

VA Compensation & Pensions:

There is a hoax circulating the web that VA disability compensation rates are going up significantly due to recent legislation. What is being sent around is a chopped version of an actual bill, H.R.4667, which has passed both houses and awaits the President's signature. The real bill calls for VA rates to be increased at the same rate as Social Security is increased. However, the increase in SS is determined by the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the Department of Labor. By law, it is the official measure used by SS to calculate the cost-of-living adjustment. If you check SSA's website, here is what they said last year about the COLA. —Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will not automatically increase in 2010 as there was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2008 to the third quarter of 2009. That is also the current situation this year. The version on the web has erroneous rates showing the 100% is going to double, the 10% rate is going up to over \$400, and others. The information is false. If in doubt you can check the text of H.R.4667 at www.thomas.gov. [Source: DAV memo 29 Sep 2010]