

[CHAPTER 868]

AN ACT

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide books for the adult blind."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act of June 13, 1944 (58 Stat. 276), is amended to read as follows:

"That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated annually to the Library of Congress, in addition to appropriations otherwise made to said Library, \$1,125,000, which sum shall be expended under the direction of the Librarian of Congress to provide books published either in raised characters, on sound-reproduction recordings, or in any other form, for the use of the adult blind residents of the United States, including the several States, Territories, insular possessions, and the District of Columbia: *Provided*, That of said annual appropriation of \$1,125,000, not exceeding \$200,000 thereof shall be expended for books in raised characters and the balance remaining shall be expended for sound-reproduction recordings and for the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of reproducers for these sound-reproduction recordings, all of which books, recordings, and reproducers will remain the property of the Library of Congress but will be loaned to blind readers under regulations prescribed by the Librarian of Congress for this service. In the purchase of books in either raised characters or in sound-reproduction recordings the Librarian of Congress, without reference to section 5 of title 41, United States Code, shall give preference to non-profit-making institutions or agencies whose activities are primarily concerned with the blind, in all cases where the prices or bids submitted by such institutions or agencies are, by said Librarian, under all the circumstances and needs involved, determined to be fair and reasonable.

Sec. 2. This Act shall be applicable with respect to the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, and for each fiscal year thereafter.

Approved August 8, 1946.

[CHAPTER 869]

AN ACT

Relating to veterans' pension, compensation, or retirement pay during hospitalization, institutional or domiciliary care, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (A) (1) where any veteran having neither wife, child, nor dependent parent is being furnished hospital treatment, institutional or domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration, any pension, compensation, or retirement pay otherwise payable shall continue without reduction until the first day of the seventh calendar month following the month of enactment hereof, or the month of admission of such veteran for treatment or care, whichever is the later. If treatment or care extends beyond that period, the pension, compensation, or retirement pay, if \$30 per month or less, shall continue without reduction, but if greater than \$30 per month, the pension, compensation, or retirement pay shall not exceed 50 per centum of the amount otherwise payable or \$30 per month, whichever is the greater: *Provided*, That if such veteran is discharged from such treatment or care upon certification by the officer in charge of the hospital, institution, or home, that maximum benefits have been received or that release is approved, he shall be paid in a lump sum such additional amount as would equal the total sum by which his pension, compensation, or retirement pay has been reduced under

August 8, 1946

[H. R. 6455]

[Public Law 661]

2 U. S. C., Supp. V,

§ 136a.
Books for adult blind.

Appropriations authorized.

Ante, p. 404.

Expenditures.

Purchases.

Ante, p. 809.

Applicability.

August 8, 1946

[H. R. 6811]

[Public Law 662]

Veterans.
Pensions during hospitalization, etc.

Lump-sum payment.

this section: *Provided further*, That where treatment or care is terminated by the veteran against medical advice or as the result of disciplinary action the amount by which any pension, compensation, or retirement pay is reduced hereunder, shall be paid to him at the expiration of six months after such termination or, in the event of his prior death, as provided in paragraph (2) hereof; and the pension, compensation, or retirement pay of any veteran leaving against medical advice or as the result of disciplinary action shall, upon a succeeding readmission for treatment or care, be subject to reduction, as herein provided, from the date of such readmission, but if such subsequent treatment or care is continued until discharge therefrom upon certification, by the officer in charge of the hospital, institution, or home in which treatment or care was furnished, that maximum benefits have been received or that release is approved, the veteran shall be paid in a lump sum such additional amount as would equal the total sum by which his pension, compensation, or retirement pay has been reduced under this section subsequent to such readmission.

Treatment terminated against medical advice, etc.

Readmission.

Lump-sum payment.

(2) In the event of the death of any veteran subject to the provisions of this section, while receiving hospital treatment, institutional or domiciliary care, or prior to payment of any lump sum authorized herein, such lump sum shall be paid in the following order of precedence: First, to the widow, or widower; second, if the decedent left no widow, or widower, or the widow or widower be dead at time of settlement, then to the adult or minor children in equal parts; third, if no widow, widower, or children, then to the father and mother in equal parts; fourth, if either the father or mother be dead, then to the one surviving; fifth, if there be no widow, widower, children, father, or mother at the time of settlement, then to the brothers and sisters in equal parts: *Provided*, That if there be no persons in the classes named to whom payment may be made hereunder, no payment shall be made, except there may be paid only so much of the lump sum as may be necessary to reimburse a person who bore the expenses of last sickness or burial, but no part of the lump sum shall be used to reimburse any political subdivision of the United States for expenses incurred in the last sickness or burial of such veteran: *Provided further*, That no payment shall be made under this paragraph unless claim therefor shall be filed with the Veterans' Administration within five years after the death of the veteran, except that if any person so entitled under this paragraph be under legal disability at the time of death of the veteran, said five-year period of limitation shall run from the termination or removal of the legal disability.

In event of death.

Reimbursement for burial, etc.

Restriction.

Filing of claims. Time limitation.

(B) Where any veteran having neither wife, child, nor dependent parent is being furnished hospital treatment, institutional or domiciliary care by the Veterans' Administration, and shall be rated by the Veterans' Administration in accordance with regulations as being incompetent by reason of mental illness, the pension, compensation, or retirement pay for such veteran shall be subject to the provisions of subsection (A) of this section: *Provided*, That no payment of a lump sum herein authorized shall be made until after the expiration of six months following a finding of competency: *Provided further*, That in any case where the estate of such incompetent veteran derived from any source equals or exceeds \$1,500, further payments of such benefits will not be made until the estate is reduced to \$500: *And provided further*, That all or any part of the pension, compensation, or retirement pay payable on account of any incompetent veteran may, in the discretion of the Administrator, and in accordance with instructions issued by the Administrator, be paid to the chief officer of the institution wherein the veteran is hospitalized, to be properly accounted for by said chief officer and to be used for the benefit of the veteran;

Veterans rated incompetent.

Lump-sum payment, restriction.

Estate of or exceeding \$1,500.

Payment to chief officer or guardian.

43 Stat. 613.
38 U. S. C. § 450 (1).

46 Stat. 993.
38 U. S. C. § 450 (3).

Apportionment to dependents.

Veteran deemed single, etc.

Repeals.
38 U. S. C., Supp. V, note foll. § 735.
Nonreduction of pension, etc.

48 Stat. 8.
38 U. S. C. § 700 et seq., note foll. § 724; Supp. V, § 701 et seq., note foll. § 735.
Ante, pp. 124, 299, 654, 904; *supra*; *post*, pp. 931, 934.
Monthly rates, increase.

57 Stat. 43; 58 Stat. 284.
38 U. S. C., Supp. V, § 701, note foll. § 735, §§ 693-697c.
Ante, pp. 124, 299; *post*, pp. 932, 934.
Effective date.

or may be paid to the guardian of the veteran in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of section 21 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended; or, in the event the veteran has a wife, child, or dependent parent, may, in the discretion of the Administrator, be paid to his wife or apportioned on behalf of such wife, child, or dependent parent; or otherwise be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of section 21 of the World War Veterans' Act, 1924, as amended.

(C) Where any veteran who is being furnished hospital treatment, institutional or domiciliary care by the United States, or any political subdivision thereof, has a wife, child, or dependent parent, the pension, compensation, or retirement pay may, in the discretion of the Administrator, be apportioned on behalf of such wife, child, or dependent parent, in accordance with instructions issued by the Administrator.

(D) Any veteran subject to the provisions of subsection (A) or (B) shall be deemed to be single and without dependents in the absence of satisfactory evidence to the contrary: *Provided*, That in no event shall increased compensation, pension, or retirement pay of such veteran be granted for any period more than one year prior to receipt of satisfactory evidence showing such veteran has a wife, child, or dependent parent.

(E) Subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of paragraph VI of Veterans Regulation Numbered 6 (a), as amended, are hereby repealed.

(F) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or any other provision of law, no reduction shall be made in the pension, compensation, or retirement pay of any veteran for any part of the period during which he is furnished hospital treatment, or institutional or domiciliary care, for Hansen's disease, by the United States or any political subdivision thereof.

(G) The administrative, definitive, penal, and forfeiture provisions of Public Law Numbered 2, Seventy-third Congress, Act of March 20, 1933, and the Veterans Regulations, as now or hereafter amended, not inconsistent with this section, shall be applicable under this section.

SEC. 2. That all monthly rates of compensation and pension payable to veterans of World War I and World War II and dependents of such veterans which are payable under any laws or regulations administered by the Veterans' Administration are hereby increased by 20 per centum: *Provided*, That such increase shall not apply to subsistence allowances payable under Public Laws Numbered 16 and 346, Seventy-eighth Congress, as amended.

The increases provided by this section shall be effective from the first day of the first month following the passage of this Act.

Approved August 8, 1946.

[CHAPTER 870]

JOINT RESOLUTION

Making additional appropriations for the fiscal year 1947, and for other purposes.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to provide additional appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, and for other purposes, namely:

August 8, 1946
[H. J. Res. 390]
[Public Law 663]

First Supplemental
Appropriation Act,
1947.