

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, §304, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2085; Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, §208(b)], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-422.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-113 struck out subsec. (c) which read as follows: “Within 6 months after assuming the position, the chief of mission to a foreign country shall submit, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, a report describing his or her own foreign language competence and the foreign language competence of the mission staff in the principal language or other dialect of that country.”

§ 3945. Senior Foreign Service

(a) Salary class

Appointment to the Senior Foreign Service shall be to a salary class established under section 3962 of this title, and not to a position.

(b) Limited appointment

An individual may not be given a limited appointment in the Senior Foreign Service if that appointment would cause the number of members of the Senior Foreign Service serving under limited appointments to exceed 5 percent of the total number of members of the Senior Foreign Service, except that (1) members of the Senior Foreign Service assigned to the Peace Corps shall be excluded in the calculation and application of this limitation, and (2) members of the Senior Foreign Service serving under limited appointments with reemployment rights under section 3950 of this title as career appointees in the Senior Executive Service shall be considered to be career members of the Senior Foreign Service for purposes of this subsection.

(c) Appointments by Secretary of Commerce

(1) Appointments to the Senior Foreign Service by the Secretary of Commerce shall be excluded in the calculation and application of the limitation in subsection (b) of this section.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), no more than one individual (other than an individual with reemployment rights under section 3950 of this title as a career appointee in the Senior Executive Service) may serve under a limited appointment in the Senior Foreign Service in the Department of Commerce at any time.

(3) The Secretary of Commerce may appoint an individual to a limited appointment in the Senior Foreign Service for a specific position abroad if—

(A) no career member of the Service who has the necessary qualifications is available to serve in the position; and

(B) the individual appointed has unique qualifications for the specific position.

(d) Recertification process

The Secretary shall by regulation establish a recertification process for members of the Senior Foreign Service that is equivalent to the recertification process for the Senior Executive Service under section 3393a of title 5.¹

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, §305, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2086; Pub. L. 99-93, title I, §119(a), Aug. 16, 1985,

99 Stat. 412; Pub. L. 101-194, title V, §506(c)(1), Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1759; Pub. L. 101-280, §6(d)(3), May 4, 1990, 104 Stat. 160.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 3393a of title 5, referred to in subsec. (d), was repealed by Pub. L. 107-296, title XIII, §1321(a)(1)(B), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2296.

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-280 made technical correction to Pub. L. 101-194. See 1989 Amendment note below.

1989—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-194, as amended by Pub. L. 101-280, added subsec. (d).

1985—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-93 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-194 effective Jan. 1, 1991, see section 506(d) of Pub. L. 101-194, set out as a note under section 3151 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Section 119(c) of Pub. L. 99-93 provided that: “The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [amending this section and provisions set out as a note under section 3901 of this title] shall take effect on October 1, 1985.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Feb. 15, 1981, with an exception that appointments to the Senior Foreign Service by the Secretary of Commerce shall be excluded in the calculation and limitation in subsec. (b) of this section until Oct. 1, 1985, which was repealed by section 119(b) of Pub. L. 99-93, see section 2403 of Pub. L. 96-465, set out as a note under section 3901 of this title.

PLACEMENT OF SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

Pub. L. 106-113, div. B, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title III, §324], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A-437, required the Director General of the Foreign Service to submit a report on the first day of each fiscal quarter to the appropriate congressional committees containing the number of members of the Senior Foreign Service, the number of vacant positions designated for such members, and the number of those members not assigned to positions, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 107-228, div. A, title VI, §671(4), Sept. 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 1407.

§ 3946. Career appointments

(a) Trial period under limited appointment

Before receiving a career appointment in the Service, an individual shall first serve under a limited appointment as a career candidate for a trial period of service prescribed by the Secretary. During such trial period of service, the Secretary shall decide whether—

(1) to offer a career appointment to the candidate under section 3943 of this title, or

(2) to recommend to the President that the candidate be given a career appointment under section 3942 of this title.

(b) Decisions by Secretary

Decisions by the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section shall be based upon the recommendations of boards, established by the Secretary and composed entirely or primarily of career members of the Service, which shall evaluate the fitness and aptitude of career candidates for the work of the Service.

(c) Foreign Service Grievance Board decisions

Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Secretary or the For-

¹ See References in Text note below.

eign Service Grievance Board under section 4137 of this title.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 306, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2086; Pub. L. 100-204, title I, § 181(c), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1363.)

AMENDMENTS

1987—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 100-204 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Section 181(e) of Pub. L. 100-204 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 4010 and 4137 of this title] shall not apply with respect to any grievance in which the Board has issued a final decision pursuant to section 1107 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4137) before the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 22, 1987].”

§ 3947. Entry levels for Foreign Service officer candidates

A career candidate for appointment as a Foreign Service officer may not be initially assigned under section 3964 of this title to a salary class higher than class 4 in the Foreign Service Schedule unless—

(1) the Secretary determines in an individual case that assignment to a higher salary class is warranted because of the qualifications (including foreign language competence) and experience of the candidate and the needs of the Service; or

(2) at the time such initial assignment is made, the candidate is serving under a career appointment in the Service and is receiving a salary at a rate equal to or higher than the minimum rate payable for class 4 in the Foreign Service Schedule.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 307, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2086.)

§ 3948. Recall and reappointment of career members

(a) Retired career members

Whenever the Secretary determines that the needs of the Service so require, the Secretary may recall any retired career member of the Service for active duty in the same personnel category as that member was serving at the time of retirement. A retired career member may be recalled under this section to any appropriate salary class or rate, except that a retired career member of the Senior Foreign Service may not be recalled to a salary class higher than the one in which the member was serving at the time of retirement unless appointed to such higher class by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) Former career members

Former career members of the Service may be reappointed under section 3942(a)(1) or 3943 of this title, without regard to section 3946 of this title, in a salary class which is appropriate in light of the qualifications and experience of the individual being reappointed.

(Pub. L. 96-465, title I, § 308, Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2086.)

USAID OVERSEAS PROGRAM

Pub. L. 112-74, div. I, title VII, § 7057(a)-(e), Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 1244, provided that:

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Up to \$93,000,000 of the funds made available in title III of this Act [title III of div. I of Pub. L. 112-74, 125 Stat. 1175] to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 [22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.], including funds appropriated under the heading ‘Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia’, may be used by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hire and employ individuals in the United States and overseas on a limited appointment basis pursuant to the authority of sections 308 and 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 [22 U.S.C. 3948, 3949].

“(b) **RESTRICTIONS.**—

“(1) The number of individuals hired in any fiscal year pursuant to the authority contained in subsection (a) may not exceed 175.

“(2) The authority to hire individuals contained in subsection (a) shall expire on September 30, 2013.

“(c) **CONDITIONS.**—The authority of subsection (a) should only be used to the extent that an equivalent number of positions that are filled by personal services contractors or other non-direct hire employees of USAID, who are compensated with funds appropriated to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 [22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.], including funds appropriated under the heading ‘Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia’, are eliminated.

“(d) **PROGRAM ACCOUNT CHARGED.**—The account charged for the cost of an individual hired and employed under the authority of this section shall be the account to which such individual’s responsibilities primarily relate: *Provided*, That funds made available to carry out this section may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act in title II [title II of div. I of Pub. L. 112-74, 125 Stat. 1174] under the heading ‘Operating Expenses’.

“(e) **FOREIGN SERVICE LIMITED EXTENSIONS.**—Individuals hired and employed by USAID, with funds made available in this Act [div. I of Pub. L. 112-74, 125 Stat. 1164] or prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs [see similar provisions listed below], pursuant to the authority of section 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 [22 U.S.C. 3949], may be extended for a period of up to 4 years notwithstanding the limitation set forth in such section.”

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 111-117, div. F, title VII, § 7059(a)-(g), Dec. 16, 2009, 123 Stat. 3380, 3381.

Pub. L. 111-8, div. H, title VII, § 7059(a)-(g), Mar. 11, 2009, 123 Stat. 896.

Pub. L. 110-161, div. J, title VI, § 676, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2357.

Pub. L. 109-102, title V, § 577, Nov. 14, 2005, 119 Stat. 2231.

Pub. L. 108-447, div. D, title V, § 588, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3034.

Pub. L. 108-199, div. D, title V, § 525, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 176, provided that: “Funds appropriated by this and subsequent appropriations Acts to carry out the provisions of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 [22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.], including funds appropriated under the heading ‘Assistance for Eastern Europe and the Baltic States’, may be made available to employ individuals overseas on a limited appointment basis pursuant to the authority of sections 308 and 309 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 [22 U.S.C. 3948, 3949]: *Provided*, That in fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006 the authority of this section may be used to hire not more than 85 individuals in each such year.”

§ 3949. Limited appointments

(a) A limited appointment in the Service, including an appointment of an individual who is an employee of an agency, may not exceed 5 years in duration and, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, may not be extended or renewed. A limited appointment in the Serv-