

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6933

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2020

Mr. COX of California (for himself, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain 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 “Caring for Survivors
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF DEPENDENCY AND IN-**
2 **DEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING**
3 **SPOUSES.**

4 (a) INCREASE.—Section 1311(a) of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended in paragraph (1), by striking “of
6 \$1,154” and inserting “equal to 55 percent of the rate
7 of monthly compensation in effect under section 1114(j)
8 of this title”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-
11 graph (2), the amendments made by subsection (a)
12 shall apply with respect to compensation paid under
13 chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, for
14 months beginning after the date that is six months
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

16 (2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN INDIVID-
17 UALS.—

18 (A) For months beginning after the date
19 that is six months after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
21 fairs shall pay to an individual described in sub-
22 paragraph (B) dependents and survivors income
23 security benefit under section 1311 of title 38,
24 United States Code, in the monthly amount
25 that is the greater of the following:

1 (i) The amount determined under sub-
2 section (a)(3) of such section 1311, as in
3 effect on the day before the date of the en-
4 actment of this Act.

5 (ii) The amount determined under
6 subsection (a)(1) of such section 1311, as
7 amended by subsection (a).

8 (B) An individual described in this sub-
9 paragraph is an individual eligible for depend-
10 ents and survivors income security benefit
11 under section 1311 of title 38, United States
12 Code, that is predicated on the death of a vet-
13 eran before January 1, 1993.

14 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPEND-**
15 **ENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION FOR**
16 **SURVIVORS OF CERTAIN VETERANS RATED**
17 **TOTALLY DISABLED AT TIME OF DEATH.**

18 Section 1318 of title 38, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
22 sserting “(1) Except as provided in paragraph
23 (2), the Secretary”; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(2) In any case in which the Secretary makes a pay-
2 ment under paragraph (1) of this subsection by reason
3 of subsection (b)(1) and the period of continuous rating
4 immediately preceding death is less than 10 years, the
5 amount payable under paragraph (1) of this subsection
6 shall be an amount that bears the same relationship to
7 the amount otherwise payable under such paragraph as
8 the duration of such period bears to 10 years.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “10 or
10 more years” and inserting “five or more years”.

11 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**
12 **COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES**
13 **WHO REMARRY AFTER AGE 55.**

14 Section 103(d)(2)(B) of title 38, United States Code,
15 is amended in the second sentence by inserting “chapter
16 13 or” after “benefits under”.

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