

## S 735

### Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Armed Forces and National Security

**Introduced:** Apr 16, 2013

**Current Status:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-111.

**Latest Action:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-111. (Jun 12, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/735>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]

**Party:** Independent • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Jun 12, 2013

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 2413	Related bill	<b>Jun 2, 2014:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
113 S 1982	Related bill	<b>Feb 27, 2014:</b> Motion by Senator Reid to commit to Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs with instructions to report back forthwith with amendment (SA 2767) fell when the bill was committed in Senate. (consideration: CR S1209-1210)
113 S 1950	Related bill	<b>Feb 4, 2014:</b> Motion to proceed to consideration of measure withdrawn in Senate. (consideration: CR S736)
113 S 944	Related bill	<b>Dec 9, 2013:</b> Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 258.

Survivor Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 - Allows dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) paid through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to the surviving spouses of veterans to be increased for months occurring during the five-year (under current law, two-year) period beginning on the date of entitlement.

Provides that the remarriage after age 55 of the surviving spouse of a veteran shall not bar the furnishing of VA DIC, health care, educational assistance, and housing loans.

Authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide, to any spina bifida-affected child of a veteran who served on active duty in Thailand beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, and was exposed to a herbicide agent during such service, the same health care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary allowance required to be paid to a similarly-affected child of a Vietnam veteran.

Directs the Secretary to carry out a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing grief counseling services for the surviving spouses of veterans who die while serving on active duty.

---

### **Actions Timeline**

- **Jun 12, 2013:** Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 113-111.
- **Apr 16, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 16, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2686)
- **Apr 16, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2686-2687)