percent to 2.45 percent for initial use loans and from 3.3 percent to 4.3 percent for subsequent loans. The Majority again backed down from their proposal due to strong, and justified, opposition.

The Majority finally settled on new offset language at the Committee's markup of this legislation that would severely increase home loan fees on active duty servicemembers and non-disabled veterans trying to refinance their home loans to a lower payment. That offset is as follows:

- Extension of current VA Home Loan Funding Fee rates through FY2036, year ten of the budget window, which generates \$1.5 billion.
 - Committee Democrats do not have issue with the extension of current home loan fees through the current budget window, as that is common Committee practice. However, this offset is the Committee's largest and principal source of revenue. As such, its full use here indicates no other priorities aside from this bill will become law this Congress
- Increased the VA Home Loan Interest Rate Reduction Refinance Loan (IRRRL) Funding Fee from 0.5 percent to 1.4 percent through FY36, year ten of the budget window, which raises \$2.4 billion.
 - Committee Democrats oppose this fee due to the unreasonable cost imposed on veterans and its effects on those with distressed mortgages. It is unconscionable to make refinancing more difficult for those who are facing foreclosure. We will note also that contrary to common practice, this fee would not revert back to its current rate at the end of the budget window. This increase will saddle veterans with higher fees in perpetuity.
- Funding Fees for VA Home Loan Assumptions would increase from 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent through FY36, year ten of the budget window, which generates \$100 million in revenue.
 - Committee Democrats oppose this fee due to the burden this additional fee places on servicemembers and veterans who are attempting to sell their home or purchase a home from another veteran. Active duty servicemembers and veterans are by nature more mobile, and more frequently must sell their homes. The ability to assume a VA loan at a low interest rate makes their home more attractive on the market. Accordingly, any increases in those fees may make these homes less attractive and could de-

- crease the ability of the servicemember or veteran to relocate as necessary.
- Extend VA's authority to collect pensions of institutionalized veterans through FY36, year ten of the budget window, which generates \$44 million in revenue.
 - Committee Democrats do not have issue with the extension through the current budget window, as that is common Committee practice. However, the exhaustion of this pay-for by this bill indicates that the Majority intends that no other priorities besides this bill will become law this Congress. We will note that there is also increasing hesitancy among VSOs and Members to continued use of this offset.
 - Rep. Barrett Amendment: Adopted at markup, this amendment would expand VA Home Loan eligibility to more National Guard and Reservist duty statuses, but charges those with 14 to 89 days of eligibility a one percent surcharge on top of all other fees.
 - The Committee supports expansion of VA Home Loan eligibility to more Guardsmen and Reservists as a matter of policy. Democrats have supported full benefits parity for Guardsmen and Reservists for many years through bills such as H.R. 1423, Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2025. However, we have concerns with the amendment's creation of a lesser benefit tier for Reserve Component servicemembers. In 2019, Congress purposely created one tier of VA Home Loan benefits in recognition of the heavy use of the Reserve Component in the Global War on Terror as an Operational Reserve.
 - Because of poor drafting, the Majority accidentally made almost all Guardsmen and Reservists eligible for the VA Home Loan without the surcharge upon graduating their Initial Entry Training (i.e. basic training). Committee Democrats support this change, as it creates parity with active duty servicemember benefits, but it does create an offset imbalance in the bill, as very few servicemembers will be paying the Majority's one percent sur-fee.
 - This amendment raises \$32 million in mandatory revenues, but costs \$65 million in discretionary spending, which the Majority is required to offset because of the guidance of the current Majority Leader. However, the Majority did not choose to fully offset this amendment at markup. This results in H.R. 6047 being reported out of committee without being fully offset, despite the Majority's instance that the offsets above be added in Committee to cover the cost of the legislation.

As stated above, the near tripling of fees on IRRRLs is especially problematic for Committee Democrats. The tripling of this fee means that the average veteran will be paying an additional \$3,780 in fees. (Based on the Q1 FY26 VA Home Loan average of a \$420,000 refinancing, a veteran will pay a \$5,880 average fee, versus the current \$2,100 average fee.)

Refinancing is also a major off-ramp for veterans who have loans in distress or who are on the path to foreclosure. Veterans in that

position do not have significant cash on hand to pay the funding fee upfront, so it is rolled into the loan. This means the veteran will pay interest on the fee, and the time until a veteran breaks even on the refinancing is much further in the future.

- At the current 0.5 percent fee rate, the average refinancing veteran pays an average total of \$4,700 in fees and interest on those fees over the life of the loan (\$2,100 in fees and \$2,600 in interest.)
- With the increased 1.4 percent fee rate, the average veteran will pay an additional \$8,460 in fees and interest (an additional \$3,780 in fees plus an additional \$4,680 in interest over the life of the loan, for a total of \$8,460), for a total of \$13,160 in fees and interest over the life of the loan.

Veterans would not break even on IRRRLs with the new fee rate until 56 months (4.67 years), versus the current 20 months (1.6 years). This means a veteran would be at risk of losing money on the transaction and stuck in their home for 2.8 times longer post refinancing without building equity in the home, placing them at greater financial risk.

As inflation continues to increase the cost of living for veterans, being underwater for longer due to higher loan fees puts veterans at greater risk of losing their home or facing foreclosure. This also means the VA Home Loan program is potentially on the hook for larger loan guarantees, increasing risk to the solvency of the program.

This is especially concerning as VA has not implemented the Partial Claims Program after the Trump Administration, cheered on by the current House Majority, did away with the Veterans Affairs Servicing Purchase Program (VASP), which provided VA options to restructure distressed loans, prevent foreclosures, and keep veterans in their homes. In the absence of these programs, the best loss mitigation option for veterans is an IRRRL. But as costs continue to rise on Americans and veterans under the current administration, veterans attempting to refinance to stay in their homes would have a longer period of being underwater on the refinancing.

Underwater loans (either initial or refinanced loans) put veterans and their families at greater risk for housing insecurity or homelessness and expose the VA Home Loan Program to greater financial solvency risk. An analogous situation is what occurred during the 2008 Financial Crisis where banks with large portfolios of underwater loans eventually required federal bailouts.

The bill also doubles the Funding Fee for the Assumption of VA Home Loans from 0.5 percent to one percent through FY36 (year ten of the budget window). A veteran or non-veteran can assume (i.e. take over) a VA Home Loan and continue paying the remainder of the loan. These are not a common occurrence because buyers, sellers and lenders are not familiar with the process and the remainder of the value of the house must be paid with cash up front, or through a secondary mortgage on the house. However, assumptions are financially beneficial to the seller because they create financial flexibility, especially for servicemembers who must relocate. They are also financially beneficial to buyers because these mortgages are generally at a much lower interest rate than current market rates, and have progressed much further into the amortiza-

tion schedule, so more of each mortgage payment goes towards paying down the principle, versus paying interest.

REJECTED AMENDMENTS

At the Committee's markup of this legislation, Committee Democrats highlighted numerous additional offsets that allowed for expansion of SMC and DIC without raising fees on active duty servicemembers or veterans. Additionally, Committee Democrats highlighted the fact that the Committee could choose to advance this bill with no offset at all, as was a practice during both Democratic and Republican control of Congress in previous years. All of those amendments were rejected by the Majority on party-line votes. Below is a summary of those amendments.

- Morrison Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6047—This amendment would have stricken the entirety of the offsets (Secs. 3 & 4 of the bill), and replaced them with a transfer of \$5 billion from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) funding.

- In P.L. 119-21, ICE received a budget infusion of roughly \$30 billion on top of its annual appropriation. This amendment would use only a small portion of the plus-up amount to fund benefits for veterans and survivors. The need to increase these benefits for veterans and survivors is immediate. ICE is not expected to use or need this money until Fiscal Years 2031 and 2032; Congress can backfill that money in the future, if it is determined to be needed.

- Conaway Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6047—This amendment would have instituted a grandfather provision, limiting the imposition of new, higher loan fees only to those who join the military on or after the date of enactment.

- When civilians take an oath to join the United States military, they are signing physical, verbal, and moral contracts with the American people. Those contracts entail not just their rights and responsibilities as members of the military, but also the care and benefits a servicemember may receive when their time in uniform is over. Committee Democrats feel that we must not change the terms of that deal after the fact, as the Majority's legislation would do.

- Dexter Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6047—This amendment would have removed only the portions of the offset related to IRRRL and Loan Assumptions Funding Fee increases.

- As discussed previously, affordability is a chief concern among the American public. Accordingly, in our opinion we should not be artificially raising costs on distressed homeowners and those who need to sell their home or refinance their home loan by increasing fees.

- Dexter Amendment #2 to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6047—This amendment would have temporarily reduced the estate tax exemption increase passed in P.L. 119-21 from \$15 million to \$14.5 million, for a portion of the ten-year budget window to offset the cost of the bill.

- Committee Democrats disagree with the Majority's decision to triple the exemption from paying estate tax from \$5 million to \$15 million in P.L. 119–21. We would rather that money be used to fund much-needed benefits expansions for veterans and their survivors. There is no material difference in someone inheriting \$14.5 million tax free versus \$15 million. But there is a great material difference for catastrophically disabled veterans and survivors who are in need of the increases proposed by the underlying bill.
- Takano Amendment to the Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 6047—This amendment would have stricken the entirety of the offsets (Secs. 3 & 4) used to pay for the benefits increases in the bill.
 - There is nothing in the rules of the House nor in the rules of the Committee that require the costs of legislation to be offset when reporting a bill to the full House. House rules only require that the legislation be offset before it is passed by the chamber. Senate rules do not even require that. Even then, the House may choose to wave those rules at its discretion, and often does. Committee Democrats feel that the American people are willing to shoulder the costs of these benefits increases, if only they are asked, as they have done with the original 1944 GI Bill, the Post-9/11 GI Bill and PACT Act. Removing the offsets at the committee phase allows us time to work with other committees to find more appropriate budget offsets, or to allow debate on whether or not it is appropriate to waive budgetary rules in this instance.

CONCLUSION

Our nation is almost 250 years old. In this time, we have seen our fair share of military engagement and outright war. We have more than enough of a historical record to understand that the cost of these wars did not end at the last appropriation marked for battle. We promised to care for our veterans when their time in service is done, and in this case that means their families as well. Congress should not turn away or hide from that fact. If we are to support the cost of starting and sustaining war, we must acknowledge the financial cost of supporting those veterans it creates when they come home.

Committee Democrats feel that we must stop treating our work in Congress as something out of the Hunger Games—that someone must suffer so that someone else can get what they need . . . that we need to force school children, small business owners, and veterans to compete with each other for help from their government. Committee Democrats are not going to play that game with the benefits our veterans and their survivors have earned.

We believe that Congress should fund healthcare and benefits for veterans that have gone to war for this country. If members of the House wish to continue to increase funding for defense spending and military aid, then they should be morally required to consider the long-term cost of taking care of the servicemembers that they

or the administration, in Congress' abdication, chooses to send into harm's way.

We do not demand offsets for funding for the equipment our troops need. This is the right thing to do. Taking care of veterans is also the right thing to do. We hope that our country and this Congress will not perpetuate a double standard when we discuss funding and support for servicemembers and that for our veterans and their families. America deserves better. Americans want better, and they have said so.

According to a February 6–9, 2026 Economist/YouGov poll of 1,730 U.S. adult citizens, when asked whether the federal government should increase or decrease spending on veterans, 46 percent of Americans say spending should increase a lot and an additional 28 percent say it should increase slightly. That is 74 percent of the American people saying we should spend more on veterans. Only 4 percent responded that spending should decrease. This support crosses party lines. Democrats, Independents, and Republicans all support increasing spending on veterans.

So, when we are told that we have no choice but to raise fees on servicemembers and veteran homeowners to fund these increases, that simply does not reflect what the American people believe. It does not match the rhetoric that many elected officials proffer. It also does not meet the sacred promise we as a country made to servicemembers. The American people overwhelmingly support spending more on veterans. They do not believe we should take from one group of veterans to pay another, as this bill is currently written requires. Nor do Committee Democrats.

The question is whether this Congress chooses to ignore the cost of war and make veterans pay for the consequences and earned benefits of their service.

MARK TAKANO,
Ranking Member.

