

HR 675

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: Feb 3, 2015

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. (Jul 29, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/675>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5]

Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]	D · NV		Feb 3, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]	D · OH		May 18, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Jul 7, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Veterans' Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 14, 2015
Veterans' Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 29, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 4782	Related bill	Sep 12, 2016: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 574.
114 HR 5588	Related bill	Jul 22, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-197.
114 S 3032	Related bill	Jun 29, 2016: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-707.
114 S 1493	Related bill	Oct 26, 2015: Held at the desk.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on July 16, 2015. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015

TITLE I--COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

(Sec. 101) This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase, as of November 30, 2015, the rates of:

- veterans' disability compensation,
- additional compensation for dependents,
- wartime disability compensation,
- the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and
- dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Each such increase shall be the same percentage as the benefits increase provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act, as of December 1, 2015.

(Sec. 102) The VA shall publish such adjusted rates in the Federal Register.

TITLE II--UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

(Sec. 201) The temporary expansion of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is extended till January 1, 2020.

(Sec. 202) Specified recall requirements for retired judges are amended. A recall-eligible judge may request a recall for a period of service of at least 90 days (or the equivalent).

(Sec. 203) A regular active service judge or a retired judge shall be treated as an employee for government life insurance purposes.

(Sec. 204) Regular service judges, retired recall-eligible judges, and certain retired but not recall-eligible judges may purchase in three-month increments up to an additional year of service credit for each year of federal judicial service completed.

(Sec. 205) The salary of Court judges is set at the rate applicable to federal appellate court judges. (Their salary is currently set at the rate applicable to federal district court judges.)

(Sec. 206) The chief judge of the Court, in addition to existing qualifications, must not be older than 64 and have at least 3 years remaining in term of office as a judge of the Court in regular active service.

TITLE III--IMPROVEMENT OF CLAIMS PROCESSING

(Sec. 301) In the case of a disability compensation claim for two or more disabilities for which the VA, before completing the full adjudication, makes a decision with respect to a disability that would result in the payment of monetary benefits to the claimant, the VA shall make interim payments to the claimant based on such disability.

Upon completion of the adjudication of all the disability claims the VA will pay the full amount of accrued benefits, less the

amount of the interim payments that the claimant has already received.

(Sec. 302) The VA shall: (1) establish a minimum two-year training program for newly hired claims processors, and (2) identify successful claims processors to assist in such training.

(Sec. 303) The VA shall: (1) inform each person who submits a claim for benefits that he or she is eligible to receive up to an extra year of benefits payments upon the filing of a fully developed claim; and (2) post at each VA Regional Office, claims-intake facility, and on its website information regarding the average processing time of claims and the percentage of submitted claims for which benefits are awarded.

TITLE IV--OTHER MATTERS

(Sec. 401) The VA shall pay any accrued benefits due and unpaid, as of a veteran's date of death, to the veteran's estate unless the estate will escheat.

(Sec. 402) The President shall issue an annual proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe two minutes of silence on Veterans Day in honor of the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout the history of the nation.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 29, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5545)
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 409 - 0 (Roll no. 472). (text: CR 7/27/2015 H5513-5515)
- **Jul 28, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 28, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 409 - 0 (Roll no. 472). (text: CR 7/27/2015 H5513-5515)
- **Jul 28, 2015:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Mr. Miller (FL) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5513-5517)
- **Jul 27, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 675.
- **Jul 27, 2015:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jul 16, 2015:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H. Rept. 114-206.
- **Jul 16, 2015:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 155.
- **May 21, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 21, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 14, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Feb 13, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.
- **Feb 3, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 3, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.