

No. 1986-17

AN ACT

HB 179

Amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing a pension for certain paralyzed veterans.

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

Section 1. The heading of Chapter 77 of Title 51 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

CHAPTER 77
[BLIND VETERAN'S PENSION]
VETERANS' PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

* * *

Section 2. Title 51 is amended by adding a section 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 \$100 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 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 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 3. (a) 51 Pa.C.S. § 7702(b) (relating to paralyzed veteran's pension) shall take effect immediately.

(b) The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

APPROVED—The 19th day of March, A. D. 1986.

DICK THORNBURGH