

Calendar No. 245

105<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session  
**H. R. 2367**

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## **AN ACT**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

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NOVEMBER 3, 1997

Received; read twice and placed on the calendar

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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**AN ACT**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

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; REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNIT-**  
4 **ED STATES CODE.**

5 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
6 “Veterans’ Compensation Rate Amendments of 1997”.

7 (b) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise expressly  
8 provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal  
9 is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of,  
10 a section or other provision, the reference shall be consid-  
11 ered to be made to a section or other provision of title  
12 38, United States Code.

13 **SEC. 2. DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**

14 (a) INCREASE IN RATES.—Section 1114 is amend-  
15 ed—

16 (1) by striking out “\$87” in subsection (a) and  
17 inserting in lieu thereof “\$95”;

18 (2) by striking out “\$166” in subsection (b)  
19 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$182”;

20 (3) by striking out “\$253” in subsection (c)  
21 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$279”;

22 (4) by striking out “\$361” in subsection (d)  
23 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$399”;

24 (5) by striking out “\$515” in subsection (e)  
25 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$569”;

1           (6) by striking out “\$648” in subsection (f)  
2           and inserting in lieu thereof “\$717”;

3           (7) by striking out “\$819” in subsection (g)  
4           and inserting in lieu thereof “\$905”;

5           (8) by striking out “\$948” in subsection (h)  
6           and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,049”;

7           (9) by striking out “\$1,067” in subsection (i)  
8           and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,181”;

9           (10) by striking out “\$1,774” in subsection (j)  
10          and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,964”;

11          (11) in subsection (k)—

12                 (A) by striking out “\$70” both places it  
13                 appears and inserting in lieu thereof “\$75”;  
14                 and

15                 (B) by striking out “\$2,207” and  
16                 “\$3,093” and inserting in lieu thereof  
17                 “\$2,443” and “\$3,426”, respectively;

18          (12) by striking out “\$2,207” in subsection (l)  
19          and inserting in lieu thereof “\$2,443”;

20          (13) by striking out “\$2,432” in subsection (m)  
21          and inserting in lieu thereof “\$2,694”;

22          (14) by striking out “\$2,768” in subsection (n)  
23          and inserting in lieu thereof “\$3,066”;

1           (15) by striking out “\$3,093” each place it ap-  
2           pears in subsections (o) and (p) and inserting in lieu  
3           thereof “\$3,426”;

4           (16) by striking out “\$1,328” and “\$1,978” in  
5           subsection (r) and inserting in lieu thereof “\$1,471”  
6           and “\$2,190”, respectively; and

7           (17) by striking out “\$1,985” in subsection (s)  
8           and inserting in lieu thereof “\$2,199”.

9           (b) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
10          fairs may authorize administratively, consistent with the  
11          increases authorized by this section, the rates of disability  
12          compensation payable to persons within the purview of  
13          section 10 of Public Law 85–857 who are not in receipt  
14          of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title  
15          38, United States Code.

16       **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**

17          Section 1115(1) is amended—

18               (1) by striking out “\$105” in clause (A) and  
19               inserting in lieu thereof “\$114”;

20               (2) by striking out “\$178” and “\$55” in clause  
21               (B) and inserting in lieu thereof “\$195” and “\$60”,  
22               respectively;

23               (3) by striking out “\$72” and “\$55” in clause  
24               (C) and inserting in lieu thereof “\$78” and “\$60”,  
25               respectively;

1           (4) by striking out “\$84” in clause (D) and in-  
2           serting in lieu thereof “\$92”;

3           (5) by striking out “\$195” in clause (E) and  
4           inserting in lieu thereof “\$215”; and

5           (6) by striking out “\$164” in clause (F) and  
6           inserting in lieu thereof “\$180”.

7 **SEC. 4. CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED**  
8 **VETERANS.**

9           Section 1162 is amended by striking out “\$478” and  
10          inserting in lieu thereof “\$528”.

11 **SEC. 5. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**  
12 **FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES.**

13          (a) **NEW LAW RATES.**—Section 1311(a) is amend-  
14          ed—

15               (1) by striking out “\$769” in paragraph (1)  
16               and inserting in lieu thereof “\$850”; and

17               (2) by striking out “\$169” in paragraph (2)  
18               and inserting in lieu thereof “\$185”.

1 (b) OLD LAW RATES.—The table in subsection (a)(3)  
 2 is amended to read as follows:

“Pay grade	Monthly rate	Pay grade	Monthly rate
E-1 .....	\$850	W-4 .....	\$1,017
E-2 .....	850	O-1 .....	898
E-3 .....	850	O-2 .....	928
E-4 .....	850	O-3 .....	992
E-5 .....	850	O-4 .....	1,049
E-6 .....	850	O-5 .....	1,155
E-7 .....	879	O-6 .....	1,302
E-8 .....	928	O-7 .....	1,406
E-9 .....	<sup>1</sup> 968	O-8 .....	1,541
W-1 .....	898	O-9 .....	1,651
W-2 .....	934	O-10 .....	<sup>2</sup> 1,811
W-3 .....	962		

“<sup>1</sup>If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 402 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$1,044.

“<sup>2</sup>If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, at the applicable time designated by section 402 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$1,941.”;

3 (c) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN.—Section  
 4 1311(b) is amended by striking out “\$100” and all that  
 5 follows and inserting in lieu thereof “\$215 for each such  
 6 child.”.

7 (d) AID AND ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE.—Section  
 8 1311(c) is amended by striking out “\$195” and inserting  
 9 in lieu thereof “\$215”.

10 (e) HOUSEBOUND RATE.—Section 1311(d) is amend-  
 11 ed by striking out “\$95” and inserting in lieu thereof  
 12 “\$104”.

1 **SEC. 6. DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**  
2 **FOR CHILDREN.**

3 (a) DIC FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN.—Section 1313(a)  
4 is amended—

5 (1) by striking out “\$327” in paragraph (1)  
6 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$361”;

7 (2) by striking out “\$471” in paragraph (2)  
8 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$520”;

9 (3) by striking out “\$610” in paragraph (3)  
10 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$675”; and

11 (4) by striking out “\$610” and “\$120” in  
12 paragraph (4) and inserting in lieu thereof “\$675”  
13 and “\$132”, respectively.

14 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR DISABLED ADULT  
15 CHILDREN.—Section 1314 is amended—

16 (1) by striking out “\$195” in subsection (a)  
17 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$215”;

18 (2) by striking out “\$327” in subsection (b)  
19 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$361”; and

20 (3) by striking out “\$166” in subsection (c)  
21 and inserting in lieu thereof “\$182”.

1 **SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       The amendments made by this Act shall take effect  
3 on December 1, 1997.

      Passed the House of Representatives October 31,  
1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,  
*Clerk.*