

# Washington Report

Elliott French, *Editor*

## Veterans' Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967

Within the past 18 months, two major laws have provided benefits to veterans of military service which include industrial training as well as education.

The Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act, approved as Public Law 89-358 on March 3, 1966, was the first one. The second is called the Veterans' Pension and Readjustment Assistance Act of 1967. It provides additional benefits to the veteran of the Viet-Nam Era which is defined as the period beginning August 5, 1964, and ending on a date to be determined by the President or the Congress.

### Subsistence Allowances

The 1967 legislation provides financial benefits in the form of training subsistence allowances to veterans pursuing apprenticeship or other approved types of training on the job.

Specifically, the eligible veteran may receive the financial benefits while pursuing full-time apprenticeship programs which meet the standards set forth by the Secretary of Labor through the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training and which are approved by a State approving agency. Such assistance will also apply to other training on the job which meets the requisites laid down by the Act.

The financial benefits range from \$80 a month for a veteran with no dependents, to \$90 a month for a veteran with one dependent, to \$100 a month for a veteran with more than one dependent.

### Wages

At the same time, the Act calls for apprentices and other on-the-job trainees receiving 50 percent of the journeyman's wage at the start of the program, to be paid by the employer with periodic increases which would bring the wages to 85 percent of the final wage rate at the end of two years. The two-year limitation would not apply to apprenticeships.

The Act calls for a reduction of \$20 in each veteran dependent category in each succeeding six-month period, except that there will be no reduction beyond the fourth successive six-month period, so that during the fourth and any succeeding six month period the veteran with no dependents will receive \$20 a month, \$30 a month with one dependent, and \$40 a month with two or more dependents.

### Other Requirements

Other provisions include reasonable certainty that the veteran will have the job for which he is being trained upon completion of training, that the training period will not be longer than that customarily required for such

training, that training facilities will be adequate, that progress records will be maintained and the veteran be given a signed training agreement indicating all rights and benefits to which he is entitled under the law.

The Act also provides for high school, college or university, farm co-operative training and flight training in any approved school. All training must be approved by State Approving Agencies.

## Hospital Technical Personnel Shortage

A joint study by the American Hospital Association and the Public Health Service revealed significant shortages in all categories of hospital technical personnel. About 275,000 additional persons are needed to provide optimum patient care—an increase of about 20 percent over present staff-

ing. More than 120,000 nurses are needed. Some 50,000 aides are needed in general hospitals; another 30,000 in psychiatric institutions. Over 9,000 medical technologists, about 7,000 social workers, and 4,000 more physical therapists, X-ray technologists, and surgical technicians are needed.

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S/Gordon M. Bliss, *Executive Director*

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