

TABLE 5.—SECTION 306 PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS—Continued

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- (2) Veteran with no dependents in need of aid and attendance, \$11,524 (38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
 (3) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents, \$14,817 (Pub. L. 95–588, section 306(a)).
 (4) Veteran with one or more dependents in need of aid and attendance, \$15,317 (38 U.S.C. 1521(d) as in effect on December 31, 1978).
 (5) Child (no entitled veteran or surviving spouse), \$9,011 (Pub. L. 95–588, section 306(a)).
 (6) Spouse income exclusion (38 CFR 3.262), \$3,517 (Pub. L. 95–588, section 306(a)(2)(B)).
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TABLE 6.—OLD-LAW PENSION INCOME LIMITATIONS

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- (1) Veteran or surviving spouse without dependents or an entitled child, \$9,650 (Pub. L. 95–588, section 306(b)).
 (2) Veteran or surviving spouse with one or more dependents, \$13,912 (Pub. L. 95–588, section 306(b)).
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Spina Bifida Benefits

Section 421 of Public Law 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 the 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, 2002, spina bifida monthly rates are as follows:

Level I: \$232
 Level II: \$804
 Level III: \$1,373

Birth Defects Benefits

Section 401 of Public Law 106–419 authorizes the payment of monetary benefits to, or on behalf of, children of female Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects. 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, 2002, birth defects monthly rates are as follows:

Level I: \$105
 Level II: \$232
 Level III: \$804
 Level IV: \$1,373

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Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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