

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2394), to increase, effective as of December 1, 1995, 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, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATES OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) **RATE ADJUSTMENT.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, effective on December 1, 1995, increase the dollar amounts in effect for the payment of disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as specified in subsection (b).

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

(1) **COMPENSATION.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1114 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1115(1) of such title.

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

(4) **NEW DIC RATES.**—The dollar amounts in effect under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1311(a) of such title.

(5) **OLD DIC RATES.**—Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section 1311(a)(3) of such title.

(6) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH MINOR CHILDREN.**—The dollar amount in effect under section 1311(b) of such title.

(7) **ADDITIONAL DIC FOR DISABILITY.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1311(c) and 1311(d) of such title.

(8) **DIC FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**—The dollar amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314 of such title.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE.**—(1) The increase under subsection (a) shall be made in the dollar amounts specified in subsection (b) as in effect on November 30, 1995. Each such amount shall be increased by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased effective December 1, 1995, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

(2) In the computation of increased dollar amounts pursuant to paragraph (1), any amount which as so computed is not an even multiple of \$1 shall be rounded to the next lower whole dollar amount.

(d) **SPECIAL RULE.**—The Secretary may adjust administratively, consistent with the increases made under subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation payable to persons within the purview of section 10 of Public Law 85-857 (72 Stat. 1263) who are not in receipt of compensation payable pursuant to chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED RATES.

At the same time as the matters specified in section 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)(2)(D)) are required to be published by reason of a determination made under section 215(i) of such Act during fiscal year 1996, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall publish in the Federal Register the amounts specified in section 2(b), as increased pursuant to section 2.

Mr. STUMP (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not plan to object, and I yield to the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. STUMP] for an explanation of his request.

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, the only substantive difference is that the Senate bill does not include language regarding the basis for the DIC COLA.

This matter will be included in the budget reconciliation bill.

We are seeking unanimous consent because this bill must be enacted quickly.

The VA needs time to program their computer system so that veterans may receive the COLA in the January 1, 1996, benefit checks.

The Congressional Budget Office has indicated the bill reduces direct spending under the pay-as-you-go budget rules.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Very briefly, the increases that have been mentioned by the chairman is 2.6 percent effective for service-connected veterans in December. Tomorrow is Veterans Day for all veterans who fought in the different wars, and this is for the disabled veterans. It will also go to the Gold Star wives, a cost-of-living.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the initial request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2394.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would be pleased to yield to the distinguished majority leader for the purposes of apprising the House on the schedule for next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, November 13, the House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

We plan to consider 11 bills under suspension of the rules. I won't read through the long list now, but a list of those suspensions will be distributed to Members' offices today and will appear in the RECORD.

The suspensions are as follows:

H.R. 2527, permitting electronic filing and preservation of Federal Election Commission reports;

H.R. 2204, the Defense Production Act;

H.R. 924, prohibition on certain transfers of national forest lands;

H.R. 657, extending Federal Power Act deadline for construction of three Arkansas hydroelectric projects;

H.R. 680, extending the time for construction of certain FERC licensed hydro projects;

H.R. 1011, extending Federal Power Act deadline for construction of an Ohio hydroelectric project;

H.R. 1014, authorizing extension of time limitation for a FERC-issued hydroelectric license;

H.R. 1051, providing for extension of certain West Virginia hydroelectric projects;

H.R. 1290, reinstating the permit and extending the Federal Power Act deadline for the construction of an Oregon hydroelectric project;

H.R. 1335, providing for the extension of a West Virginia hydroelectric project; and

H.R. 1366, authorizing the extension of time limitation for the FERC-issued hydroelectric license for the Mount Hope waterpower project.

Members should be advised that any recorded votes ordered on the suspensions will be postponed until 5 p.m. Monday.

On Tuesday, November 14, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for morning hour and 10 a.m. for legislative business. We will first take up two bills on the Corrections Day Calendar:

H.R. 2366, a bill to repeal an unnecessary medical device reporting requirement; and

S. 790, the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995.

After consideration of the corrections day bills and for the balance of the week, the House will take up the following bills, all of which will be considered under rules:

H.R. 2539, the ICC Elimination Act;

H.R. 1058, the Securities Litigation Reform conference report;

H.R. 2126, the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense appropriations conference report;