

1963—Pub. L. 88-77, §5(3), July 25, 1963, 77 Stat. 96, substituted "ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE, AND COAST GUARD" for "ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE", in heading of Subchapter IV.

1961—Pub. L. 87-138, §2(b), Aug. 14, 1961, 75 Stat. 339, struck out "entitling holder to pension" after "Certificate" in item 561.

1959—Pub. L. 86-211, §7(a), Aug. 29, 1959, 73 Stat. 436, substituted "Determinations with respect to annual income" for "Items not considered in determining income" in item 503, "Net worth limitation" for "Income limitations" in item 522, and "Net worth limitation" for "Widows of World War II or Korean conflict veterans" in item 543, included widows of World War II and Korean conflict veterans in item 541 and children of World War II and Korean conflict veterans in item 542, added item 506, and struck out items 544 and 545 which related to children of World War II or Korean conflict veterans and to income limitations.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL

§ 1501. Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter—

(1) The term "Indian Wars" means the campaigns, engagements, and expeditions of the United States military forces against Indian tribes or nations, service in which has been recognized heretofore as pensionable service.

(2) The term "World War I" includes, in the case of any veteran, any period of service performed by such veteran after November 11, 1918, and before July 2, 1921, if such veteran served in the active military, naval, or air service after April 5, 1917, and before November 12, 1918.

(3) The term "Civil War veteran" includes a person who served in the military or naval forces of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War, and the term "active military or naval service" includes active service in those forces.

(4) The term "period of war" means the Mexican border period, World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, the Persian Gulf War, and the period beginning on the date of any future declaration of war by the Congress and ending on the date prescribed by Presidential proclamation or concurrent resolution of the Congress.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1134, §501; Pub. L. 94-169, title I, §106(1), Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1017; Pub. L. 95-588, title I, §101, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2497; Pub. L. 102-25, title III, §333(a), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 88; renumbered §1501, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 1500 and 1501 were renumbered sections 3100 and 3101 of this title, respectively.

Another prior section 1501, Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1171; Pub. L. 93-508, title I, §101(1), Dec. 3, 1974, 88 Stat. 1578, defined "World War II" and "vocational rehabilitation" for purposes of chapter 31 of this title, prior to the general revision of chapter 31 of this title by Pub. L. 96-466. Section 802(a)(3) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3100 of this title, provided that this prior section 1501 continue in effect until Mar. 31, 1981.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 501 of this title as this section.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 102-25 inserted "the Persian Gulf War," after "the Vietnam era,".

1978—Par. (4). Pub. L. 95-588 added par. (4).

1975—Par. (2). Pub. L. 94-169 substituted "such veteran" for "him".

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 1975 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-169, title I, §106, Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1017, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Jan. 1, 1976.

PENSION PROGRAM FOR NONSERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OR DEATH; REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR

Pub. L. 94-432, title IV, §404, Sept. 30, 1976, 90 Stat. 1372, provided that, due to certain insufficiencies in pension program for nonservice-connected disability or death authorized by this chapter, and lack of sufficient long-range information as to actual and anticipated financial characteristics of potential pensioners and their families upon which to estimate costs of existing alternative pension programs, it was necessary for Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to study existing and alternative nonservice-connected pension programs and to submit a report to Congress and the President not later than Oct. 1, 1977, on alternative courses of legislative and administrative action and long-range cost estimates therefor.

STUDY OF NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF VETERANS AND THEIR WIDOWS SEVENTY-TWO YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER; REPORT BY ADMINISTRATOR

Pub. L. 93-527, §8, Dec. 21, 1974, 88 Stat. 1705, directed Administrator of Veterans' Affairs to study needs and problems of veterans and their widows seventy-two years of age or older and required him to report to Congress and President not later than one hundred and eighty days after convening of Ninety-fourth Congress results of study together with any recommendations for legislative or administrative action.

§ 1502. Determinations with respect to disability

(a) For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be considered to be permanently and totally disabled if such person is any of the following:

(1) A patient in a nursing home for long-term care because of disability.

(2) Disabled, as determined by the Commissioner of Social Security for purposes of any benefits administered by the Commissioner.

(3) Unemployable as a result of disability reasonably certain to continue throughout the life of the person.

(4) Suffering from—

(A) any disability which is sufficient to render it impossible for the average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation, but only if it is reasonably certain that such disability will continue throughout the life of the person; or

(B) any disease or disorder determined by the Secretary to be of such a nature or extent as to justify a determination that persons suffering therefrom are permanently and totally disabled.

(b) For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be considered to be in need of regular aid and attendance if such person is (1) a patient in a nursing home or (2) blind, or so nearly blind or significantly disabled as to need or require the regular aid and attendance of another person.

(c) For the purposes of this chapter, the requirement of "permanently housebound" will be considered to have been met when the veteran is substantially confined to such veteran's house (ward or clinical areas, if institutionalized) or immediate premises due to a disability or disabilities which it is reasonably certain will remain throughout such veteran's lifetime.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1134, § 502; Pub. L. 88-664, § 6(b), Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1095; Pub. L. 90-77, title I, § 102, Aug. 31, 1967, 81 Stat. 178; Pub. L. 94-169, title I, § 106(2), Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1017; Pub. L. 94-432, title II, § 201, Sept. 30, 1976, 90 Stat. 1369; Pub. L. 101-508, title VIII, § 8002(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-342; renumbered § 1502 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§ 4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 107-103, title II, § 206(a), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 990; Pub. L. 109-233, title V, § 502(3), June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 415.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1502 was renumbered section 3102 of this title.

Another prior section 1502, Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1171; Pub. L. 86-721, § 3, Sept. 8, 1960, 74 Stat. 820; Pub. L. 87-815, § 7, Oct. 15, 1962, 76 Stat. 927; Pub. L. 89-138, § 2(2), Aug. 26, 1965, 79 Stat. 578; Pub. L. 90-631, § 1(a), Oct. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 1331; Pub. L. 92-540, title I, § 101(1), title III, § 301, Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1074, 1080; Pub. L. 93-508, title I, § 101(2), Dec. 3, 1974, 88 Stat. 1578; Pub. L. 94-502, title I, § 104(1), Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2384, related to the basic entitlement of veterans with service-connected disabilities to vocational rehabilitation under chapter 31 of this title, prior to the general revision of chapter 31 of this title by Pub. L. 96-466. Section 802(a)(3) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as an Effective Date note under section 3100 of this title, provided that this prior section 1502 continue in effect until Mar. 31, 1981.

Prior section 1502A, Pub. L. 87-591, § 1, Aug. 16, 1962, 76 Stat. 393, which related to vocational rehabilitation for blinded veterans, was repealed by Pub. L. 89-138, § 2(3), Aug. 26, 1965, 79 Stat. 578.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 109-233 substituted "blind, or so nearly blind or significantly disabled as to" for "helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to".

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-103 substituted "such person is any of the following:" and pars. (1) to (4) for "such a person is unemployable as a result of disability reasonably certain to continue throughout the life of the disabled person, or is suffering from—

"(1) any disability which is sufficient to render it impossible for the average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation, but only if it is reasonably certain that such disability will continue throughout the life of the disabled person; or

"(2) any disease or disorder determined by the Secretary to be of such a nature or extent as to justify a determination that persons suffering therefrom are permanently and totally disabled."

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), renumbered section 502 of this title as this section.

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

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-508 amended introductory provisions generally. Prior to amendment, introductory provisions read as follows: "For the purposes of this chapter, a person shall be considered to be permanently and totally disabled if such person is sixty-five years of age or older or became unemployable after age 65, or suffering from—"

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-432 inserted "or became unemployable after age 65," after "or older".

1975—Subsecs. (a) and (b). Pub. L. 94-169 substituted "such person" for "he".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 94-169 substituted "such veteran's" for "his" wherever appearing.

1967—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-77, § 102(a), provided for consideration of a person sixty-five years of age or older as permanently and totally disabled.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 90-77, § 102(b), added cl. (1) and designated existing provisions as cl. (2).

1964—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 88-664 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-103, title II, § 206(b), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 991, provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect as of September 17, 2001."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-508, title VIII, § 8002(b), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-342, provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to claims filed after October 31, 1990."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-432 effective Jan. 1, 1977, see section 405(b) of Pub. L. 94-432, set out as a note under section 1521 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1975 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-169, title I, § 106, Dec. 23, 1975, 89 Stat. 1017, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Jan. 1, 1976.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1967 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-77 effective first day of first calendar month which begins more than ten days after Aug. 31, 1967, see section 405 of Pub. L. 90-77, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 88-664 effective Jan. 1, 1965, see section 11 of Pub. L. 88-664, set out as a note under section 1503 of this title.

§ 1503. Determinations with respect to annual income

(a) In determining annual income under this chapter, all payments of any kind or from any source (including salary, retirement or annuity payments, or similar income, which has been waived, irrespective of whether the waiver was made pursuant to statute, contract, or otherwise) shall be included except—

(1) donations from public or private relief or welfare organizations;

(2) payments under this chapter;

(3) amounts equal to amounts paid by a spouse of a veteran for the expenses of such veteran's last illness, and by a surviving spouse or child of a deceased veteran for—

(A) such veteran's just debts,

(B) the expenses of such veteran's last illness, and

(C) the expenses of such veteran's burial to the extent such expenses are not reimbursed under chapter 23 of this title;

(4) amounts equal to amounts paid—

(A) by a veteran for the last illness and burial of such veteran's deceased spouse or child, or

(B) by the spouse of a living veteran or the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran for the last illness and burial of a child of such veteran;