

§ 3118. Personnel training, development, and qualifications

(a) The Secretary shall provide a program of ongoing professional training and development for Department of Veterans Affairs counseling and rehabilitation personnel engaged in providing rehabilitation services under this chapter. The objective of such training shall be to insure that rehabilitation services for disabled veterans are provided in accordance with the most advanced knowledge, methods, and techniques available for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons. For this purpose, the Secretary may employ the services of consultants and may make grants to and contract with public or private agencies (including institutions of higher learning) to conduct such training and development.

(b) The Secretary shall coordinate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor in planning and carrying out personnel training in areas of mutual programmatic concern.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall establish such qualifications for personnel providing evaluation and rehabilitation services to veterans under this chapter and for employees performing the functions described in section 3106(f) of this title as the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate to insure the quality of rehabilitation programs under this chapter. In establishing such qualifications, the Secretary shall take into account the qualifications established for comparable personnel under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. ch. 16).

(Added Pub. L. 96-466, title I, §101(a), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2184, §1518; amended Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §423(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2092; renumbered §3118 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406; Pub. L. 104-275, title I, §101(f)(2)(C), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3325.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. ch. 16), referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 93-112, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 355, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 16 (§701 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of Title 29 and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 3118 was renumbered section 5318 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-275 substituted “3106(f)” for “3106(e)”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 1518 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “3106(e)” for “1506(e)”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-237 substituted “Secretary” and “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator” and “Veterans’ Administration”, respectively, wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 802(a)(2) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as a note under section 3100 of this title.

§ 3119. Rehabilitation research and special projects

(a) The Secretary shall carry out an ongoing program of activities for the purpose of advancing the knowledge, methods, techniques, and resources available for use in rehabilitation programs for veterans. For this purpose, the Secretary shall conduct and provide support for the development or conduct, or both the development and conduct, of—

(1) studies and research concerning the psychological, educational, employment, social, vocational, industrial, and economic aspects of the rehabilitation of disabled veterans, including new methods of rehabilitation; and

(2) projects which are designed to increase the resources and potential for accomplishing the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

(b) For the purpose specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to or contract with public or non-profit agencies, including institutions of higher learning.

(c) The Secretary shall cooperate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Director of the Institute of Handicapped Research in the Department of Education, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding rehabilitation studies, research, and special projects of mutual programmatic concern.

(Added Pub. L. 96-466, title I, §101(a), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2184, §1519; amended Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §423(b)(1)(A), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2092; renumbered §3119, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 1519 of this title as this section.

1989—Pub. L. 101-237 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 802(a)(2) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as a note under section 3100 of this title.

§ 3120. Program of independent living services and assistance

(a) The Secretary may, under contracts with entities described in subsection (f) of this section, or through facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, which possess a demonstrated capability to conduct programs of independent living services for severely handicapped persons, provide, under regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, programs of independent living services and assistance under this chapter, in various geographic regions of the United States, to veterans described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) A program of independent living services and assistance may be made available under this

section only to a veteran who has a serious employment handicap resulting in substantial part from a service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(A)(i) of this title and with respect to whom it is determined under section 3106(d) or (e) of this title that the achievement of a vocational goal currently is not reasonably feasible.

(c) The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent feasible, include among those veterans who are provided with programs of independent living services and assistance under this section substantial numbers of veterans described in subsection (b) of this section who are receiving long-term care in Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes and in nursing homes with which the Secretary contracts for the provision of care to veterans.

(d) A program of independent living services and assistance for a veteran shall consist of such services described in section 3104(a) of this title as the Secretary determines necessary to enable such veteran to achieve maximum independence in daily living. Such veteran shall have the same rights with respect to an individualized written plan of services and assistance as are afforded veterans under section 3107 of this title.

(e) Programs of independent living services and assistance shall be initiated for no more than 2,700 veterans in each fiscal year, and the first priority in the provision of such programs shall be afforded to veterans for whom the reasonable feasibility of achieving a vocational goal is precluded solely as a result of a service-connected disability.

(f) Entities described in this subsection are (1) public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and (2) for-profit entities in cases in which the Secretary determines that services comparable in effectiveness to services available from such an entity are not available, or cannot be obtained cost-effectively from, public or nonprofit agencies or through facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.

(Added Pub. L. 96-466, title I, §101(a), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2185, §1520; amended Pub. L. 99-576, title III, §333(a), (b)(6), (c), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3279; Pub. L. 100-689, title II, §202(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4176; Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §§404, 423(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2080, 2092; renumbered §3120 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(b)(1), (d)(11), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4682, 4684; Pub. L. 104-275, title I, §101(f)(2)(D), (i), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3325; Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §508(a), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 997; Pub. L. 110-389, title III, §332, Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4170; Pub. L. 111-275, title VIII, §801(a), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2888.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-275 substituted “2,700” for “2600”.

2008—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 110-389, which directed amendment of subsec. (e) by substituting “2600 veterans” for “2500 veterans”, was executed by making the substitution for “2,500 veterans” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

2001—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-103 substituted “2,500 veterans” for “five hundred veterans”.

1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-275, §101(i)(1), substituted “serious employment handicap resulting in

substantial part from a service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(A)(i)” for “service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(A)”.

Pub. L. 104-275, §101(f)(2)(D), substituted “3106(d) or (e)” for “3106(d)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-275, §101(i)(2), struck out “and (b)” after “section 3104(a)”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-446, §1201(b)(1), substituted “Veterans Health Administration” for “Department of Medicine and Surgery”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-446, §1201(d)(11), which directed substitution of “section 3102(1)(A)(i)” for “section 3012(1)(A)”, could not be executed because the words “section 3012(1)(A)” did not appear.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 103-446, §1201(b)(1), substituted “Veterans Health Administration” for “Department of Medicine and Surgery”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 1520 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “3102(1)(A)” for “1502(1)(A)” and “3106(d)” for “1506(d)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “3104(a)” for “1504(a)” and “3107” for “1507”.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-237, §423(b)(1)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 101-237, §404(2)-(4), redesignated former par. (1) of subsec. (a) as entire subsection, substituted “The” for “During fiscal years 1982 through 1989, the”, “subsection (f) of this section” for “paragraph (7) of this subsection” and “subsection (b) of this section” for “paragraph (2) of this subsection”, redesignated former pars. (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) of subsec. (a) as subssecs. (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this section, respectively, and struck out former par. (5) which read as follows: “Any contract for services initiated with respect to any veteran under this section before the end of fiscal year 1989 may be continued in effect after the end of such year for the purposes of providing services and assistance to such veteran in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-237, §404(1), (3), (5), redesignated former subsec. (a)(2) as (b), struck out before period at end “and who is selected pursuant to criteria provided for in regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) of this subsection” and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Not later than February 1, 1989, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives statistical data regarding veterans' participation in the program conducted under subsection (a) of this section during fiscal years 1987 and 1988 and any recommendations of the Administrator for administrative or legislative action or both regarding the program.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-237, §423(b)(1), substituted “Secretary” and “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator” and “Veterans' Administration”, respectively, wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 101-237, §404(3), (6), redesignated former subsec. (a)(3) as (c) and substituted “subsection (b) of this section” for “paragraph (2) of this subsection”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-237, §423(b)(1)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Pub. L. 101-237, §404(3), redesignated former subsec. (a)(4) as (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-237, §404(3), (7), redesignated former subsec. (a)(6) as (e) and substituted “in each fiscal year” for “in each of the fiscal years 1982 through 1989”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101-237, §423(b)(1)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Pub. L. 101-237, §404(3), (8), redesignated former subsec. (a)(7) as (f) and substituted “in this subsection are (1) public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and (2)” for “in this paragraph are (A) public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and (B)”.

1988—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 100-689, §202(b)(1), substituted “entities described in paragraph (7) of this subsection” for “public or nonprofit private agencies or organizations”.

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 100-689, §202(b)(2), added par. (7).

1986—Pub. L. 99-576, §333(b)(6), substituted “Program” for “Pilot program” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 99-576, §333(a)(1)(A), substituted “1989” for “1985”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 99-576, §333(a)(1)(B), inserted “currently” after “goal”.

Subsec. (a)(5), (6). Pub. L. 99-576, §333(a)(1)(A), substituted “1989” for “1985”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-576, §333(c), amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: “Not later than September 30, 1984, the Administrator shall submit to the Congress a report on the programs of independent living services and assistance provided for in subsection (a) of this section. Such report shall include—

“(1) the results of a study which the Administrator shall conduct of the accomplishments and cost-effectiveness of such programs, including the extent to which (A) such programs have met needs for comprehensive independent living services that would not otherwise have been met, (B) severely disabled veterans have achieved and maintained greater independence in daily living as a result of participation in the programs, and (C) costs of care in hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities have been and may be avoided as the result of such programs; and

“(2) the Administrator’s recommendations for any legislative changes with respect to the provision of independent living services and assistance to veterans for whom the achievement of a vocational goal is not feasible.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-275, title VIII, §801(b), Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2888, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to fiscal years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 13, 2010].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §508(b), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 997, provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect as of September 30, 2001.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-275 effective Oct. 9, 1996, with amendment by section 101(i) of Pub. L. 104-275 only applicable with respect to claims of eligibility or entitlement to services and assistance (including claims for extension of such services and assistance) under this chapter received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on or after Oct. 9, 1996, including those claims based on original applications, and applications seeking to reopen, revise, reconsider, or otherwise adjudicate or readjudicate on any basis claims for services and assistance under this chapter, see section 101(j) of Pub. L. 104-275, set out as a note under section 3101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 802(a)(2) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as a note under section 3100 of this title.

§ 3121. Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

(a)(1) The Secretary shall appoint an advisory committee to be known as the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “Committee”).

(2) The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from the general public and shall serve for terms to be determined by the Secretary not to exceed three years. Veter-

ans with service-connected disabilities shall be appropriately represented in the membership of the Committee, and the Committee shall also include persons who have distinguished themselves in the public and private sectors in the fields of rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, and employment and training programs. The Secretary may designate one of the members of the Committee appointed under this paragraph to chair the Committee.

(3) The Committee shall also include as ex officio members the following: (A) one representative from the Veterans Health Administration and one from the Veterans Benefits Administration, (B) one representative from the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education and one from the National Institute for Handicapped Research of the Department of Education, and (C) one representative of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training of the Department of Labor.

(b) The Secretary shall, on a regular basis, consult with and seek the advice of the Committee with respect to the administration of veterans’ rehabilitation programs under this title.

(c) The Committee shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the rehabilitation programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall submit such other reports and recommendations to the Secretary as the Committee determines appropriate. The annual report shall include an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of veterans and a review of the programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs designed to meet such needs. The Secretary shall submit with each annual report submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 529 of this title a copy of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous annual report of the Secretary was submitted to the Congress pursuant to such section.

(Added Pub. L. 96-466, title I, §101(a), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2186, §1521; amended Pub. L. 101-237, title IV, §423(b)(1), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2092; Pub. L. 102-54, §14(c)(5), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 285; renumbered §3121 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§2(c)(3), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 402, 406; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(b)(1), (i)(5), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4682, 4688.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a)(3)(A). Pub. L. 103-446 substituted “Veterans Health Administration” for “Department of Medicine and Surgery” and “Veterans Benefits Administration” for “Department of Veterans’ Benefits”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 1521 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 102-54 substituted “Veterans’ Employment and Training” for “Veterans’ Employment”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 102-83, §2(c)(3), substituted “section 529” for “section 214”.

1989—Subsecs. (a)(1), (2), (b). Pub. L. 101-237 substituted “Secretary” and “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator” and “Veterans’ Administration”, respectively, wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 802(a)(2) of Pub. L. 96-466, set out as a note under section 3100 of this title.