

Union Calendar No. 98

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1220

[Report No. 109-162]

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2005

Mr. BUYER (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Ms. BERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JUNE 30, 2005

Additional sponsors: Mr. BAKER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. FILNER, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. REYES, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. KOLBE

JUNE 30, 2005

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 10, 2005]

A BILL

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates

of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled 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 “Veterans’ Compensation*
5 *Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2005”.*

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION**
7 **AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-**
8 **PENSATION.**

9 (a) *RATE ADJUSTMENT.*—*The Secretary of Veterans*
10 *Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 2005, increase the dol-*
11 *lar amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-*
12 *pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by*
13 *the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).*

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

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

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

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

3 (4) *NEW DIC RATES.*—*The dollar amounts in ef-*
4 *fect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a)*
5 *of such title.*

6 (5) *OLD DIC RATES.*—*Each of the dollar*
7 *amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such*
8 *title.*

9 (6) *ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES*
10 *WITH MINOR CHILDREN.*—*The dollar amounts in ef-*
11 *fect under section 1311(b) of such title and paragraph*
12 *(1) of section 1311(f) of such title (as redesignated by*
13 *subsection (e) of this section).*

14 (7) *ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.*—*The dol-*
15 *lar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and*
16 *1311(d) of such title.*

17 (8) *DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.*—*The dol-*
18 *lar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and*
19 *1314 of such title.*

20 (c) *DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.*—

21 (1) *BASE FOR INCREASE.*—*The increase under*
22 *subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts*
23 *specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November*
24 *30, 2005.*

1 (2) *PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE.*—*Except as pro-*
2 *vided in paragraph (3), each such amount shall be in-*
3 *creased by the same percentage as the percentage by*
4 *which benefit amounts payable under title II of the*
5 *Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are in-*
6 *creased effective December 1, 2005, as a result of a de-*
7 *termination under section 215(i) of such Act (42*
8 *U.S.C. 415(i)).*

9 (3) *ROUNDING.*—*Each dollar amount increased*
10 *pursuant to paragraph (2) shall, if not a whole dollar*
11 *amount, be rounded down to the next lower whole dol-*
12 *lar amount.*

13 (d) *SPECIAL RULE.*—*The Secretary may adjust ad-*
14 *ministratively, consistent with the increases made under*
15 *subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable*
16 *to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law*
17 *85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensa-*
18 *tion payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United*
19 *States Code.*

20 (e) *DESIGNATION CORRECTION.*—*Section 1311 of title*
21 *38, United States Code, is amended by redesignating the*
22 *second subsection (e) (added by section 301(a) of the Vet-*
23 *erans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–*
24 *454; 118 Stat. 3610)) as subsection (f).*

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

2 *At the same time as the matters specified in section*
3 *215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.*
4 *415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a*
5 *determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during*
6 *fiscal year 2006, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pub-*
7 *lish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in sub-*
8 *section (b) of section 2, as increased pursuant to that sec-*
9 *tion.*

10 **SEC. 4. CODIFICATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005 COST-OF-LIV-**
11 **ING ADJUSTMENT PROVIDED IN PUBLIC LAW**
12 **108-363.**

13 *(a) VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—Section*
14 *1114 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

15 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$106” and in-*
16 *serting “\$108”;*

17 *(2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$205” and in-*
18 *serting “\$210”;*

19 *(3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$316” and in-*
20 *serting “\$324”;*

21 *(4) in subsection (d), by striking “\$454” and in-*
22 *serting “\$466”;*

23 *(5) in subsection (e), by striking “\$646” and in-*
24 *serting “\$663”;*

25 *(6) in subsection (f), by striking “\$817” and in-*
26 *serting “\$839”;*

1 (7) in subsection (g), by striking “\$1,029” and
2 inserting “\$1,056”;

3 (8) in subsection (h), by striking “\$1,195” and
4 inserting “\$1,227”;

5 (9) in subsection (i), by striking “\$1,344” and
6 inserting “\$1,380”;

7 (10) in subsection (j), by striking “\$2,239” and
8 inserting “\$2,299”;

9 (11) in subsection (k)—

10 (A) by striking “\$82” both places it appears
11 and inserting “\$84”; and

12 (B) by striking “\$2,785” and “\$3,907” and
13 inserting “\$2,860” and “\$4,012”, respectively;

14 (12) in subsection (l), by striking “\$2,785” and
15 inserting “\$2,860”;

16 (13) in subsection (m), by striking “\$3,073” and
17 inserting “\$3,155”;

18 (14) in subsection (n), by striking “\$3,496” and
19 inserting “\$3,590”;

20 (15) in subsections (o) and (p), by striking
21 “\$3,907” each place it appears and inserting
22 “\$4,012”;

23 (16) in subsection (r), by striking “\$1,677” and
24 “\$2,497” and inserting “\$1,722” and “\$2,564”, re-
25 spectively; and

1 (17) in subsection (s), by striking “\$2,506” and
2 inserting “\$2,573”.

3 (b) *ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.*—

4 Section 1115(1) of such title is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$127” and
6 inserting “\$130”;

7 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$219” and
8 “\$65” and inserting “\$224” and “\$66”, respectively;

9 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “\$86” and
10 “\$65” and inserting “\$88” and “\$66”, respectively;

11 (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking “\$103”
12 and inserting “\$105”;

13 (5) in subparagraph (E), by striking “\$241” and
14 inserting “\$247”; and

15 (6) in subparagraph (F), by striking “\$202” and
16 inserting “\$207”.

17 (c) *CLOTHING ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED*
18 *VETERANS.*—Section 1162 of such title is amended by strik-
19 ing “\$600” and inserting “\$616”.

20 (d) *DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR*
21 *SURVIVING SPOUSES.*—

22 (1) *NEW LAW DIC.*—Section 1311(a) of such title
23 is amended—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$967”
25 and inserting “\$993”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$208”
2 and inserting “\$213”.

3 (2) OLD LAW DIC.—The table in paragraph (3)
4 of such section is amended to read as follows:

<i>“Pay grade</i>	<i>Monthly rate</i>	<i>Pay grade</i>	<i>Monthly rate</i>
<i>E-1</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>W-4</i>	<i>\$1,188</i>
<i>E-2</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>O-1</i>	<i>\$1,049</i>
<i>E-3</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>O-2</i>	<i>\$1,084</i>
<i>E-4</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>O-3</i>	<i>\$1,160</i>
<i>E-5</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>O-4</i>	<i>\$1,227</i>
<i>E-6</i>	<i>\$993</i>	<i>O-5</i>	<i>\$1,351</i>
<i>E-7</i>	<i>\$1,027</i>	<i>O-6</i>	<i>\$1,523</i>
<i>E-8</i>	<i>\$1,084</i>	<i>O-7</i>	<i>\$1,645</i>
<i>E-9</i>	<i>\$1,131¹</i>	<i>O-8</i>	<i>\$1,805</i>
<i>W-1</i>	<i>\$1,049</i>	<i>O-9</i>	<i>\$1,931</i>
<i>W-2</i>	<i>\$1,091</i>	<i>O-10</i>	<i>\$2,118²</i>
<i>W-3</i>	<i>\$1,123</i>

¹ 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 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$1,221.

² 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 1302 of this title, the surviving spouse’s rate shall be \$2,272.”.

5 (3) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR CHILDREN OR DIS-
6 ABILITY.—Section 1311 of such title is amended—

7 (A) in subsection (b), by striking “\$241”
8 and inserting “\$247”;

9 (B) in subsection (c), by striking “\$241”
10 and inserting “\$247”; and

11 (C) in subsection (d), by striking “\$115”
12 and inserting “\$118”.

13 (e) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR
14 CHILDREN.—

15 (1) DIC WHEN NO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Section
16 1313(a) of such title is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$410”
2 and inserting “\$421”;

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$590”
4 and inserting “\$605”;

5 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$767”
6 and inserting “\$787”; and

7 (D) in paragraph (4), by striking “\$767”
8 and “\$148” and inserting “\$787” and “\$151”,
9 respectively.

10 (2) *SUPPLEMENTAL DIC FOR CERTAIN CHIL-*
11 *DREN.—Section 1314 of such title is amended—*

12 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “\$241”
13 and inserting “\$247”;

14 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “\$410”
15 and inserting “\$421”; and

16 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “\$205”
17 and inserting “\$210”.

18 **SEC. 5. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO IMPROVE BUSINESS**
19 **PRACTICES OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
20 **TRATION.**

21 (a) *DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIRED.—*

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
23 *fairs shall conduct a demonstration project under this*
24 *section for the improvement of business practices of*
25 *the Veterans Health Administration.*

1 (2) *PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT.*— *To carry*
2 *out the demonstration project, the Secretary shall*
3 *enter into a performance-based contract for a con-*
4 *tractor to carry out the functions specified in sub-*
5 *section (e).*

6 (3) *COST LIMITATION.*—*The total amount paid*
7 *to the contractor under the contract may not exceed*
8 *\$10,000,000.*

9 (b) *COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF PROJECT.*—
10 *The demonstration project shall be conducted during the*
11 *two-year period beginning on the first day of the first*
12 *month beginning more than 120 days after the date of the*
13 *enactment of this Act.*

14 (c) *SITES FOR CONDUCT OF PROJECT.*—*The Secretary*
15 *shall conduct the demonstration project at two facilities, at*
16 *least one of which shall be a medical center, of the Veterans*
17 *Health Administration within the same service area (re-*
18 *ferred to as a Veterans Integrated Service Network) of the*
19 *Veterans Health Administration. The two facilities at*
20 *which the project is conducted shall be selected by the Sec-*
21 *retary from among facilities that the Secretary determines*
22 *have relatively low performance for recovery or collection*
23 *of indebtedness from third-party payors under section 1729*
24 *of title 38, United States Code.*

1 (d) *SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR.*—*The Secretary shall*
2 *carry out the process for selection of the contractor for the*
3 *demonstration project so that the contractor to perform the*
4 *contract is selected, and the contract is awarded, not later*
5 *than three months after the date of the enactment of this*
6 *Act. The contractor shall be an entity or organization that*
7 *has significant experience in the administrative processing*
8 *of health care charges and claims.*

9 (e) *FUNCTIONS OF CONTRACTOR.*—*The Secretary shall*
10 *provide in the contract for the following functions of the*
11 *contractor with respect to each facility at which the dem-*
12 *onstration project is conducted:*

13 (1) *Detailed specification of existing business*
14 *processes that the contractor determines are relevant*
15 *to the capability of the facility to recover or collect in-*
16 *debtedness from third-party payors under section*
17 *1729 of title 38, United States Code.*

18 (2) *Reengineering of the business processes iden-*
19 *tified under paragraph (1), including provision for*
20 *standardized application of such reengineered proc-*
21 *esses throughout the facility.*

22 (3) *Establish and implement a plan to transi-*
23 *tion from the business processes identified under*
24 *paragraph (1) to the reengineered and standardized*
25 *businesses established pursuant to paragraph (2).*

1 (4) *Establishment of a comprehensive database*
2 *containing third-party payor information for vet-*
3 *erans receiving health care and services at the facil-*
4 *ity.*

5 (f) *VHA PROJECT MANAGER.*—*As part of the dem-*
6 *onstration project, the Secretary shall ensure that a Vet-*
7 *erans Health Administration employee is designated to be*
8 *the full-time project manager for the project and that such*
9 *employee’s duty station is at one of the facilities at which*
10 *the project is conducted, with provision for visits as needed*
11 *to the other facility at which the project is conducted.*

12 (g) *EMPLOYEE PROTECTION.*—*The Secretary shall ad-*
13 *minister the demonstration project so that during the period*
14 *of the conduct of the demonstration project there is no re-*
15 *duction in active full-time equivalent employees of the De-*
16 *partment of Veterans Affairs at the facilities at which the*
17 *project is conducted that is attributable to the conduct of*
18 *the demonstration project.*

19 (h) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS.*—

20 (1) *PERIODIC PROGRESS REPORTS ON PROJECT*
21 *IMPLEMENTATION.*—

22 (A) *REPORTS REQUIRED.*—*The Secretary*
23 *shall submit to Congress progress reports on the*
24 *implementation of the demonstration project.*

1 (B) *TIME FOR PROGRESS REPORTS.*— *Such*
2 *reports shall be submitted as expeditiously as*
3 *feasible after the end of—*

4 (i) *the 60-day period and the 90-day*
5 *period beginning on the date of the enact-*
6 *ment of this Act; and*

7 (ii) *the 60-day period, the 90-day pe-*
8 *riod, and the 180-day period beginning on*
9 *the date of the award of the contract under*
10 *subsection (d).*

11 (C) *MATTER TO BE INCLUDED.*—*Each re-*
12 *port under this paragraph shall set out the*
13 *progress to date of the demonstration project, in-*
14 *cluding—*

15 (i) *before the contractor has been se-*
16 *lected, progress toward selection of the con-*
17 *tractor (identified by the steps in the acqui-*
18 *sition process that have been accomplished*
19 *and that remain to be accomplished); and*

20 (ii) *after the contractor has been se-*
21 *lected—*

22 (I) *the contractor's progress in*
23 *initiating and carrying out the dem-*
24 *onstration project in accordance with*
25 *the requirements of this section; and*

1 (II) a copy of each contract under
2 the demonstration project and any
3 change order or modification to any
4 such contract.

5 (2) *INTERIM REPORTS ON PROJECT OPER-*
6 *ATION.*—After the completion of the first 12 months,
7 and after the completion of the first 18 months, of the
8 demonstration project, the Secretary shall submit to
9 Congress an interim report on the operation of the
10 demonstration project to that date. Each such report
11 shall include the following:

12 (A) The assessment of the Secretary as to
13 whether the rate of recovery or collection of in-
14 debtedness owed the United States from third-
15 party payors has improved by reason of the
16 project.

17 (B) The assessment of the Secretary as to
18 the performance of the contractor.

19 (3) *FINAL REPORT.*—

20 (A) *REQUIREMENT.*—After the conclusion of
21 the demonstration project, the Secretary shall
22 submit to Congress a final report on the project.

23 (B) *CONTENT.*—The Secretary shall include
24 in that report—

1 (i) the matters specified in paragraph
2 (2);

3 (ii) the Secretary's estimate of cost sav-
4 ings to the Department attributable to the
5 reengineered business processes implemented
6 under the demonstration project, with sup-
7 porting evidence and documentation for
8 such estimate; and

9 (iii) the Secretary's recommendation
10 for implementing on a permanent basis the
11 recovery or collection system demonstrated
12 in the project and expanding the project to
13 other facilities of the Veterans Health Ad-
14 ministration.

15 (C) *SUBMISSION.*—The final report shall be
16 submitted not later than 90 days after the con-
17 clusion of the demonstration project.

18 (i) *COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW AND RE-*
19 *PORTS.*—

20 (1) *REVIEW.*—The Comptroller General shall re-
21 view the demonstration project on an ongoing basis.

22 (2) *REPORTS.*—The Comptroller General shall
23 submit to Congress a report on the Comptroller Gen-
24 eral's findings and recommendations concerning the
25 demonstration project—

1 (A) after the operation of the demonstration
2 project for a period of one year; and

3 (B) after the operation of the demonstration
4 project for a period of two years.

5 (j) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
6 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans*
7 *Affairs for the conduct of the demonstration project under*
8 *this section the sum of \$10,000,000.*

9 **SEC. 6. PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH, EDUCATION,**
10 **AND CLINICAL CENTERS.**

11 (a) *REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CEN-*
12 *TERS.*—

13 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Subchapter II of chapter 73 of*
14 *title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding*
15 *at the end the following new section:*

16 **“§ 7329. Parkinson’s Disease research, education, and**
17 **clinical centers**

18 “(a) *The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the*
19 *Under Secretary for Health and pursuant to the provisions*
20 *of this section, shall designate six Department health-care*
21 *facilities as the locations for centers of Parkinson’s Disease*
22 *research, education, and clinical activities and (subject to*
23 *the appropriation of sufficient funds for such purpose) shall*
24 *establish and operate such centers at such locations in ac-*
25 *cordance with this section.*

1 “(b) *In designating locations for centers under sub-*
2 *section (a), the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the*
3 *Under Secretary for Health, shall—*

4 “(1) *designate each Department health-care facil-*
5 *ity that as of January 1, 2005, was operating a Par-*
6 *kinson’s Disease research, education, and clinical cen-*
7 *ter unless (on the recommendation of the Under Sec-*
8 *retary for Health) the Secretary determines that such*
9 *facility does not meet the requirements of subsection*
10 *(c) or has not demonstrated effectiveness in carrying*
11 *out the established purposes of such center or the po-*
12 *tential to carry out such purposes effectively in the*
13 *reasonably foreseeable future; and*

14 “(2) *assure appropriate geographic distribution*
15 *of such facilities.*

16 “(c) *The Secretary may not designate a health-care fa-*
17 *cility as a location for a center under subsection (a) unless*
18 *the peer review panel established under subsection (d) has*
19 *determined under that subsection that the proposal sub-*
20 *mitted by such facility as a location for a new center under*
21 *subsection (a) is among those proposals which have met the*
22 *highest competitive standards of scientific and clinical*
23 *merit, and the Secretary (upon the recommendation of the*
24 *Under Secretary for Health) determines that the facility has*

1 *(or may reasonably be anticipated to develop) each of the*
2 *following:*

3 “(1) *An arrangement with an accredited medical*
4 *school which provides education and training in neu-*
5 *rology and with which such facility is affiliated*
6 *under which residents receive education and training*
7 *in innovative diagnosis and treatment of chronic*
8 *neurodegenerative diseases and movement disorders,*
9 *including Parkinson’s disease.*

10 “(2) *The ability to attract the participation of*
11 *scientists who are capable of ingenuity and creativity*
12 *in health-care research efforts.*

13 “(3) *A policymaking advisory committee com-*
14 *posed of appropriate health-care and research rep-*
15 *resentatives of the facility and of the affiliated school*
16 *or schools to advise the directors of such facility and*
17 *such center on policy matters pertaining to the activi-*
18 *ties of such center during the period of the operation*
19 *of such center.*

20 “(4) *The capability to conduct effectively evalua-*
21 *tions of the activities of such center.*

22 “(5) *The capability to coordinate, as part of an*
23 *integrated national system, education, clinical, and*
24 *research activities within all facilities with such cen-*
25 *ters.*

1 “(6) *The capability to jointly develop a consor-*
2 *tium of providers with interest in treating*
3 *neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson’s*
4 *Disease, and other movement disorders, at facilities*
5 *without such centers in order to ensure better access*
6 *to state-of-the-art diagnosis, care, and education for*
7 *neurodegenerative disorders throughout the health care*
8 *system.*

9 “(7) *The capability to develop a national reposi-*
10 *tory for the collection of data on health services deliv-*
11 *ered to veterans seeking care for neurodegenerative*
12 *diseases, including Parkinson’s Disease, and other*
13 *movement disorders in the health care system.*

14 “(d)(1) *The Under Secretary for Health shall establish*
15 *a panel to assess the scientific and clinical merit of pro-*
16 *posals that are submitted to the Secretary for the establish-*
17 *ment of new centers under this section.*

18 “(2)(A) *The membership of the panel shall consist of*
19 *experts in neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkin-*
20 *son’s Disease, and other movement disorders.*

21 “(B) *Members of the panel shall serve as consultants*
22 *to the Department for a period of no longer than two years*
23 *except in the case of panelists asked to serve on the initial*
24 *panel as specified in subparagraph (C).*

1 “(C) In order to ensure panel continuity, half of the
2 members of the first panel shall be appointed for a period
3 of three years and half for a period of two years.

4 “(3) The panel shall review each proposal submitted
5 to the panel by the Under Secretary and shall submit its
6 views on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each
7 such proposal to the Under Secretary.

8 “(4) The panel shall not be subject to the Federal Advi-
9 sory Committee Act.

10 “(e) Before providing funds for the operation of any
11 such center at a health-care facility other than a health-
12 care facility designated under subsection (b)(1), the Sec-
13 retary shall assure that the center at each facility des-
14 igned under such subsection is receiving adequate funding
15 to enable such center to function effectively in the areas of
16 Parkinson’s Disease research, education, and clinical ac-
17 tivities.

18 “(f) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
19 as may be necessary for the support of the research and
20 education activities of the centers established pursuant to
21 subsection (a). The Under Secretary for Health shall allo-
22 cate to such centers from other funds appropriated generally
23 for the Department medical services account and medical
24 and prosthetics research account, as appropriate, such

1 amounts as the Under Secretary for Health determines ap-
2 propriate.

3 “(g) Activities of clinical and scientific investigation
4 at each center established under subsection (a) shall be eligi-
5 ble to compete for the award of funding from funds appro-
6 priated for the Department medical and prosthetics re-
7 search account and shall receive priority in the award of
8 funding from such account insofar as funds are awarded
9 to projects for research in Parkinson’s disease and other
10 movement disorders.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended by
13 inserting after the item relating to section 7328 the
14 following new item:

“7329. Parkinson’s Disease research, education, and clinical centers.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 7329 of title 38,
16 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
17 effect on October 1, 2005.

Union Calendar No. 98

109TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 1220

[Report No. 109-162]

A BILL

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2005, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

JUNE 30, 2005

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed