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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 542 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY GREGORY, PISCIOTTANO, CIRESI, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
DEASY, DELLOSO, FLEMING, FREEMAN, GUENST, JAMES, JOZWIAK,  
KINSEY, MADDEN, MARSHALL, N. NELSON, PIELLI, SAMUELSON,  
SANCHEZ, SCHWEYER, SHUSTERMAN, STEELE, WEBSTER AND TAKAC,  
MARCH 20, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS, MARCH 20, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in veterans' pensions and benefits,  
3 further providing for blind veteran's pension and for amputee  
4 and paralyzed veteran's pension.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 7701(b) and 7702(a) of Title 51 of the  
8 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended to read:

9 § 7701. Blind veteran's pension.

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) Amount and eligibility.--In addition to any other  
12 assistance provided by the Commonwealth and in addition to any  
13 compensation provided by the Federal Government, every blind  
14 veteran shall be paid a pension of [~~\$150~~] \$250 per month.  
15 Applications for such pensions shall be made to and in the form  
16 prescribed by the department. The Adjutant General shall have  
17 the power, and it shall be his duty to determine the eligibility

1 of every applicant for a pension, and his decision in the matter  
2 shall be final. The amount of the pension shall be increased  
3 biennially, on January 1, by the percentage change increase, if  
4 any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)  
5 for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area for  
6 the most recent 12-month period for which figures are officially  
7 reported by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of  
8 Labor Statistics. The department shall transmit notice of any  
9 biennial increase to the Legislative Reference Bureau for  
10 publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

11 § 7702. Amputee and paralyzed veteran's pension.

12 (a) Amount and eligibility.--In addition to any other  
13 assistance provided by the Commonwealth and in addition to any  
14 compensation provided by the Federal Government, every amputee  
15 and paralyzed veteran shall be paid a pension of [~~\$150~~] \$250 per  
16 month. Applications for the pensions shall be made to and in the  
17 form prescribed by the department. The Adjutant General shall  
18 determine the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and  
19 his decision in the matter shall be final. The amount of the  
20 pension shall be increased biennially, on January 1, by the  
21 percentage change increase, if any, in the Consumer Price Index  
22 for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Pennsylvania, New  
23 Jersey, Delaware and Maryland area for the most recent 12-month  
24 period for which figures are officially reported by the United  
25 States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The  
26 department shall transmit notice of any biennial increase to the  
27 Legislative Reference Bureau for publication in the Pennsylvania  
28 Bulletin.

29 \* \* \*

30 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.