

## Union Calendar No. 37

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 570

[Report No. 113-62]

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

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. RUNYAN (for himself and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

MAY 17, 2013

Additional sponsors: Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. WALZ, Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD, Mr. ENYART, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BRIDENSTINE, Mr. LANCE, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ROSS, Mr. NUGENT, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BARBER, Mr. PETERS of California, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COURTNEY, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. BARLETTA

MAY 17, 2013

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# **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 the “American Heroes  
5 COLA Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DIS-**  
7                   **ABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY**  
8                   **AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

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

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

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

3           “(A) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—  
4       Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section  
5 1114 of this title.

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

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

11           “(D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-  
12 PENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the  
13 dollar amounts in effect under subsections (a)  
14 through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

15           “(E) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-  
16 PENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar  
17 amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314  
18 of such title.

19       “(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph  
20 (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
21 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation,  
22 the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased  
23 pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at  
24 the same time as the material required by section  
25 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

1 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination  
2 under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

3 “(4) Each dollar amount increased under paragraph  
4 (1), if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the  
5 next lower whole dollar amount.

6 “(5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust  
7 administratively, consistent with the increases made under  
8 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-  
9 able to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857  
10 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation  
11 under chapter 11 of this title.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section  
13 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
14 section (a) of this section, shall take effect on December  
15 1, 2014.

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