

eligibility [sic] of the recipient of such annuity for such pension, even though, as a result of including the amount of the annuity as income, no amount of such pension is due.

“(d) Subsection 1450(i) and section 1453 as added to title 10, United States Code, by clause 3 of the first section of this Act, are applicable to persons covered by this section.

“(e)(1) Payment of annuities under this section shall be made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In making such payments, the Secretary shall combine with the payment under this section payment of any amount due the same person under section 653(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 [Pub. L. 100-456] (10 U.S.C. 1448 note). If appropriate for administrative convenience (or otherwise determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs), that Secretary may combine a payment to any person for any month under this section (and, if applicable, under section 653(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989) with any other payment for that month under laws administered by the Secretary so as to provide that person with a single payment for that month.

“(2) The Secretary concerned shall annually transfer to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs such amounts as may be necessary for payments by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under this section and for costs of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in administering this section. Such transfers shall be made from amounts that would otherwise be used for payment of annuities by the Secretary concerned under this section. The authority to make such a transfer is in addition to any other authority of the Secretary concerned to transfer funds for a purpose other than the purpose for which the funds were originally made available. In the case of a transfer by the Secretary of a military department, the provisions of section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, do not apply.

“(3) The Secretary concerned shall promptly notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of any change in beneficiaries under this section.”

[Section 638(d) of Pub. L. 104-201 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending section 4 of Pub. L. 92-425, set out above] take effect on July 1, 1997, and apply with respect to payments of benefits for any month after June 1997.”]

[Section 942(b) of Pub. L. 98-94 provided that: “Any annuity payable by reason of subsection (a) [amending section 4(a)(1) of Pub. L. 92-425, set out above] shall be payable only for months after September 1983.”]

#### END OF 90-DAY PERIOD WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

The 90-day period, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), (4)(B), with respect to certain individuals shall be considered to end on Mar. 31, 1980, see section 208 of Pub. L. 95-397, set out as a note under section 1447 of this title.

#### § 1448a. Election to discontinue participation: one-year opportunity after second anniversary of commencement of payment of retired pay

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—A participant in the Plan may, subject to the provisions of this section, elect to discontinue participation in the Plan at any time during the one-year period beginning on the second anniversary of the date on which payment of retired pay to the participant commences.

(b) **CONCURRENCE OF SPOUSE.**—

(1) **CONCURRENCE REQUIRED.**—A married participant may not (except as provided in paragraph (2)) make an election under subsection (a) without the concurrence of the participant's spouse.

(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—A participant may make such an election without the concurrence of

the participant's spouse by establishing to the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned that one of the conditions specified in section 1448(a)(3)(C) of this title exists.

(3) **FORM OF CONCURRENCE.**—The concurrence of a spouse under paragraph (1) shall be made in such written form and shall contain such information as may be required under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(c) **LIMITATION ON ELECTION WHEN FORMER SPOUSE COVERAGE IN EFFECT.**—The limitation set forth in section 1450(f)(2) of this title applies to an election to discontinue participation in the Plan under subsection (a).

(d) **WITHDRAWAL OF ELECTION TO DISCONTINUE.**—Section 1448(b)(1)(D) of this title applies to an election under subsection (a).

(e) **CONSEQUENCES OF DISCONTINUATION.**—Section 1448(b)(1)(E) of this title applies to an election under subsection (a).

(f) **NOTICE TO AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES.**—The Secretary concerned shall notify any former spouse or other natural person previously designated under section 1448(b) of this title of an election to discontinue participation under subsection (a).

(g) **EFFECTIVE DATE OF ELECTION.**—An election under subsection (a) is effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the month in which the election is received by the Secretary concerned.

(h) **INAPPLICABILITY OF IRREVOCABILITY PROVISIONS.**—Paragraphs (4)(B) and (5)(C) of section 1448(a) of this title do not apply to prevent an election under subsection (a).

(Added Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VI, § 641(a)(1), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1797.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 641(c) of Pub. L. 105-85 provided that: “Section 1448a of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 18, 1997].”

#### TRANSITION PROVISION FOR CURRENT PARTICIPANTS

Section 641(b) of Pub. L. 105-85 provided that: “Notwithstanding the limitation on the time for making an election under section 1448a of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), that is specified in subsection (a) of such section, a participant in the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of such title may make an election in accordance with that section within one year after the effective date of that section under subsection (c) [set out as an Effective Date note above] if the second anniversary of the commencement of payment of retired pay to the participant precedes that effective date.”

#### § 1449. Mental incompetency of member

(a) **ELECTION BY SECRETARY CONCERNED ON BEHALF OF MENTALLY INCOMPETENT MEMBER.**—If a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies is determined to be mentally incompetent by medical officers of the armed force concerned or of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, an election described in subsection (a)(2) or (b) of section 1448 of this title may be made on behalf of that person by the Secretary concerned.

(b) **REVOCATION OF ELECTION BY MEMBER.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY UPON SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF MENTAL COMPETENCE.**—If a person for

whom the Secretary has made an election under subsection (a) is later determined to be mentally competent by an authority named in that subsection, that person may, within 180 days after that determination, revoke that election.

(2) DEDUCTIONS FROM RETIRED PAY NOT TO BE REFUNDED.—Any deduction made from retired pay by reason of such an election may not be refunded.

(Added Pub. L. 92-425, §1(3), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 708; amended Pub. L. 95-397, title II, §207(a), Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 848; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XIV, §1407(a)(3), title XVI, §1621(a)(1), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1588, 1602; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VI, §634, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2560.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-201 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “If a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies is determined to be mentally incompetent by medical officers of the armed force concerned or of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, any election described in subsection (a)(2) or (b) of section 1448 of this title may be made on behalf of that person by the Secretary concerned. If the person for whom the Secretary has made an election is later determined to be mentally competent by an authority named in the first sentence, he may, within 180 days after that determination revoke that election. Any deductions made from retired pay by reason of such an election will not be refunded.”

1989—Pub. L. 101-189 substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration” and struck out “or retainer” after “made from retired”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-397 substituted “subsection (a)(2) or (b)” for “the first sentence of subsection (a), or subsection (b)”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-397 effective Oct. 1, 1978, and applicable to annuities payable by virtue of amendment for months beginning on or after such date, see section 210 of Pub. L. 95-397, set out as a note under section 1447 of this title.

#### § 1450. Payment of annuity: beneficiaries

(a) IN GENERAL.—Effective as of the first day after the death of a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies (or on such other day as that person may provide under subsection (j)), a monthly annuity under section 1451 of this title shall be paid to the person’s beneficiaries under the Plan, as follows:

(1) SURVIVING SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE.—The eligible surviving spouse or the eligible former spouse.

(2) SURVIVING CHILDREN.—The surviving dependent children in equal shares, if the eligible surviving spouse or the eligible former spouse is dead, dies, or otherwise becomes ineligible under this section.

(3) DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—The dependent children in equal shares if the person to whom section 1448 of this title applies (with the concurrence of the person’s spouse, if required under section 1448(a)(3) of this title) elected to provide an annuity for dependent children but not for the spouse or former spouse.

(4) NATURAL PERSON DESIGNATED UNDER “INSURABLE INTEREST” COVERAGE.—The natural

person designated under section 1448(b)(1) of this title, unless the election to provide an annuity to the natural person has been changed as provided in subsection (f).

(b) TERMINATION OF ANNUITY FOR DEATH, REMARRIAGE BEFORE AGE 55, ETC.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—An annuity payable to the beneficiary terminates effective as of the first day of the month in which eligibility is lost.

(2) TERMINATION OF SPOUSE ANNUITY UPON DEATH OR REMARRIAGE BEFORE AGE 55.—An annuity for a surviving spouse or former spouse shall be paid to the surviving spouse or former spouse while the surviving spouse or former spouse is living or, if the surviving spouse or former spouse remarries before reaching age 55, until the surviving spouse or former spouse remarries.

(3) EFFECT OF TERMINATION OF SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE BEFORE AGE 55.—If the surviving spouse or former spouse remarries before reaching age 55 and that marriage is terminated by death, annulment, or divorce, payment of the annuity shall be resumed effective as of the first day of the month in which the marriage is so terminated. However, if the surviving spouse or former spouse is also entitled to an annuity under the Plan based upon the marriage so terminated, the surviving spouse or former spouse may not receive both annuities but must elect which to receive.

(c) OFFSET FOR AMOUNT OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.—

(1) REQUIRED OFFSET.—If, upon the death of a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies, the surviving spouse or former spouse of that person is also entitled to dependency and indemnity compensation under section 1311(a) of title 38, the surviving spouse or former spouse may be paid an annuity under this section, but only in the amount that the annuity otherwise payable under this section would exceed that compensation.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE OF OFFSET.—A reduction in an annuity under this section required by paragraph (1) shall be effective on the date of the commencement of the period of payment of such dependency and indemnity compensation under title 38.

(3) LIMITATION ON RECOUPMENT OF OFFSET AMOUNT.—Any amount subject to offset under this subsection that was previously paid to the surviving spouse or former spouse shall be recouped only to the extent that the amount paid exceeds any amount to be refunded under subsection (e). In notifying a surviving spouse or former spouse of the recoupment requirement, the Secretary shall provide the spouse or former spouse—

(A) a single notice of the net amount to be recouped or the net amount to be refunded, as applicable, under this subsection or subsection (e);

(B) a written explanation of the statutory requirements for recoupment of the offset amount and for refund of any applicable amount deducted from retired pay;

(C) a detailed accounting of how the offset amount being recouped and retired pay de-