

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4721

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans for improvements and structural alterations furnished as part of home health services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans for improvements and structural alterations furnished as part of home health services.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Autonomy for Disabled
5 Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO DISABLED**
2 **VETERANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUC-**
3 **TURAL ALTERATIONS FURNISHED AS PART**
4 **OF HOME HEALTH SERVICES.**

5 (a) INCREASE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section
7 1717(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
8 ed—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (i) in clause (i), by striking “; or” and
11 inserting a semicolon;

12 (ii) in clause (ii)—

13 (I) by inserting “and before the
14 date of the enactment of the Auton-
15 omy for Disabled Veterans Act” after
16 “May 5, 2010,”; and

17 (II) by striking “; and” and in-
18 serting “; or”; and

19 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
20 lowing new clause:

21 “(iii) in the case of a veteran who first ap-
22 plies for benefits under this paragraph on or
23 after the date of the enactment of the Auton-
24 omy for Disabled Veterans Act, \$10,000; and”.

25 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

1 (i) in clause (i), by striking “; or” and
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (ii) in clause (ii)—

4 (I) by inserting “and before the
5 date of the enactment of the Auton-
6 omy for Disabled Veterans Act” after
7 “May 5, 2010,”; and

8 (II) by striking the period at the
9 end and inserting “; or”; and

10 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new clause:

12 “(iii) in the case of a veteran who first ap-
13 plies for benefits under this paragraph on or
14 after the date of the enactment of the Auton-
15 omy for Disabled Veterans Act, \$5,000.”.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY.—A veteran who exhausts
17 the eligibility of the veteran for benefits under sec-
18 tion 1717(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, be-
19 fore the date of the enactment of this Act is not en-
20 titled to additional benefits under such section by
21 reason of the amendments made by paragraph (1).

22 (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section 1717(a)
23 of title 38, United States Code, is further amended by
24 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

1 “(4) On an annual basis, the Secretary shall increase
2 the dollar amounts in effect under paragraph (2) by a per-
3 centage equal to the percentage by which the consumer
4 price index for all urban consumers (United States city
5 average) increased during the 12-month period ending
6 with the last month for which consumer price index data
7 is available. In the event that such consumer price index
8 does not increase during such period, the Secretary shall
9 maintain the dollar amounts in effect under paragraph (2)
10 during the previous fiscal year.”.

○