

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 116 Session of  
2025

INTRODUCED BY MASTRIANO, ARGALL, BAKER, COLEMAN, FONTANA,  
PENNYCUICK AND STEFANO, JUNE 3, 2025

REFERRED TO VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
JUNE 3, 2025

## A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to support the Major  
2 Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102) to allow all medically retired  
3 service members to receive full access to their much-deserved  
4 retirement pay and benefits.

5 WHEREAS, Major Richard Star was an Iraq and Afghanistan  
6 veteran who, after exposure to burn pits during his service,  
7 received a diagnosis of lung cancer; and

8 WHEREAS, Due to his diagnosis, Major Richard Star was forced  
9 to retire before completing 20 years of service and was  
10 therefore unable to collect his retirement and disability  
11 benefits; and

12 WHEREAS, For every dollar of disability pay they receive,  
13 veterans with less than 20 years of service and a disability  
14 rating of less than 50% will have their retirement pay reduced  
15 by a dollar; and

16 WHEREAS, An estimated 50,000 retired service members are  
17 ineligible for concurrent benefits under the current rules; and

18 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Budget Office, in

1 2022, the average offset was approximately \$1,900 a month; and

2 WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act would remove these  
3 restrictions and ensure that all service members who have  
4 medically retired can receive full access to retirement pay and  
5 Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, After dying from his battle with lung cancer in  
7 2021, Major Richard Star's widow claimed that his greatest goal  
8 was to get legislation passed providing for the removal of these  
9 restrictions; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States owes these benefits to its  
11 veterans regardless of the cost associated with their  
12 allocation; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
14 urge the Congress of the United States to support the Major  
15 Richard Star Act (H.R. 2102) to allow all medically retired  
16 service members to receive full access to their much-deserved  
17 retirement pay and benefits; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to  
19 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.