

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1911

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2015

Mr. HUNTER (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. COFFMAN, and Mr. JOYCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase certain veteran funeral benefits.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. INCREASE TO CERTAIN FUNERAL BENEFITS**

4 **UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
5 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **FUNERAL EXPENSES.**—Section 2302(a) of title
7 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “\$300” and inserting “\$2,000
2 (as increased from time to time under subsection
3 (c))”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(c) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
7 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
8 est dollar) in the maximum amount of burial and funeral
9 expenses payable under subsection (a) equal to the per-
10 centage by which—

11 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
12 United States city average) for the 12-month period
13 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
14 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
15 ceeds

16 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
17 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

19 (b) DEATH IN DEPARTMENT FACILITY; PLOT AL-
20 LOWANCE.—Section 2303 of such title is amended by
21 striking “\$700” each place it appears and inserting
22 “\$2,000”.

23 (c) DEATH FROM SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-
24 ABILITY.—Section 2307 of such title is amended—

1 (1) by inserting striking “In any case” and in-
2 serting the following:

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In any case”.

4 (2) by striking “\$2,000” and inserting “\$2,000
5 (as increased from time to time under subsection
6 (b))”; and

7 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
8 section:

9 “(b) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
10 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
11 est dollar) in the maximum amount of burial and funeral
12 expenses payable under subsection (a) equal to the per-
13 centage by which—

14 “(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items,
15 United States city average) for the 12-month period
16 ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of
17 the fiscal year for which the increase is made, ex-
18 ceeds

19 “(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-
20 month period preceding the 12-month period de-
21 scribed in paragraph (1).”.

22 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
23 this Act shall apply to deaths that occur after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act.

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