

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2539

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase in the amount of monthly dependency and indemnity compensation payable to surviving spouses by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Surviving Spouses’
5 Benefit Improvement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DEPENDENCY AND IN-**
2 **DEMUNITY COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO SUR-**
3 **VIVING SPOUSES BY THE SECRETARY OF**
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) INCREASE.—Section 1311 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “of
9 \$1,154” and inserting “equal to 55 percent of
10 the rate of monthly compensation in effect
11 under section 1114(j) of this title”; and

12 (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(g) In the case of an individual who is eligible for
16 dependency and indemnity compensation under this sec-
17 tion who is also eligible for benefits under another provi-
18 sion of law by reason of such individual’s status as the
19 surviving spouse of a veteran, then, notwithstanding any
20 other provision of law (other than section 5304(b)(3) of
21 this title), neither a reduction nor an offset in benefits
22 under such provision shall be made by reason of such indi-
23 vidual’s eligibility for benefits under this section.”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-
26 graph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a)

1 shall apply with respect to compensation paid under
2 chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, for
3 months beginning after the date that is six months
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

5 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN INDIVID-
6 UALS.—

7 (A) For months beginning after the date
8 that is six months after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
10 fairs shall pay to an individual described in sub-
11 paragraph (B) dependency and indemnity com-
12 pensation under section 1311 of title 38, United
13 States Code, in the monthly amount that is the
14 greater of the following:

15 (i) The amount determined under sub-
16 section (a)(3) of such section 1311, as in
17 effect on the day before the date of the en-
18 actment of this Act.

19 (ii) The amount determined under
20 subsection (a)(1) of such section 1311, as
21 amended by subsection (a).

22 (B) An individual described in this sub-
23 paragraph is an individual eligible for depend-
24 ency and indemnity compensation under section
25 1311 of title 38, United States Code, that is

1 predicated on the death of a veteran before
2 January 1, 1993.

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