

parent who has remarried, computed on the basis of the combined income of the parent and spouse, if this would be a greater benefit than that specified in Table 2 for one parent.

Aid and attendance. The monthly rate of DIC payable to a parent under Tables 2 through 4 shall be increased by \$221 if such parent is (1) a patient in a nursing home, or (2) helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to need

or require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

Minimum rate. The monthly rate of DIC payable to any parent under Tables 2 through 4 shall not be less than \$5.

TABLE 5.—SECTION 306 PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS

- (1) Veteran or surviving spouse with no dependents, \$9,857 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
- (2) Veteran with no dependents in need of aid and attendance, \$10,357 (38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
- (3) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents, \$13,250 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
- (4) Veteran with one or more dependents in need of aid and attendance, \$13,750 (38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
- (5) Child (no entitled veteran or surviving spouse), \$8,057 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)).
- (6) Spouse income exclusion (38 CFR 3.262), \$3,144 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(a)(2)(B)).

TABLE 6.—OLD-LAW PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS

- (1) Veteran or surviving spouse without dependents or an entitled child, \$8,628 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(b)).
- (2) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents, \$12,440 (Pub. L. 95-588, section 306(b)).

Spina Bifida Benefits

Section 421 of Pub. L. 104-204 added a new chapter 18 to title 38, United States Code, authorizing VA to provide certain benefits, including a monthly monetary allowance, to children born with spina bifida who are natural children of veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era. Pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 1805(b)(3), spina bifida rates are subject to adjustment under the provisions of 38 U.S.C. 5312, which provides for the adjustment of certain VA benefit rates whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.). Effective December 1, 1997, spina bifida monthly rates are as follows:

Level I: \$205

Level II: \$715

Level III: \$1,226

Dated: December 10, 1997.

Hershel W. Gober,

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Wage Committee, Notice of Meetings

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in accordance with Pub. L. 92-463, gives notice that meetings of the VA Wage Committee will be held on:

Wednesday, January 14, 1998, at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18, 1998, at 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 2:00 p.m.

The meetings will be held in Room 246, Department of Veterans Affairs Central Office, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

The Committee's purpose is to advise the Under Secretary for Health on the development and authorization of wage schedules for Federal Wage System (blue-collar) employees.

At these meetings the Committee will consider wage survey specifications, wage survey data, local committee reports and recommendations, statistical analyses, and proposed wage schedules.

All portions of the meetings will be closed to the public because the matters considered are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs and because the wage survey data considered by the Committee have been obtained from officials of private business establishments with a guarantee that the data will be held in confidence. Closure of the meetings is in accordance with subsection 10(d) of Pub. L. 92-463, as amended by Pub. L. 94-409, and 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(2) and (4).

However, members of the public are invited to submit material in writing to the Chairperson for the Committee's attention.

Additional information concerning these meetings may be obtained from the Chairperson, VA Wage Committee (05), 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Dated: December 11, 1997.

By Direction of the Secretary.

Heyward Bannister,

Committee Management Officer.

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