

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 777

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2023

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2023, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain 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 the “Veterans’ Compensa-
5 tion Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2023” or the “Vet-
6 erans’ COLA Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSA-**
2 **TION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**
3 **COMPENSATION.**

4 (a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—Effective on December 1,
5 2023, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase, in
6 accordance with subsection (c), the dollar amounts in ef-
7 fect on November 30, 2023, for the payment of disability
8 compensation and dependency and indemnity compensa-
9 tion under the provisions specified in subsection (b).

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

13 (1) **WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**—
14 Each of the dollar amounts under section 1114 of
15 title 38, United States Code.

16 (2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPEND-**
17 **ENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts under section
18 1115(1) of such title.

19 (3) **CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.**—The dollar
20 amount under section 1162 of such title.

21 (4) **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSA-**
22 **TION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.**—Each of the dollar
23 amounts under subsections (a) through (d) of sec-
24 tion 1311 of such title.

1 (5) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSA-
2 TION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar amounts
3 under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

4 (c) DETERMINATION OF INCREASE.—Each dollar
5 amount described in subsection (b) shall be increased by
6 the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit
7 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December
9 1, 2023, as a result of a determination under section
10 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

11 (d) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
12 fairs may adjust administratively, consistent with the in-
13 creases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability
14 compensation payable to persons under section 10 of Pub-
15 lic Law 85–857 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received
16 compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States
17 Code.

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

19 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the
20 Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as
21 increased under that section, not later than the date on
22 which the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the
23 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required

1 to be published by reason of a determination made under
2 section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 2024.

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