

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 784

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the surviving spouses of certain former prisoners of war dying with a service-connected disability rated totally disabling at the time of death.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. STUMP, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SHOWS, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation to the surviving spouses of certain former prisoners of war dying with a service-connected disability rated totally disabling at the time of death.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**

4 **FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF FORMER PRIS-**  
5 **ONERS OF WAR.**

6 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1318(b) of title 38,  
7 United States Code, is amended—

1           (1) by striking “that either—” in the matter  
2       preceding paragraph (1) and inserting “rated totally  
3       disabling if”; and

4           (2) by adding at the end the following new  
5       paragraph:

6           “(3) the veteran was a former prisoner of war  
7       who died after September 30, 1999, and who had  
8       been diagnosed as having one of the diseases speci-  
9       fied in section 1112(b) of this title.”.

10       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is  
11   further amended—

12           (1) in paragraph (1)—

13               (A) by inserting “the disability” after  
14       “(1)”; and

15               (B) by striking “or” after “death;”; and

16           (2) in paragraph (2)—

17               (A) by striking “if so rated for a lesser pe-  
18       riod, was so rated continuously” and inserting  
19       “the disability was continuously rated totally  
20       disabling”; and

21               (B) by striking the period at the end and  
22       inserting “; and”.

○