Public Law 695 CHAPTER 1046

AN ACT

August 28, 1954
[H. R. 9020]

To provide increases in the monthly rates of compensation payable to certain veterans and their dependents.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) all monthly wartime rates of compensation payable under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration for disability, including the special statutory awards except as hereinafter provided, are hereby increased by 5 per centum: *Provided*, That such increases shall not apply to dependency allowances, subsistence allowances, or the special awards and allowances provided under subparagraphs (k) and (q), paragraph II, part I, Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, or the last paragraph of section 202 (3) and the penultimate paragraph of section 202 (7), World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended: *Provided further*, That in any case the rate of compensation, as increased herein, shall be further adjusted upward or downward to the nearest dollar.

Veterans and dependents. Compensation increase.

66 Stat. 295.
38 USC ch. 12A.
66 Stat. 296.
38 USC 473, 480.

(b) In adjusting the rates of peacetime disability compensation pursuant to paragraph II, part II, Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, because of the increases provided in subsection (a), such rates shall be further adjusted upward or downward to the nearest dollar.

62 Stat. 1219.
38 USC ch. 12A.

(c) The maximum rate of compensation of $400 per month set forth in subparagraph (k), paragraph II, part I, Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, is hereby increased to $420 per month.

66 Stat. 295.
38 USC ch. 12A.

SEC. 2. The monthly rate of death compensation authorized under paragraph IV, part I, Veterans Regulation Numbered 1 (a), as amended, for a widow but no child is hereby increased from $75 to $87, and the rate of such compensation for a dependent mother or father is increased from $60 to $75, or if both are dependent, from $35 to $40 each.

66 Stat. 90.
38 USC ch. 12A.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar month following the date of its enactment.

Effective date.

Approved August 28, 1954.

Public Law 696 CHAPTER 1047

AN ACT

August 28, 1954
[H. R. 9302]

To permit retired members of the uniformed services to revoke elections made under the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act of 1953 in certain cases where the elections were made because of mathematical errors or misinformation.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That retired members of the uniformed services who have elected under section 3 (b) of the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act of 1953 (Public Law 239, Eighty-third Congress) to receive a reduced amount of retired pay in order to provide an annuity under such public law may, within sixty days after the date of enactment of this Act, revoke such elections. A retired member may revoke an election under this Act only if he can establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned that he made such election because he was misinformed as to his rights under the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act of 1953 or because he made a substantial mathematical error in computing the cost of the benefits which he would derive under that Act and that such misinformation or error has resulted in undue hardship. The

Uniformed services contingency options. Revocation of elections.
67 Stat. 502.
37 USC 372(b).

37 USC 371 note.

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Secretary concerned may revoke an election made by him on behalf of a mentally incompetent member when it is established to his satisfaction that such election has resulted in undue hardship. A retired member whose election is revoked under this Act shall have refunded to him a sum which represents the difference between the amount by which his retired pay has been reduced in accordance with his election and the cost of an amount of term insurance which is equal to the protection provided his dependents during the period his election was in effect. A retired member whose election is revoked under this Act shall not thereafter be permitted to be covered in any way under the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act of 1953.

SEC. 2. Terms used in this Act shall have the meaning assigned to them by the Uniformed Services Contingency Option Act of 1953.

SEC. 3. Payments of the refunds authorized by this Act may be made from appropriate current appropriations.

Approved August 28, 1954.

Public Law 697 — CHAPTER 1048

August 28, 1954
[H. R. 9790]

AN ACT

To amend the Act of June 30, 1948, so as to extend for one year the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for certain public lands in Monroe County, Michigan, held under color of title.

Monroe County, Mich.

Land patents.
67 Stat. 581.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act entitled "An Act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for lands held under color of title", approved June 30, 1948 (Public Law 856, Eightieth Congress), as amended, is amended by striking out "within six years after passage of this Act" and inserting in lieu thereof "within seven years after passage of this Act".

Effective date.

SEC. 2. The amendment made by the first section of this Act shall take effect as of June 29, 1954.

Approved August 28, 1954.

Public Law 698 — CHAPTER 1049

August 28, 1954
[H. R. 9962]

AN ACT

To increase by 5 per centum the rates of pension payable to veterans and their dependents.

Veterans' pensions.
Increase.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) all monthly rates of pension for disability, age, or death payable to veterans or their dependents under any public law administered by the Veterans' Administration are hereby increased by 5 per centum, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to pension payable under sections 4756 or 4757 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (38 U. S. C. 229, 230), the Act of April 27, 1916 (39 Stat. 53), as amended (38 U. S. C. 391 and the following), or the Act of February 28, 1929 (45 Stat. 1409).

Effective date.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect on the first day of the second calendar month following the date of its enactment.

Approved August 28, 1954.