

S 451

Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 26, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (Feb 26, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/451>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Snowe, Olympia J. [R-ME]

Party: Republican • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (46 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Inouye, Daniel K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. Johnson, Tim [D-SD]	D · SD		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. Lugar, Richard G. [R-IN]	R · IN		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. Reid, Harry [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Mar 12, 2003
Sen. Bunning, Jim [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 19, 2003
Sen. Bingaman, Jeff [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 20, 2003
Sen. DeWine, Mike [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 20, 2003
Sen. Dodd, Christopher J. [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 20, 2003
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Hagel, Chuck [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Smith, Gordon H. [R-OR]	R · OR		Mar 27, 2003
Sen. Daschle, Thomas A. [D-SD]	D · SD		Apr 1, 2003
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Apr 1, 2003
Sen. Allen, George [R-VA]	R · VA		Apr 7, 2003
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Apr 7, 2003
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 7, 2003
Sen. Breaux, John B. [D-LA]	D · LA		Apr 8, 2003
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 11, 2003
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 29, 2003
Sen. Nelson, Ben [D-NE]	D · NE		Apr 29, 2003
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		May 6, 2003
Sen. Dayton, Mark [D-MN]	D · MN		May 22, 2003
Sen. Lott, Trent [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 3, 2003
Sen. Sarbanes, Paul S. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 10, 2003
Sen. Jeffords, James M. [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 12, 2003
Sen. Lincoln, Blanche L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Jun 12, 2003
Sen. Domenici, Pete V. [R-NM]	R · NM		Jun 19, 2003
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 19, 2003
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Jun 19, 2003
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 19, 2003
Sen. Clinton, Hillary Rodham [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 24, 2003
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 9, 2003
Sen. Thomas, Craig [R-WY]	R · WY		Jul 23, 2003
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 30, 2003
Sen. Coleman, Norm [R-MN]	R · MN		Sep 4, 2003
Sen. Corzine, Jon S. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 4, 2003

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 17, 2003
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Nov 14, 2003
Sen. Dole, Elizabeth [R-NC]	R · NC		Nov 24, 2003
Sen. Shelby, Richard C. [R-AL]	R · AL		Mar 31, 2004
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 29, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 1916	Related bill	Nov 21, 2003: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.
108 HR 548	Identical bill	Feb 28, 2003: Executive Comment Requested from DOD.

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2003)

Military Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 - Adjusts the basic Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity amount for surviving spouses, age 62 and older, of former military personnel to: (1) 35 percent of the retired pay of the decedent (current law), for months before October 2004; (2) 40 percent for months during FY 2005; (3) 45 percent for months during FY 2006; (4) 50 percent for months during FY 2007; and (5) 55 percent for months after FY 2007. Adjusts similarly percentage amounts with respect to survivors of reserve personnel and survivors of persons who die while on active duty. Provides a corresponding phased elimination of the SBP supplemental annuity authorized to be provided to such surviving spouses. Requires periodic recomputation of: (1) annuity amounts beginning in October 2004; and (2) retired pay reductions for supplemental survivor annuities.

Provides a one-year open enrollment period for SBP participation, commencing October 1, 2004, for those currently not participating, those electing to increase current coverage, and those wishing to participate in the supplemental SBP.

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense to require appropriate premiums for SBP participation.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 26, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2842)
- **Feb 26, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.