

2026 -- S 2754

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENACT THE MAJOR RICHARD
STAR ACT

Introduced By: Senators Ciccone, Felag, Tikoian, and Gallo

Date Introduced: February 27, 2026

Referred To: Senate Special Legislation and Veterans Affairs

1 WHEREAS, Major Richard Star was an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran who, after
2 exposure to burn pits during his service, received a diagnosis of lung cancer; and

3 WHEREAS, Due to his diagnosis, Major Richard Star was forced to retire before
4 completing twenty (20) years of service and was therefore unable to collect his retirement and
5 disability benefits; and

6 WHEREAS, For every dollar of disability pay they receive, veterans with less than
7 twenty (20) years of service and a disability rating of less than fifty percent (50%) will have their
8 retirement pay reduced by a "dollar for dollar" offset; and

9 WHEREAS, An estimated fifty thousand (50,000) retired service members are ineligible
10 for concurrent benefits under the current rules; and

11 WHEREAS, According to the Congressional Budget Office, in 2022, the average offset
12 was approximately one thousand, nine hundred dollars (\$1,900) a month; and

13 WHEREAS, The Major Richard Star Act would remove these restrictions and ensure that
14 all service members who have medically retired can receive full access to retirement pay and
15 Department of Veterans Affairs disability benefits; and

16 WHEREAS, After dying from his battle with lung cancer in 2021, Major Richard Star's
17 widow claimed that his greatest goal was to get legislation passed providing for the removal of
18 these restrictions; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States owes these benefits to its veterans regardless of the cost

1 associated with their allocation; now, therefore be it

2 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island urges the Congress of the
3 United States to enact the Major Richard Star Act, (H.R. 2102 and S. 1032), to allow all
4 medically retired service members to receive full access to their much-deserved retirement pay
5 and benefits; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is directed to transmit duly
7 certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

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