

Calendar No. 306

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1131

[Report No. 108–163]

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2003, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2003

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. ROCKFELLER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

OCTOBER 14, 2003

Reported by Mr. SPECTER, without amendment

A BILL

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2003, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Compensa-
3 tion Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2003”.

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

7 (a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2003, increase the
9 dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-
10 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by
11 the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

12 (b) **AMOUNTS TO BE INCREASED.**—The dollar
13 amounts to be increased pursuant to subsection (a) are
14 the following:

15 (1) **COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar
16 amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38,
17 United States Code.

18 (2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-**
19 **ENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under
20 sections 1115(1) of such title.

21 (3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar
22 amount in effect under section 1162 of such title.

23 (4) **NEW DIC RATES.**—The dollar amounts in
24 effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section
25 1311(a) of such title.

1 (5) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar
2 amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such
3 title.

4 (6) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES
5 WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-
6 fect under section 1311(b) of such title.

7 (7) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The
8 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and
9 1311(d) of such title.

10 (8) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The
11 dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and
12 1314 of such title.

13 (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—(1) The in-
14 crease under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar
15 amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on Novem-
16 ber 30, 2003.

17 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), each such
18 amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the
19 percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title
20 II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are
21 increased effective December 1, 2003, as a result of a de-
22 termination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
23 415(i)).

1 (3) Each dollar amount increased pursuant to para-
2 graph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar amount, be rounded
3 down to the next lower whole dollar amount.

4 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may adjust ad-
5 ministratively, consistent with the increases made under
6 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-
7 able to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public
8 Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of
9 compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38,
10 United States Code.

11 **SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.**

12 At the same time as the matters specified in section
13 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
14 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of
15 a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act
16 during fiscal year 2004, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
17 shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified
18 in subsection (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to
19 that section.

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