

109<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5444

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in 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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2006

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

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in 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.

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’ Disability Com-  
5       pensation Automatic COLA Act ”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DIS-**  
2 **ABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY**  
3 **AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

4 (a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—  
5 Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(d) COMPENSATION AND DIC RATE ADJUST-  
8 MENTS.—(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit  
9 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act  
10 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination  
11 made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)),  
12 the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase  
13 in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect  
14 for the payment of disability compensation and depend-  
15 ency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as  
16 specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect  
17 immediately before the date of such increase in benefit  
18 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act,  
19 by the same percentage as the percentage by which such  
20 benefit amounts are increased.

21 “(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to  
22 paragraph (1) are the following:

23 “(A) COMPENSATION.—Each of the dollar  
24 amounts in effect under section 1114 of this title.

1           “(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DE-  
2           PENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect  
3           under section 1115(1) of this title.

4           “(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar  
5           amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

6           “(D) NEW DIC RATES.—The dollar amounts in  
7           effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section  
8           1311(a) of this title.

9           “(E) OLD DIC RATES.—Each of the dollar  
10          amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of this  
11          title.

12          “(F) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES  
13          WITH MINOR CHILDREN.—The dollar amount in ef-  
14          fect under section 1311(b) of this title.

15          “(G) ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.—The  
16          dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and  
17          1311(d) of this title.

18          “(H) DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The  
19          dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and  
20          1314 of this title.

21          “(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph  
22          (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
23          pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation,  
24          the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased  
25          pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at

1 the same time as the material required by section  
2 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination  
4 under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).”.

5 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section  
6 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
7 section (a), shall take effect on January 1, 2007.

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