

(b) Promotion zones from which officers will be selected for promotion to the grade of rear admiral (lower half) shall be established by the Secretary as the needs of the service require.

(Added Pub. L. 88-130, §1(10)(C), Sept. 24, 1963, 77 Stat. 179; amended Pub. L. 89-444, §1(16), June 9, 1966, 80 Stat. 196; Pub. L. 97-417, §2(3), Jan. 4, 1983, 96 Stat. 2085; Pub. L. 99-145, title V, §514(c)(1), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 629; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XIII, §1343(c), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3995.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-661 substituted “rear admiral (lower half)” for “commodore”.

1985—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “rear admiral (lower half)” for “commodore”.

1983—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 97-417 substituted “commodore” for “rear admiral”.

1966—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 89-444 limited promotion zone by requiring that list of officers under consideration be officers eligible for consideration for promotion to next higher grade.

§ 256a. Promotion year; defined

For the purposes of this chapter, “promotion year” means the period which commences on July 1 of each year and ends on June 30 of the following year.

(Added Pub. L. 94-546, §1(17), Oct. 18, 1976, 90 Stat. 2520.)

§ 257. Eligibility of officers for consideration for promotion

(a) An officer on the active duty promotion list becomes eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade at the beginning of the promotion year in which he completes the following amount of service computed from his date of rank in the grade in which he is serving:

- (1) two years in the grade of lieutenant (junior grade);
- (2) three years in the grade of lieutenant;
- (3) four years in the grade of lieutenant commander;
- (4) four years in the grade of commander; and
- (5) three years in the grade of captain.

(b) For the purpose of this section, service in a grade includes all qualifying service in that grade or a higher grade, under either a temporary or permanent appointment. However, service in a grade under a temporary service appointment under section 275 of this title is considered as service only in the grade that the officer concerned would have held had he not been so appointed.

(c) No officer may become eligible for consideration for promotion until all officers of his grade senior to him are so eligible.

(d) Except when his name is on a list of selectees, each officer who becomes eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade remains eligible so long as he—

- (1) continues on active duty; and
- (2) is not promoted to that grade.

(e) An officer whose involuntary retirement or separation is deferred under section 295 of this title is not eligible for consideration for pro-

motion to the next higher grade during the period of that deferment.

(f) The Secretary may waive subsection (a) to the extent necessary to allow officers described therein to have at least two opportunities for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade as officers below the promotion zone.

(Added Pub. L. 88-130, §1(10)(C), Sept. 24, 1963, 77 Stat. 179; amended Pub. L. 94-546, §1(19), Oct. 18, 1976, 90 Stat. 2520; Pub. L. 98-557, §17(b)(1), Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2867; Pub. L. 109-241, title II, §203, July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 520.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-241 added subsec. (f).

1984—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 98-557 added subsec. (e).

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-546, §1(19)(a), substituted “promotion year” for “fiscal year”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 94-546, §1(19)(b), struck out cl. (3) “if serving in a grade below captain, has not twice failed of selection for promotion to the next higher grade.”

§ 258. Selection boards; information to be furnished boards

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall furnish the appropriate selection board convened under section 251 of this title with—

- (1) the number of officers that the board may recommend for promotion to the next higher grade; and
- (2) the names and records of all officers who are eligible for consideration for promotion to the grade to which the board will recommend officers for promotion.

(b) PROVISION OF DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE.—

(1) In addition to the information provided pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary may furnish the selection board—

- (A) specific direction relating to the needs of the Coast Guard for officers having particular skills, including direction relating to the need for a minimum number of officers with particular skills within a specialty; and
- (B) any other guidance that the Secretary believes may be necessary to enable the board to properly perform its functions.

(2) Selections made based on the direction and guidance provided under this subsection shall not exceed the maximum percentage of officers who may be selected from below the announced promotion zone at any given selection board convened under section 251 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 88-130, §1(10)(C), Sept. 24, 1963, 77 Stat. 180; amended Pub. L. 89-444, §1(17), June 9, 1966, 80 Stat. 196; Pub. L. 104-324, title II, §212, Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3915; Pub. L. 111-281, title II, §212(2), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2914.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-281 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, substituted “with—” for “with:” in introductory provisions, and added subsec. (b).

1996—Cl. (2). Pub. L. 104-324 struck out “, with identification of those officers who are in the promotion zone” after “officers for promotion”.

1966—Pub. L. 89-444 substituted “officers who are eligible for consideration for promotion to the grade to which the board will recommend officers for pro-

motion” for “officers to be considered by the board” in cl. 2.

§ 259. Officers to be recommended for promotion

(a) A selection board convened to recommend officers for promotion shall recommend those eligible officers whom the board, giving due consideration to the needs of the Coast Guard for officers with particular skills so noted in specific direction furnished to the board by the Secretary under section 258 of this title, considers best qualified of the officers under consideration for promotion. No officer may be recommended for promotion unless he receives the recommendation of at least a majority of the members of a board composed of five members, or at least two-thirds of the members of a board composed of more than five members.

(b) The number of officers that a board convened under section 251 of this title may recommend for promotion to a grade below rear admiral (lower half) from among eligible officers junior in rank to the junior officer in the appropriate promotion zone may not exceed—

(1) 5 percent of the total number of officers that the board is authorized to recommend for promotion to the grade of lieutenant or lieutenant commander;

(2) 7½ percent of the total number of officers that the board is authorized to recommend for promotion to the grade of commander; and

(3) 10 percent of the total number of officers that the board is authorized to recommend for promotion to the grade of captain;

unless such percentage is a number less than one, in which case the board may recommend one such officer for promotion.

(c)(1) After selecting the officers to be recommended for promotion, a selection board may recommend officers of particular merit, from among those officers chosen for promotion, to be placed at the top of the list of selectees promulgated by the Secretary under section 271(a) of this title. The number of officers that a board may recommend to be placed at the top of the list of selectees may not exceed the percentages set forth in subsection (b) unless such a percentage is a number less than one, in which case the board may recommend one officer for such placement. No officer may be recommended to be placed at the top of the list of selectees unless he or she receives the recommendation of at least a majority of the members of a board composed of five members, or at least two-thirds of the members of a board composed of more than five members.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct a survey of the Coast Guard officer corps to determine if implementation of this subsection will improve Coast Guard officer retention. A selection board may not make any recommendation under this subsection before the date on which the Secretary publishes a finding, based upon the results of the survey, that implementation of this subsection will improve Coast Guard officer retention.

(3) The Secretary shall submit any finding made by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (2) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(Added Pub. L. 88-130, §1(10)(C), Sept. 24, 1963, 77 Stat. 180; amended Pub. L. 97-417, §2(4), Jan. 4, 1983, 96 Stat. 2085; Pub. L. 99-145, title V, §514(c)(1), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 629; Pub. L. 107-295, title III, §313(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2102; Pub. L. 111-281, title II, §212(3), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2915.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-281 inserted “, giving due consideration to the needs of the Coast Guard for officers with particular skills so noted in specific direction furnished to the board by the Secretary under section 258 of this title,” after “whom the board”.

2002—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-295 added subsec. (c).

1985—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “rear admiral (lower half)” for “commodore”.

1983—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-417 substituted “commodore” for “real admiral”.

§ 260. Selection boards; reports

(a) Each board convened under section 251 of this title shall submit a report in writing, signed by all the members thereof, containing the names of the officers recommended for promotion and the names of those officers recommended to be advanced to the top of the list of selectees established by the Secretary under section 271(a) of this title.

(b) A board convened under section 251 of this title shall certify that, in the opinion of at least a majority of the members if the board has five members, or in the opinion of at least two-thirds of the members if the board has more than five members, the officers recommended for promotion are the best qualified for promotion to meet the needs of the service (as noted in specific direction furnished the board by the Secretary under section 258 of this title) of those officers whose names have been furnished to the board.

(Added Pub. L. 88-130, §1(10)(C), Sept. 24, 1963, 77 Stat. 180; amended Pub. L. 107-295, title III, §313(2), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2103; Pub. L. 111-281, title II, §212(4), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2915.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111-281 inserted “to meet the needs of the service (as noted in specific direction furnished the board by the Secretary under section 258 of this title)” after “qualified for promotion”.

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-295 inserted “and the names of those officers recommended to be advanced to the top of the list of selectees established by the Secretary under section 271(a) of this title” before period at end.

§ 261. Selection boards; submission of reports

(a) A board convened under section 251 of this title shall submit its report to the Secretary. If the board has acted contrary to law or regulation, the Secretary may return the report for proceedings in revision and resubmission to the Secretary. After his final review, the Secretary shall submit the report of the board to the President for his approval, modification, or disapproval.

(b) If any officer recommended for promotion is not acceptable to the President, the President may remove the name of that officer from the report of the board.