

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3407

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to benefits for severely injured veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2009

Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to benefits for severely injured 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 “Severely Injured Vet-
5 erans Benefit Improvement Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATE OF SPECIAL MONTHLY COM-**
2 **PENSATION FOR SEVERELY INJURED VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

4 Section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$1,893” and
7 inserting “\$2,840”; and

8 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$2,820” and
9 inserting “4,230”.

10 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY OF DISABLED VETERANS AND MEM-**
11 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE**
12 **BURN INJURIES FOR AUTOMOBILES AND**
13 **ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT.**

14 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Paragraph (1) of section 3901 is
15 amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
18 striking “or (iii) below” and inserting “(iii), or
19 (iv)”; and

20 (B) by adding at the end the following new
21 clause:

22 “(iv) A severe burn injury (as deter-
23 mined pursuant to regulations prescribed
24 by the Secretary).”; and

25 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or (iii)”
26 and inserting “(iii), or (iv)”.

1 (b) STYLISTIC AMENDMENTS.—Such section is fur-
 2 ther amended—

3 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 4 striking “chapter—” and inserting “chapter:”;

5 (2) in paragraph (1)—

6 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 7 (A), by striking “means—” and inserting
 8 “means the following:”;

9 (B) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
 11 by striking “any veteran” and inserting
 12 “Any veteran”;

13 (ii) in clauses (i) and (ii), by striking
 14 the semicolon at the end and inserting a
 15 period; and

16 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking “or”
 17 and inserting a period; and

18 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “any
 19 member” and inserting “Any member”.

20 **SEC. 4. INCREASE IN NON-SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-**
 21 **ABILITY PENSION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS**
 22 **OF A PERIOD OF WAR.**

23 Section 1521(e) of title 38, United States Code, is
 24 amended—

1 (1) by striking “\$4,340” and inserting “4,774”;
2 and

3 (2) by striking “\$5,441” and inserting
4 “\$5,985”.

5 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC**
6 **BRAIN INJURY FOR AID AND ATTENDANCE**
7 **BENEFITS.**

8 Section 1114(o) of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended by inserting after “prosthetic appliances,” the
10 following: “or if the veteran has suffered traumatic brain
11 injury,”.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
13 **TO INCREASE MEDAL OF HONOR SPECIAL**
14 **PENSION.**

15 (a) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATE OF SPECIAL
16 PENSION.—Subsection (a) of section 1562 of title 38,
17 United States Code, is amended—

18 (1) by inserting “(1)” after “(a)”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(2)(A) Subject to the availability of appropriations
22 for this purpose in advance in an appropriations Act, the
23 Secretary may increase the rate of the special pension oth-
24 erwise in effect under paragraph (1) by not more than
25 \$1,000.

1 “(B) The Secretary may not increase the rate of a
2 special pension under subparagraph (A) after the Sec-
3 retary has expended all the funds specifically provided for
4 such purpose in an appropriations Act.

5 “(C) The authority under subparagraph (A) expires
6 on September 30, 2013.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (f)(1)
8 of such section is amended by striking “this section” and
9 inserting “subsection (a)(1)”.

10 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO PEN-**
11 **SIONS FOR CERTAIN HOSPITALIZED VET-**
12 **ERANS.**

13 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
14 is amended by striking “September 30, 2011” and insert-
15 ing “September 30, 2021”.

16 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
18 on September 30, 2011.

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