

INCREASING THE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY RATES OF COMPENSATION OR PENSION PAYABLE TO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II AND VETERANS ENTITLED TO WARTIME RATES BASED ON SERVICE ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 16, 1940, FOR SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES; INCREASING THE RATES FOR WIDOWS AND CHILDREN UNDER PUBLIC LAW 484, SEVENTY-THIRD CONGRESS, AS AMENDED, AND INCLUDING WIDOWS AND CHILDREN OF WORLD WAR II VETERANS FOR BENEFITS UNDER THE LATTER ACT

MAY 5 (legislative day, APRIL 12), 1944.—Ordered to be printed

MR. GEORGE (for Mr. CLARK of Missouri), from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 3356]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3356) to provide for an increase in the monthly rates of compensation or pension payable to disabled veterans for service-incurred disability and to widows and children under Public Law 484, Seventy-third Congress, June 28, 1934, as amended, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Section 1 of the bill provides that the monthly rates of compensation or pension payable to veterans of World War I and World War II, including those entitled to wartime rates under Public Law No. 359, Seventy-seventh Congress, December 19, 1941, for service on or after September 16, 1940, for service-incurred disabilities shall be increased by 15 percent. The special awards and allowances fixed by law are not included. The base pay for permanent and total disability was set by Congress on December 24, 1919, at \$100 per month. Partial disabilities call for proportionate amounts, e. g., 10-percent disability, \$10; 20-percent disability, \$20; and so on up the scale. This base pay has been in effect for the past quarter of a century. By the terms of this bill the base pay will be set at \$115 per month for permanent and total disability, with proportionate amounts for partial disabilities according to the percentage evaluated.

2 INCREASING SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY COMPENSATION

The service-incurred disabilities referred to in this section are those disabilities which are ordinarily referred to as service connected. The special awards and allowances fixed by law, which are referred to in the section and which are excluded from the increase in rates, are statutory awards and special monthly pensions such as, for example, an additional allowance for a nurse or attendant, a statutory award for arrested and apparently cured tuberculosis, and increased compensation for loss of the use of one or more feet or hands.

Section 2 of the bill would increase the monthly rates of death compensation payable to widows and children of World War I veterans where the veteran died of a disability not shown to be due to service if the veteran, at time of death, had a service-connected disability. The rates provided by section 2 of the bill, in comparison with those under the existing law as provided by section 2 (a) of the act of July 19, 1939, Public, 198, Seventy-sixth Congress, are shown as follows:

PUBLIC 198, SEVENTY-SIXTH CONGRESS, JULY 19, 1939		H. R. 3356, SEVENTY-EIGHTH CON- GRESS	
Widow but no child.....	\$30	Widow but no child.....	\$35
Widow with 1 child (with \$4 for each additional child).....	38	Widow and 1 child (with \$5 for each additional child).....	45
No widow but 1 child.....	15	No widow but 1 child.....	18
No widow but 2 children (equally divided).....	22	No widow but 2 children (equally divided).....	27
No widow but 3 children (equally divided) (with \$3 for each addi- tional child, total amount to be equally divided).....	30	No widow but 3 children (equally divided) (with \$4 for each addi- tional child, total amount to be equally divided).....	36

The above rates provided by this bill will be considerably lower than the rates provided for the widows and children of veterans whose death results from wartime service-connected disability. The rates in the case of such wartime service-connected death are as follows:

Public, 144, 78th Cong., July 13, 1943

Widow but no child.....	\$50
Widow with 1 child (with \$13 for each additional child) subject to appor- tionment regulations.....	65
No widow but 1 child.....	25
No widow but 2 children (equally divided) (with \$10 for each additional child, total amount to be equally divided).....	38

The payments at the rates provided in section 2 of this bill will continue to be subject to the limitations in existing law which limit to \$64 a month the total amount which may be paid to the widow and children, or children alone, in an individual case and which provide that benefits under the act are not payable to any widow without child or to a child whose annual income exceeds \$1,000, or to a widow with a child or children whose annual income exceeds \$2,500.

Section 3 of the bill provides that the increases provided by the bill shall be effective from the first day of the first month following the enactment of the act.

Section 4 of the bill extends the benefits of Public, No. 484, Seventy-third Congress, as amended, to the widows and children of veterans of World War II, in a similar manner and under the same conditions

as such benefits are granted to widows and children of deceased veterans of World War I, except that the applicable definition of the term "widow" is to be that contained in section 6 of Public, No. 144, Seventy-eighth Congress. These are the benefits for widows and children of veterans paid where the veteran died of a disability not shown to be due to service if, at the time of death, the veteran had a service-connected disability. These are the benefits the rate of which is increased by section 2 of this bill, and the rates provided in section 2 would be applicable in cases to which benefits are extended by section 4.

