

No. 2001-109

AN ACT

HB 453

Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for eligibility for paralyzed veteran's pension.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 7702 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 7702. Paralyzed veteran's pension.

(a) Amount and eligibility.—In addition to any other assistance provided by the Commonwealth and in addition to any compensation provided by the Federal Government, every paralyzed veteran shall be paid a pension of \$150 per month. Applications for the pensions shall be made to and in the form prescribed by the department. The Adjutant General shall determine the eligibility of every applicant for a pension, and his decision in the matter shall be final.

(b) Regulations.—The Adjutant General shall promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to implement this program.

(c) Definition.—As used in this section the term "paralyzed veteran" means any person who served in the military or naval forces of the United States, or any woman's organization officially connected therewith, **[during an established war or armed conflict service dates,]** and who gave this Commonwealth as his *or her* place of residence at the time of entering the military or naval forces of the United States **[and is currently a resident of this Commonwealth]** and who, while performing duties connected with **[that] such** service, suffered an injury or incurred a disease which resulted in the loss or loss of use of two or more extremities. The term does not include any person separated from the military or naval forces of the United States, or any woman's organization officially connected therewith, under other than honorable conditions. **[The term shall include persons who have been paralyzed as a result of peacetime combat-related actions as defined by the Department of Military Affairs. The department shall, by regulation, establish criteria to determine eligibility based on participation in a peacetime combat-related situation, which shall include, but not be limited to, hostile fire or terrorist attack.]**

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002, or immediately, whichever is later.

APPROVED—The 17th day of December, A.D. 2001.

MARK S. SCHWEIKER