

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1124

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2003

Ms. MIKULSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase burial benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Burial Bene-
5 fits Improvement Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN BURIAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS.**

7 (a) **BURIAL AND FUNERAL EXPENSES.**—(1) Section
8 2302(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by
9 striking “\$300” and inserting “\$1,135 (as increased from
10 time to time under section 2309 of this title)”.

1 (2) Section 2303(a)(1)(A) of that title is amended by
2 striking “\$300” and inserting “\$1,135 (as increased from
3 time to time under section 2309 of this title)”.

4 (3) Section 2307 of that title is amended by striking
5 “\$2,000,” and inserting “\$3,712 (as increased from time
6 to time under section 2309 of this title),”.

7 (b) PLOT ALLOWANCE.—Section 2303(b) of that title
8 is amended—

9 (1) by striking “\$300” the first place it and in-
10 sserting “\$670 (as increased from time to time under
11 section 2309 of this title)”;

12 (2) by striking “\$300” the second place it ap-
13 pears and inserting “\$670 (as so increased)”.

14 (c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—(1) Chapter 23 of that
15 title is amended by adding at the end the following new
16 section:

17 **“§ 2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial ben-**
18 **efits**

19 “With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall
20 provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dol-
21 lar) in the burial and funeral expenses under sections
22 2302(a), 2303(a), and 2307 of this title, and in the plot
23 allowance under section 2303(b) of this title, equal to the
24 percentage by which—

1 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
2 United States city average) for the 12-month period
3 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
4 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
5 ceeds

6 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
7 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
8 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

9 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of that
10 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following
11 new item:

 “2309. Annual adjustment of amounts of burial benefits.”.

12 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—(1) Except as provided in
13 paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall
14 apply to deaths occurring on or after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act.

16 (2) No adjustments shall be made under section 2309
17 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
18 (c), for fiscal year 2004.

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