

item for chapter 83, and "8501" for "5201" in item for chapter 85.

Pub. L. 102-16, §9(c)(2), Mar. 22, 1991, 105 Stat. 55, struck out "Disabled and Vietnam Era" after "Employment and Training of" in item for chapter 42.

1988—Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title I, §103(c)(1), title III, §301(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4107, 4121, substituted "Claims" for "Applications" in item for chapter 51 and added item for chapter 72.

Pub. L. 100-322, title II, §216(e)(2), May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 530, added item for chapter 76.

1984—Pub. L. 98-525, title VII, §702(a)(2), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2563, added item for chapter 30.

1982—Pub. L. 97-306, title III, §301(b)(2), Oct. 14, 1982, 96 Stat. 1437, substituted "2000" for "2001" in item for chapter 41.

Pub. L. 97-295, §4(1)(A), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1304, substituted "1500" for "1,500" in item for chapter 31.

Pub. L. 97-295, §4(1)(B), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1304, substituted "1651" for "1650" in item for chapter 34.

Pub. L. 97-295, §4(1)(C), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1304, added item for chapter 82.

1981—Pub. L. 97-72, title III, §302(b)(2), Nov. 3, 1981, 95 Stat. 1059, substituted "Housing and Small Business Loans" for "Home, Condominium, and Mobile Home Loans" in item for chapter 37.

1980—Pub. L. 96-466, title I, §101(b), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2186, substituted "Training and Rehabilitation for Veterans with Service-Connected Disabilities . . . 1,500" for "Vocational Rehabilitation . . . 1501" in item for chapter 31.

1976—Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §203(a), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2856, inserted "Nursing Home," in item for chapter 17.

Pub. L. 94-502, title III, §309(b), Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2391, substituted "Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance" for "War Orphans' and Widows' Education Assistance" in item for chapter 35.

Pub. L. 94-502, title IV, §405, Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2397, added item for chapter 32.

1974—Pub. L. 93-569, §7(d), Dec. 31, 1974, 88 Stat. 1866, substituted "Home, Condominium, and Mobile Home Loans" for "Home, Farm, and Business Loans" in item for chapter 37.

Pub. L. 93-508, title IV, §404(b), Dec. 3, 1974, 88 Stat. 1600, added item for chapter 43.

1973—Pub. L. 93-43, §2(b), June 18, 1973, 87 Stat. 78, added item for chapter 24.

1972—Pub. L. 92-540, title V, §§502(b), 503(b), Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1097, 1098, substituted "Training and" for "and Employment" in item for chapter 41, and added item for chapter 42.

1971—Pub. L. 91-666, §2(b), Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2000, substituted "Automobiles and Adaptive Equipment for Certain Disabled Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces" for "Automobiles for Disabled Veterans" in item for chapter 39.

1968—Pub. L. 90-631, §2(h)(2), Oct. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 1333, substituted "War Orphans' and Widows' Educational Assistance . . . 1700" for "War Orphans' Educational Assistance . . . 1701" in item for chapter 35.

1966—Pub. L. 89-358, §§4(c), 6(b), Mar. 3, 1966, 80 Stat. 23, 27, substituted chapter "34. Veterans' Educational Assistance . . . 1650" for chapter "33. Education of Korean Conflict Veterans . . . 1601" and added chapter 36; and substituted "Job Counseling and Employment Placement Service for Veterans" for "Unemployment Benefits for Veterans" in item for chapter 41, respectively.

1965—Pub. L. 89-50, §1(b), June 24, 1965, 79 Stat. 173, struck out item for chapter 43 which related to mustering out payments.

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AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §2(d)(2), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 402, substituted "Department of Veterans Affairs . . . 301" for "Veterans' Administration; Officers and Employees . . . 201" in item for chapter 3 and added items for chapters 5, 7, and 9.

CHAPTER 1—GENERAL

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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Pub. L. 116-171, title III, §306(b), Oct. 17, 2020, 134 Stat. 805, added item 119.

2014—Pub. L. 113-235, div. I, title II, §244(c), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2569, added item 117 and struck out former item 117 "Advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts".

2013—Pub. L. 112-260, title II, §202(c), Jan. 10, 2013, 126 Stat. 2424, added item 111A.

2010—Pub. L. 111-275, title X, §1001(a), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2896, added item 118 and struck out former item 118 "Reports to Congress: submission in electronic form".

Pub. L. 111-163, title X, §1003(b), May 5, 2010, 124 Stat. 1183, added items 117 and 118 and struck out former item 117 "Advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts".

2009—Pub. L. 111-81, §3(b), Oct. 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 2138, which directed addition of item 117 after item 113, was executed by adding item 117 after item 116 to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

2000—Pub. L. 106-419, title IV, §403(d)(1)(B), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1864, added item 116.

1991—Pub. L. 102-86, title IV, §402(b), Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 422, added item 115.

1989—Pub. L. 101-237, title VI, §601(b)(2), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2094, struck out "for certain medical items" after "Multiyear procurement" in item 114.

1988—Pub. L. 100-322, title I, §108(e)(2), title IV, §404(b), May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 498, 547, substituted "Payments or allowances for beneficiary travel" for "Travel expenses" in item 111 and added item 114.

1986—Pub. L. 99-576, title VI, §601(a)(2), title VII, §701(1)(B), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3289, 3290, struck out “; husbands” after “parents” in item 102 and added item 113.

1972—Pub. L. 92-540, title IV, §409, Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1092, substituted “Dependent parents; husbands” for “Dependent parents and dependent husbands” in item 102.

1965—Pub. L. 89-88, §1(b), July 24, 1965, 79 Stat. 264, added item 112.

1964—Pub. L. 88-445, §1(c), Aug. 19, 1964, 78 Stat. 464, substituted “Preservation of disability ratings” for “Preservation of total disability ratings” in item 110.

§ 101. Definitions

For the purposes of this title—

(1) The terms “Secretary” and “Department” mean the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Veterans Affairs, respectively.

(2) The term “veteran” means a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

(3) The term “surviving spouse” means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title) a person of the opposite sex who was the spouse of a veteran at the time of the veteran’s death, and who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran’s death (except where there was a separation which was due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the fault of the spouse) and who has not remarried or (in cases not involving remarriage) has not since the death of the veteran, and after September 19, 1962, lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public to be the spouse of such other person.

(4)(A) The term “child” means (except for purposes of chapter 19 of this title (other than with respect to a child who is an insurable dependent under subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 1965(10) of such chapter) and section 8502(b) of this title) a person who is unmarried and—

- (i) who is under the age of eighteen years;
- (ii) who, before attaining the age of eighteen years, became permanently incapable of self-support; or
- (iii) who, after attaining the age of eighteen years and until completion of education or training (but not after attaining the age of twenty-three years), is pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution;

and who is a legitimate child, a legally adopted child, a stepchild who is a member of a veteran’s household or was a member at the time of the veteran’s death, or an illegitimate child but, as to the alleged father, only if acknowledged in writing signed by him, or if he has been judicially ordered to contribute to the child’s support or has been, before his death, judicially decreed to be the father of such child, or if he is otherwise shown by evidence satisfactory to the Secretary to be the father of such child. A person shall be deemed, as of the date of death of a veteran, to be the legally adopted child of such veteran if such person was at the time of the veteran’s death living in the veteran’s household and was legally adopted by the veteran’s surviving spouse before August 26, 1961, or within

two years after the veteran’s death; however, this sentence shall not apply if at the time of the veteran’s death, such person was receiving regular contributions toward the person’s support from some individual other than the veteran or the veteran’s spouse, or from any public or private welfare organization which furnishes services or assistance for children. A person with respect to whom an interlocutory decree of adoption has been issued by an appropriate adoption authority shall be recognized thereafter as a legally adopted child, unless and until that decree is rescinded, if the child remains in the custody of the adopting parent or parents during the interlocutory period. A person who has been placed for adoption under an agreement entered into by the adopting parent or parents with any agency authorized under law to so act shall be recognized thereafter as a legally adopted child, unless and until such agreement is terminated, if the child remains in the custody of the adopting parent or parents during the period of placement for adoption under such agreement. A person described in clause (ii) of the first sentence of this subparagraph who was a member of a veteran’s household at the time the person became 18 years of age and who is adopted by the veteran shall be recognized as a legally adopted child of the veteran regardless of the age of such person at the time of adoption.

(B) For the purposes of subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, in the case of an adoption under the laws of any jurisdiction other than a State (as defined in section 101(20) of this title and including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands)—

(i) a person residing outside any of the States shall not be considered to be a legally adopted child of a veteran during the lifetime of such veteran (including for purposes of this subparagraph a Commonwealth Army veteran or new Philippine Scout, as defined in section 3566 of this title) unless such person—

(I) was less than eighteen years of age at the time of adoption;

(II) is receiving one-half or more of such person’s annual support from such veteran;

(III) is not in the custody of such person’s natural parent, unless such natural parent is such veteran’s spouse; and

(IV) is residing with such veteran (or in the case of divorce following adoption, with the divorced spouse who is also an adoptive or natural parent) except for periods during which such person is residing apart from such veteran (or such divorced spouse) for purposes of full-time attendance at an educational institution or during which such person or such veteran (or such divorced spouse) is confined in a hospital, nursing home, other health-care facility, or other institution; and

(ii) a person shall not be considered to have been a legally adopted child of a veteran as of the date of such veteran’s death and thereafter unless—

(I) at any time within the one-year period immediately preceding such veteran’s death, such veteran was entitled to and was receiving a dependent’s allowance or similar monetary benefit under this title for such person; or