

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 570**

**(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)**

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 570

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. RUNYAN (for himself and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Heroes  
3 COLA Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ANNUAL INCREASE IN RATES OF DIS-**  
5 **ABILITY COMPENSATION AND DEPENDENCY**  
6 **AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

7 (a) INDEXING TO SOCIAL SECURITY INCREASES.—  
8 Section 5312 of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
9 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

10 “(d)(1) Whenever there is an increase in benefit  
11 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act  
12 (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) as a result of a determination  
13 made under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)),  
14 the Secretary shall, effective on the date of such increase  
15 in benefit amounts, increase the dollar amounts in effect  
16 for the payment of disability compensation and depend-  
17 ency and indemnity compensation by the Secretary, as  
18 specified in paragraph (2), as such amounts were in effect  
19 immediately before the date of such increase in benefit  
20 amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act,  
21 by the same percentage as the percentage by which such  
22 benefit amounts are increased, but only if such percentage  
23 increase is calculated using the Bureau of Labor Statistics  
24 Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Cler-  
25 ical Workers.

1           “(2) The dollar amounts to be increased pursuant to  
2 paragraph (1) are the following:

3           “(A) WARTIME DISABILITY COMPENSATION.—  
4           Each of the dollar amounts in effect under section  
5 1114 of this title.

6           “(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DE-  
7 PENDENTS.—Each of the dollar amounts in effect  
8 under section 1115(1) of this title.

9           “(C) CLOTHING ALLOWANCE.—The dollar  
10 amount in effect under section 1162 of this title.

11           “(D) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-  
12 PENSATION TO SURVIVING SPOUSE.—Each of the  
13 dollar amounts in effect under subsections (a)  
14 through (d) of section 1311 of such title.

15           “(E) DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-  
16 PENSATION TO CHILDREN.—Each of the dollar  
17 amounts in effect under sections 1313(a) and 1314  
18 of such title.

19           “(3) Whenever there is an increase under paragraph  
20 (1) in amounts in effect for the payment of disability com-  
21 pensation and dependency and indemnity compensation,  
22 the Secretary shall publish such amounts, as increased  
23 pursuant to such paragraph, in the Federal Register at  
24 the same time as the material required by section  
25 215(i)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

1 415(i)(2)(D)) is published by reason of a determination  
2 under section 215(i) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

3 “(4) During the period beginning on the date of the  
4 enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30,  
5 2018, each dollar amount increased under paragraph (1),  
6 if not a whole dollar amount, shall be rounded to the next  
7 lower whole dollar amount.

8 “(5) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may adjust  
9 administratively, consistent with the increases made under  
10 subsection (a), the rates of disability compensation pay-  
11 able to persons under section 10 of Public Law 85–857  
12 (72 Stat. 1263) who have not received compensation  
13 under chapter 11 of this title.”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) of section  
15 5312 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-  
16 section (a) of this section, shall take effect on December  
17 1, 2014.

18 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN RATE OF SPECIAL MONTHLY COM-**  
19 **PENSATION FOR SEVERELY INJURED VET-**  
20 **ERANS.**

21 (a) INCREASE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1114(r) of title 38,  
23 United States Code, is amended—

24 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$2,002”  
25 and inserting “\$3,163”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$2,983”  
2 and inserting “\$4,713”.

3 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
4 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on December 1,  
5 2014.

6 (b) TEMPORARY RATES.—During the period begin-  
7 ning on December 1, 2014, and ending on September 30,  
8 2018, section 1114(r) of title 38, United States Code, as  
9 amended by subsection (a), shall be applied—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), by substituting “\$2,742”  
11 for “\$3,163”; and

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by substituting “\$4085”  
13 for “\$4,713”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.”.