

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3542

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow dependency and indemnity compensation to be paid under certain circumstances to former spouses of veterans dying from service-connected disabilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 29, 1996

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow dependency and indemnity compensation to be paid under certain circumstances to former spouses of veterans dying from service-connected disabilities.

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. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN FORMER SPOUSES**
4 **FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-**
5 **PENSATION.**

6 (a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 1301 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 1301. Definitions**

2 “As used in this chapter—

3 “(1) the term “veteran” includes a person who
4 died in the active military, naval, or air service; and

5 “(2) the term ‘surviving spouse’ includes a
6 former spouse of a veteran—

7 “(A) who but for divorce would qualify as
8 the surviving spouse of the veteran; and

9 “(B) whose divorce from the veteran was
10 due to the misconduct of, or was procured by,
11 the veteran without the fault of the spouse.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
13 subsection (a) applies with respect to payments of depend-
14 ency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs for months beginning after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act.

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