



H.R. 6980 - To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the amount of the Medal of Honor special pension provided under that title by up to \$1,000

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6980 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Henry Brown (R-SC) on September 22, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, but was never considered.

H.R. 6980 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 24, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6980 would increase the rate of special pension for recipients of the Medal of Honor by not more than \$1,000. The bill authorizes this through September 30, 2013.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Veterans Affairs administers pensions to recipients of the Medal of Honor. A veteran who has been awarded the Medal of Honor is eligible for a monthly pension of \$1,129, a level set by Congress that became effective as of December 1, 2007. A Medal of Honor recipient must elect to receive this special pension, and it does not reduce any other benefits under U.S. law.

COST

In a preliminary cost estimate, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting H.R. 6980 will cost \$6 million over five years.

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