

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 695

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 695

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 23, 2025

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. BOEBERT, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. VAN DREW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the rate of the special pension payable to Medal of Honor recipients, 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 “Medal of Honor Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Medal of Honor is the highest and
2 most prestigious military decoration of the United
3 States.

4 (2) To earn the Medal of Honor “the deed of
5 the person . . . must be so outstanding that it clear-
6 ly distinguishes his gallantry beyond the call of duty
7 from lesser forms of bravery”.

8 (3) The actions of Medal of Honor recipients
9 inspire bravery, and the willingness to give all, in
10 those who serve in the Armed Forces and those who
11 will serve in the future.

12 (4) Those listed on the Medal of Honor Roll ex-
13 emplify the best traits of members of the Armed
14 Forces, a long and proud lineage of those who went
15 beyond the call of duty.

16 (5) Pursuant to section 1562 of title 38, United
17 States Code, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
18 pay monthly to each living person whose name has
19 been entered on the Army, Navy, Air Force, and
20 Coast Guard Medal of Honor Roll a special pension.

21 (6) Recipients of the Medal of Honor have
22 earned a substantial and historic increase to such
23 special pension in recognition of their conspicuous
24 gallantry, unwavering commitment, and heroic ac-
25 tions above and beyond the call of duty.

1 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **SPECIAL PENSION PAYABLE TO MEDAL OF**
3 **HONOR RECIPIENTS.**

4 Section 1562 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

7 (A) by inserting “(A)” before “The Sec-
8 retary”;

9 (B) by striking “the rate of \$1,406.73”
10 and inserting “the rate described in subpara-
11 graph (B)”; and

12 (C) by adding at the end the following new
13 subparagraph:

14 “(B) The rate described in this subparagraph is equal
15 to the amount of monthly compensation paid to a veteran
16 without dependents under subsection (m) of section 1114
17 of this title, increased to the next intermediate rate under
18 subsection (p) of such section.”; and

19 (2) in subsection (e)—

20 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “Effective”;

21 (B) by inserting “, subject to paragraph
22 (2),” before “shall”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph (2):

25 “(2) The Secretary shall not, under paragraph (1),
26 increase the amount of monthly special pension payable

1 under subsection (a) in a year if such amount was other-
2 wise increased during such year.”.

3 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITS ON PAYMENTS OF**
4 **PENSION.**

5 Section 5503(d)(7) of title 38, United States Code,
6 is amended by striking “November 30, 2031” and insert-
7 ing “January 31, 2033”.