

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9465

To amend chapter 19 of title 37, United States Code, to provide for a one-time corrective increase and annual adjustments of certain special and incentive pays for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2026

Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona (for himself, Mr. VINDMAN, Mr. MILLS, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend chapter 19 of title 37, United States Code, to provide for a one-time corrective increase and annual adjustments of certain special and incentive pays for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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 “Combat Pay Protection
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ONE-TIME CORRECTIVE INCREASE AND ANNUAL**
2 **ADJUSTMENTS FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL AND**
3 **INCENTIVE PAYS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
4 **ARMED FORCES; CLARIFICATION OF SPECIAL**
5 **AND INCENTIVE PAY AUTHORITIES FOR MEM-**
6 **BERS OF RESERVE COMPONENTS.**

7 (a) ADJUSTMENTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 19 of title 37,
9 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“§ 1017. Adjustments to amounts of special and incen-**
12 **tive pays**

13 “(a) INITIAL INCREASE.—Effective on January 1 of
14 the first year that begins after the date of the enactment
15 of the Combat Pay Protection Act, the Secretary of De-
16 fense shall increase the amount of each covered special
17 and incentive pay (rounded to the nearest dollar) for mem-
18 bers of the Armed Forces by the greater of—

19 “(1) the percentage by which the CPI for the
20 base quarter of the preceding year exceeds the CPI
21 for the base quarter preceding the last statutory or
22 administrative increase date for such covered special
23 and incentive pay; and

24 “(2) the percentage by which the average rate
25 of basic pay for members of the Armed Forces under
26 section 203(a) of this title in effect on such January

1 1 exceeds the average rate of basic pay for members
2 of the Armed Forces under such section 203(a) that
3 was in effect on the last statutory or administrative
4 increase date for such covered special and incentive
5 pay.

6 “(b) RECURRING INCREASE.—Effective on January
7 1 of the second year that begins after the date of the en-
8 actment of the Combat Pay Protection Act, and each Jan-
9 uary 1 thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall increase
10 the amount of each covered special and incentive pay
11 (rounded to the nearest dollar) for members of the Armed
12 Forces by the greater of—

13 “(1) the percentage by which the CPI for the
14 base quarter of the preceding year exceeds the CPI
15 for the base quarter of the year before the preceding
16 year; and

17 “(2) the percentage by which the rate of basic
18 pay for members of the Armed Forces under section
19 203(a) of this title is increased on such January 1
20 from the rate of basic pay for such members in ef-
21 fect the preceding year.

22 “(c) RELATIONSHIP TO LIMITS OF AMOUNTS IN
23 LAW.—The Secretary shall increase the amount of each
24 covered special and incentive pay in accordance with sub-
25 section (a) or (b) notwithstanding any limitation on the

1 maximum amount of such pay specified in any other provi-
2 sion of law.

3 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘base quarter’ for any year is the
5 three-month period ending on September 30 of such
6 year.

7 “(2) The term ‘covered special and incentive
8 pay’ means—

9 “(A) a bonus, incentive, or special pay pay-
10 able under chapter 5 of this title; and

11 “(B) the allowance payable under section
12 427 of this title.

13 “(3) The term ‘CPI’ means the Consumer Price
14 Index for All Urban Consumers published by the
15 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
16 Labor.

17 “(4) The term ‘last statutory or administrative
18 increase date’ means the date of the most recent ad-
19 justment to an amount of pay that—

20 “(A) reflects a revision based on objective
21 economic indicators or an increase to basic pay
22 for members of the Armed Forces; or

23 “(B) was made by Act of Congress.”.

24 (2) PUBLICATION OF ONE-TIME ADJUST-
25 MENTS.—Not later than December 31 of the year of

1 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
2 shall publish in the Federal Register a table that
3 identifies—

4 (A) each covered special and incentive pay
5 (as defined in section 1017 of title 37, United
6 States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this
7 section);

8 (B) the last statutory or administration in-
9 crease date (as defined in such section 1017) of
10 each such pay;

11 (C) the amount of increase of such pay
12 after the application of subsection (a) of such
13 section 1017; and

14 (D) the total amount of such pay after the
15 application of such subsection (a).

16 (b) CLARIFICATION OF SPECIAL AND INCENTIVE PAY
17 AUTHORITIES FOR MEMBERS OF RESERVE COMPO-
18 NENTS.—Section 357 of title 37, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “special or incentive pay” and
21 inserting “bonus, incentive, or special pay”; and

22 (2) by striking “if the Secretary concerned”
23 and all that follows and inserting a period.

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