

quires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

**(3) Notice for leave due to covered active duty of family member**

In any case in which the necessity for leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee is on covered active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty, the employee shall provide such notice to the employer as is reasonable and practicable.

**(f) Spouses employed by same employer**

**(1) In general**

In any case in which a husband and wife entitled to leave under subsection (a) are employed by the same employer, the aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to 12 workweeks during any 12-month period, if such leave is taken—

(A) under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1); or

(B) to care for a sick parent under subparagraph (C) of such subsection.

**(2) Servicemember family leave**

**(A) In general**

The aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both that husband and wife may be entitled under subsection (a) may be limited to 26 workweeks during the single 12-month period described in subsection (a)(3) if the leave is—

(i) leave under subsection (a)(3); or

(ii) a combination of leave under subsection (a)(3) and leave described in paragraph (1).

**(B) Both limitations applicable**

If the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave described in paragraph (1), the limitation in paragraph (1) shall apply to the leave described in paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 103-3, title I, §102, Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 9; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §585(a)(2), (3)(A)-(D), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 129, 130; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §565(a)(1)(B), (4), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2309, 2311; Pub. L. 111-119, §2(b), Dec. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 3477.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(a)(1)(B)(i), substituted “covered active duty” for “active duty” in two places and struck out “in support of a contingency operation” before period.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 111-119 added par. (5).

Subsec. (e)(2)(A). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(a)(4), substituted “parent, or covered servicemember” for “or parent”.

Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(a)(1)(B)(ii), substituted “covered active duty” for “active duty” in heading and in two places in text and struck out “in support of a contingency operation” before “, the employee shall provide”.

2008—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(2)(A), added subpar. (E).

Subsec. (a)(3), (4). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(2)(B), added pars. (3) and (4).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(A)(i), (ii), in second sentence, substituted “subsection (b)(5) or (f) (as

appropriate) of section 2613” for “section 2613(b)(5)” and inserted “or under subsection (a)(3)” after “subsection (a)(1)” and, after second sentence, inserted “Subject to subsection (e)(3) and section 2613(f) of this title, leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule.”

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(A)(iii), inserted “or under subsection (a)(3)” after “subsection (a)(1)”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(B)(i), inserted “(or 26 workweeks in the case of leave provided under subsection (a)(3))” after “fewer than 12 workweeks” and “(or 26 workweeks, as appropriate)” after “attain the 12 workweeks”.

Subsec. (d)(2)(A). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(B)(ii), substituted “(C), or (E)” for “or (C)”.

Subsec. (d)(2)(B). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(B)(iii), inserted at end “An eligible employee may elect, or an employer may require the employee, to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave, family leave, or medical or sick leave of the employee for leave provided under subsection (a)(3) for any part of the 26-week period of such leave under such subsection, except that nothing in this subchapter requires an employer to provide paid sick leave or paid medical leave in any situation in which the employer would not normally provide any such paid leave.”

Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(C)(i), inserted “or under subsection (a)(3)” after “subsection (a)(1)” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(C)(ii), added par. (3).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(a)(3)(D), designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted heading, redesignated former pars. (1) and (2) as subpars. (A) and (B), respectively, of par. (1), realigned margins, and added par. (2).

**§ 2613. Certification**

**(a) In general**

An employer may require that a request for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) or paragraph (3) of section 2612(a) of this title be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of the eligible employee or of the son, daughter, spouse, or parent of the employee, or of the next of kin of an individual in the case of leave taken under such paragraph (3), as appropriate. The employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the employer.

**(b) Sufficient certification**

Certification provided under subsection (a) of this section shall be sufficient if it states—

(1) the date on which the serious health condition commenced;

(2) the probable duration of the condition;

(3) the appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition;

(4)(A) for purposes of leave under section 2612(a)(1)(C) of this title, a statement that the eligible employee is needed to care for the son, daughter, spouse, or parent and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for the son, daughter, spouse, or parent; and

(B) for purposes of leave under section 2612(a)(1)(D) of this title, a statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of the position of the employee;

(5) in the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, for planned medical treatment, the dates

on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment;

(6) in the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, under section 2612(a)(1)(D) of this title, a statement of the medical necessity for the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and the expected duration of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule; and

(7) in the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, under section 2612(a)(1)(C) of this title, a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the care of the son, daughter, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition, or will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule.

**(c) Second opinion**

**(1) In general**

In any case in which the employer has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided under subsection (a) of this section for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 2612(a)(1) of this title, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the eligible employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the employer concerning any information certified under subsection (b) of this section for such leave.

**(2) Limitation**

A health care provider designated or approved under paragraph (1) shall not be employed on a regular basis by the employer.

**(d) Resolution of conflicting opinions**

**(1) In general**

In any case in which the second opinion described in subsection (c) of this section differs from the opinion in the original certification provided under subsection (a) of this section, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the employer and the employee concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section.

**(2) Finality**

The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the employer and the employee.

**(e) Subsequent recertification**

The employer may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertifications on a reasonable basis.

**(f) Certification related to covered active duty or call to covered active duty**

An employer may require that a request for leave under section 2612(a)(1)(E) of this title be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe. If the Secretary issues a

regulation requiring such certification, the employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the employer.

(Pub. L. 103-3, title I, § 103, Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 11; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 585(a)(3)(E), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 130; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, § 565(a)(1)(C), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2310.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “covered active duty” for “active duty” in two places in heading.

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-181, § 585(a)(3)(E)(i), substituted “paragraph (1) or paragraph (3) of section 2612(a)” for “section 2612(a)(1)” and inserted “or of the next of kin of an individual in the case of leave taken under such paragraph (3),” after “parent of the employee.”

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-181, § 585(a)(3)(E)(ii), added subsec. (f).

**§ 2614. Employment and benefits protection**

**(a) Restoration to position**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, any eligible employee who takes leave under section 2612 of this title for the intended purpose of the leave shall be entitled, on return from such leave—

(A) to be restored by the employer to the position of employment held by the employee when the leave commenced; or

(B) to be restored to an equivalent position with equivalent employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment.

**(2) Loss of benefits**

The taking of leave under section 2612 of this title shall not result in the loss of any employment benefit accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.

**(3) Limitations**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle any restored employee to—

(A) the accrual of any seniority or employment benefits during any period of leave; or

(B) any right, benefit, or position of employment other than any right, benefit, or position to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not taken the leave.

**(4) Certification**

As a condition of restoration under paragraph (1) for an employee who has taken leave under section 2612(a)(1)(D) of this title, the employer may have a uniformly applied practice or policy that requires each such employee to receive certification from the health care provider of the employee that the employee is able to resume work, except that nothing in this paragraph shall supersede a valid State or local law or a collective bargaining agreement that governs the return to work of such employees.

**(5) Construction**

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit an employer from requiring an employee on leave under section 2612 of this