
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 222 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY RYAN, BAKER, D. COSTA, COX, DRISCOLL, GROVE,
NEILSON, SANKEY AND SOLOMON, APRIL 10, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS, APRIL 10, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the President of the United States and the Congress of
2 the United States to enact H.R. 303 to permit full,
3 concurrent receipt of military retired pay and other veterans
4 compensation, including dependent allowances.

5 WHEREAS, American servicemen and servicewomen have dedicated
6 their careers to protect the rights we all enjoy; and

7 WHEREAS, Career military personnel endure hardships,
8 privation, the threat of death, disability and long separations
9 from military families in service to our country; and

10 WHEREAS, Integral to the success of our military forces are
11 servicemen and servicewomen who have made a career of defending
12 our great nation in peace and war from the Revolutionary War to
13 the present day; and

14 WHEREAS, A gross inequity existed in the Federal statutes
15 that denied disabled career military personnel equal rights to
16 receive veterans' disability compensation concurrent with
17 receipt of earned military retired pay; and

18 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States passed and the

1 President signed H.R. 1588 to remedy this inequity applicable to
2 career military personnel dating back to the 19th century; and

3 WHEREAS, Retired veterans with a minimum of 20 years were
4 denied concurrent receipt of hard-earned military longevity
5 retirement pay and veterans' awards for service-connected
6 disability; and

7 WHEREAS, Career military personnel earn retirement benefits
8 based on longevity of 20 years for honorable and faithful
9 service and rank at time of retirement; and

10 WHEREAS, Veterans' disability compensation serves a different
11 purpose from longevity retirement pay and is intended to
12 compensate for pain, suffering, disfigurement, chemical
13 exposure, wound injuries and a loss of earning ability, with a
14 minimum requirement of 90 days of active duty; and

15 WHEREAS, The prevailing idea that military retirement pay is
16 free is not only misleading but false because there is a
17 contribution to retirement pay, calculated to reduce military
18 base pay and retirement pay by approximately 7% when pay and
19 allowances are computed and approved by the United States
20 Congress; and

21 WHEREAS, Traditionally, career military personnel receive
22 lower pay and retirement than civilian counterparts and have
23 invested a life of hardships and long hours without the benefit
24 of overtime pay and lack of freedom of expression through
25 unions; and

26 WHEREAS, Allowances to dependents of veterans with a 30%
27 disability are increased with the amount of disability; and

28 WHEREAS, The Department of Defense deducts the entire amount
29 of dependents' allowances, essentially leaving the disabled
30 military retiree with no dependent allowance, a discrimination

1 which extends to the families of military retirees; and

2 WHEREAS, Current Federal law only authorizes concurrent
3 receipt of military retired pay and other veterans compensation,
4 including dependents' allowances for a service-connected
5 disability rated at 50% or more; and

6 WHEREAS, It was unfair to require disabled military retirees
7 to fund their own veterans' compensation by deductions on a
8 dollar-for-dollar basis in the Department of Defense; and

9 WHEREAS, No such deduction applies to similarly situated
10 Federal civil service or congressional retirement beneficiaries
11 who receive veterans' compensation; and

12 WHEREAS, The statutory change proposed in H.R. 303 corrects
13 this injustice and discrimination to ensure that the United
14 States' commitment to national and international goals is
15 matched by a similar commitment to those who sacrificed on
16 behalf of those goals; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
18 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President of the United
19 States and the United States Congress to immediately enact H.R.
20 303 to permit full concurrent receipt of military retired pay
21 and other veterans' compensation, including dependents'
22 allowances; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
24 the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense,
25 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each
26 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.