

by reason of being 65 years of age or older or becoming unemployable after age 65.

STUDY OF PENSION BENEFITS PAID TO PERSONS RESIDING OUTSIDE UNITED STATES; TRANSMITTAL OF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS

Pub. L. 95-588, title III, §308, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2510, directed Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, in consultation with Secretary of State, to carry out a comprehensive study of income characteristics of veterans of a period of war, as defined in section 101(11) of this title, and their survivors residing outside the fifty States and the District of Columbia, required submission of a report to Congress and President on results of such study not later than Feb. 1, 1980.

PENSION, DEPENDENCY, AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION; RELATION TO SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Section 3 of Pub. L. 90-275 provided that:

“(a) If the monthly rate of pension or dependency and indemnity compensation payable to a person under title 38, United States Code, would be less, solely as a result of an increase in monthly insurance benefits provided by the Social Security Amendments of 1967 [see Short Title note set out under section 302 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], than the monthly rate payable for the month immediately preceding the effective date of this Act [see Effective Date of 1968 Amendment note set out above], the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall pay the person as follows:

“(1) for the balance of calendar year 1968 and during calendar year 1969, at the prior monthly rate;

“(2) during the calendar year 1970, at the rate for the next \$100 annual income limitation higher than the maximum annual income limitation corresponding to the prior monthly rate; and

“(3) during each successive calendar year, at the rate for the next \$100 annual income limitation higher than the one applied for the preceding year, until the rate corresponding to actual countable income is reached.

“(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply for any period during which annual income of such person, exclusive of an increase in monthly insurance benefits provided by the Social Security Amendments of 1967 [see Short Title note set out under section 302 of Title 42], exceeds the amount of annual income upon which was based the pension or dependency and indemnity compensation payable to the person immediately prior to receipt of the increase.”

[Provisions of section 3 of Pub. L. 90-275 effective on first day of first calendar month following month of initial payment of increases in monthly insurance benefits provided by Social Security Amendments of 1967 [see Short Title note set out under section 302 of Title 42], see section 6(b) of Pub. L. 90-275, set out as an Effective Date of 1968 Amendment note above.]

INCOME RESTRICTIONS ON PENSIONS; EFFECTIVE DATES

Section 4 of Pub. L. 90-275, as amended by Pub. L. 91-588, §5; Pub. L. 92-198, §4; Pub. L. 93-527, §6; Pub. L. 94-169, §107; Pub. L. 94-432, §206; Pub. L. 95-204, §105, provided that: “The income limitations governing payment of pension under the first sentence of section 9(b) of the Veterans' Pension Act of 1959 [formerly set out in a Savings Provision note above] hereafter shall be \$3,300 and \$4,760 instead of \$3,100 and \$4,460, respectively.”

Section 4 of Pub. L. 90-275, as originally enacted, was eff. Jan. 1, 1969, pursuant to Pub. L. 90-275, §6(a). Subsequent amendments to said section 4 by Pub. L. 91-588, Pub. L. 92-198, and Pub. L. 94-169 were effective Jan. 1, 1971, Jan. 1, 1972, and for a period beginning Jan. 1, 1976 and ending Sept. 30, 1976, respectively. Pub. L. 94-432, §§101, 405(b) amended said section 4 of Pub. L. 90-275 and section 107 of Pub. L. 94-169 to be effective Jan. 1, 1976 and Jan. 1, 1977, respectively. Pub. L. 95-204, §302 amended said section 4 of Pub. L. 90-275 to be effective Jan. 1, 1978.

AID AND ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE FOR WIDOWS OF VETERANS OF ALL PERIODS OF WAR

Pub. L. 90-77, title I, §108(c), Aug. 31, 1967, 81 Stat. 180, provided that: “If any widow is entitled to pension under the first sentence of section 9(b) of the Veterans' Pension Act of 1959 [formerly set out in a Savings Provision note above] and is in need of regular aid and attendance, the monthly rate of pension payable to her shall be increased by \$50.”

PENSION FOR HOUSEBOUND VETERANS

Pub. L. 90-77, title I, §110, Aug. 31, 1967, 81 Stat. 180, provided that: “The Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall pay to a veteran who is entitled to pension under the first sentence of section 9(b) of the Veterans' Pension Act of 1959 [formerly set out in a Savings Provision note above] and who—

“(1) has, in addition to a disability rated as permanent and total, additional disability or disabilities independently ratable at 60 per centum or more, or

“(2) by reason of his disability or disabilities, is permanently housebound but does not qualify for pension based on need of regular aid and attendance, in lieu of the pension otherwise payable to him, a pension at the monthly rate of \$100.”

RETIREMENT INCOME EXCLUSION

Section 10 of Pub. L. 88-664 provided that: “In computing the income of persons whose pension eligibility is subject to the first sentence of section 9(b) of the Veterans' Pension Act of 1959 [formerly set out in a Savings Provision note above] there shall be excluded 10 per centum of the amount of payments received under public or private retirement, annuity, endowment or similar plans or programs.”

§ 1522. Net worth limitation

(a) The Secretary shall deny or discontinue the payment of pension to a veteran under section 1513 or 1521 of this title when the corpus of the estate of the veteran or, if the veteran has a spouse, the corpus of the estates of the veteran and of the veteran's spouse is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the annual income of the veteran, the veteran's spouse, and the veteran's children, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such estates be consumed for the veteran's maintenance.

(b) The Secretary shall deny or discontinue the payment of increased pension under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of this title on account of a child when the corpus of such child's estate is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the veteran's and spouse's income, and the income of the veteran's children, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus of such child's estate be consumed for the child's maintenance. During the period such denial or discontinuance remains in effect, such child shall not be considered as the veteran's child for purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1136, §522; Pub. L. 86-211, §3(b), Aug. 29, 1959, 73 Stat. 434; Pub. L. 95-588, title I, §107, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2502; renumbered §1522 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 107-103, title II, §207(b)(2), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 991.)

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-103 inserted “1513 or” before “1521 of this title”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 522 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted "1521" for "521" in subsecs. (a) and (b).

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in subsecs. (a) and (b).

1978—Pub. L. 95-588 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted provisions relating to consideration of the income and estates of the spouse and children of an eligible veteran, and added subsec. (b).

1959—Pub. L. 86-211 substituted provisions requiring the denial or discontinuance of payment of pension when the corpus of the veteran's estate is such that under all the circumstances, including consideration of the veteran's income, it is reasonable that some part of the corpus be consumed for the veteran's maintenance for provisions which prohibited the payment of a pension to any unmarried veteran whose annual income exceeds \$1,400 or to any married veteran or any veteran with children whose annual income exceeds \$2,700.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-103 effective Sept. 17, 2001, see section 207(c) of Pub. L. 107-103, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1513 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-588 effective Jan. 1, 1979, see section 401 of Pub. L. 95-588, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1959 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 86-211 effective July 1, 1960, see section 10 of Pub. L. 86-211, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1521 of this title.

§ 1523. Combination of ratings

(a) The Secretary shall provide that, for the purpose of determining whether or not a veteran is permanently and totally disabled, ratings for service-connected disabilities may be combined with ratings for non-service-connected disabilities.

(b) Where a veteran, by virtue of subsection (a), is found to be entitled to a pension under section 1521 of this title, and is entitled to compensation for a service-connected disability, the Secretary shall pay such veteran the greater benefit.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1136, §523; Pub. L. 94-169, title I, §106(19), Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1018; renumbered §1523 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 523 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted "1521" for "521".

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".

1975—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-169 substituted "such veteran" for "him".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1975 AMENDMENT

Section 106 of Pub. L. 94-169 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Jan. 1, 1976.

§ 1524. Vocational training for certain pension recipients

(a)(1) In the case of a veteran under age 45 who is awarded a pension during the program period,

the Secretary shall, based on information on file with the Department of Veterans Affairs, make a preliminary finding whether such veteran, with the assistance of a vocational training program under this section, has a good potential for achieving employment. If such potential is found to exist, the Secretary shall solicit from the veteran an application for vocational training under this section. If the veteran thereafter applies for such training, the Secretary shall provide the veteran with an evaluation, which may include a personal interview, to determine whether the achievement of a vocational goal is reasonably feasible.

(2) If a veteran who is 45 years of age or older and is awarded pension during the program period, or a veteran who was awarded pension before the beginning of the program period, applies for vocational training under this section and the Secretary makes a preliminary finding on the basis of information in the application that, with the assistance of a vocational training program under subsection (b) of this section, the veteran has a good potential for achieving employment, the Secretary shall provide the veteran with an evaluation in order to determine whether the achievement of a vocational goal by the veteran is reasonably feasible. Any such evaluation shall include a personal interview by a Department employee trained in vocational counseling.

(3) For the purposes of this section, the term "program period" means the period beginning on February 1, 1985, and ending on December 31, 1995.

(b)(1) If the Secretary, based upon an evaluation under subsection (a) of this section, determines that the achievement of a vocational goal by a veteran is reasonably feasible, the veteran shall be offered and may elect to pursue a vocational training program under this subsection. If the veteran elects to pursue such a program, the program shall be designed in consultation with the veteran in order to meet the veteran's individual needs and shall be set forth in an individualized written plan of vocational rehabilitation of the kind described in section 3107 of this title.

(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, a vocational training program under this subsection shall consist of vocationally oriented services and assistance of the kind provided under chapter 31 of this title and such other services and assistance of the kind provided under that chapter as are necessary to enable the veteran to prepare for and participate in vocational training or employment.

(B) A vocational training program under this subsection—

(i) may not exceed 24 months unless, based on a determination by the Secretary that an extension is necessary in order for the veteran to achieve a vocational goal identified (before the end of the first 24 months of such program) in the written plan formulated for the veteran, the Secretary grants an extension for a period not to exceed 24 months;

(ii) may not include the provision of any loan or subsistence allowance or any automobile adaptive equipment of the kind provided under chapter 39 of this title; and

(iii) may include a program of education at an institution of higher learning (as defined in