

# Calendar No. 833

87TH CONGRESS }  
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 850

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## INCREASED DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPEN- SATION FOR CERTAIN VETERANS' WIDOWS

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AUGUST 31, 1961.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. BYRD of Virginia, from the Committee on Finance, submitted  
the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6969]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6969) to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase dependency and indemnity compensation in certain cases, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 6969 is to adjust the dependency and indemnity compensation rates so that benefits for certain widows of veterans whose deaths are due to service connection will not be less generous than benefits payable to widows of veterans whose deaths were nonservice connected.

#### GENERAL EXPLANATION

Chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, originally enacted as Public Law 881 of the 84th Congress, provides dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected death. It provides that the widow shall be paid on the basis of \$112 a month plus 12 percent of the basic pay of the veteran according to rank and years of service. In effect this means that the lowest payment would be \$122 monthly and the highest \$337. On the other hand, a widow eligible for non-service-connected death pension and whose annual income does not exceed \$1,000 and having as many as five additional children could receive payments of \$135 monthly. - The payment of \$122 for dependency and indemnity compensation is for both the widow and the children. Thus, it will be seen in the example cited that the widow, if eligible, would be better served under the non-

service-connected pension law. Sections 416(b) and 417(b), of title 38, United States Code, bar such action.

H.R. 6969 authorizes the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to pay a veteran's widow or child an amount equal to the greater amount which the beneficiary would be entitled to under the pension program, had death occurred under circumstances authorizing payment thereunder. However, payment would be made as dependency and indemnity compensation.

The Veterans' Administration favors enactment of this act. It is estimated the number of cases involved will be extremely small and the bill's application very limited.

