

as a veteran defined under section 2108(1) for purposes of making an appointment in the competitive service, if the individual—

(A) meets the definition of a veteran under section 2108(1), except for the requirement that the individual has been discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions; and

(B) submits a certification described under paragraph (2) to the Federal officer making the appointment.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—A certification referred to under paragraph (1) is a certification that the individual is expected to be discharged or released from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date of the submission of the certification.

(b) DISABLED VETERAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (3),<sup>1</sup> an individual shall be treated as a disabled veteran defined under section 2108(2) for purposes of making an appointment in the competitive service, if the individual—

(A) meets the definition of a disabled veteran under section 2108(2), except for the requirement that the individual has been separated from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions; and

(B) submits a certification described under paragraph (2) to the Federal officer making the appointment.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—A certification referred to under paragraph (1) is a certification that the individual is expected to be separated from active duty in the armed forces under honorable conditions not later than 120 days after the date of the submission of the certification.

(c) PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to determining whether an individual is a preference eligible under section 2108(3) for purposes of making an appointment in the competitive service.

(Added Pub. L. 112-56, title II, §235(a)(1), Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 722.)

### § 2109. Air traffic controller; Secretary

For the purpose of this title—

(1) “air traffic controller” or “controller” means a civilian employee of the Department of Transportation or the Department of Defense who, in an air traffic control facility or flight service station facility—

(A) is actively engaged—

(i) in the separation and control of air traffic; or

(ii) in providing preflight, inflight, or airport advisory service to aircraft operators; or

(B) is the immediate supervisor of any employee described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) “Secretary”, when used in connection with “air traffic controller” or “controller”, means the Secretary of Transportation with respect to controllers in the Department of Transportation, and the Secretary of Defense with respect to controllers in the Department of Defense.

(Added Pub. L. 92-297, §1(a), May 16, 1972, 86 Stat. 141; amended Pub. L. 96-347, §1(a), Sept. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 1150; Pub. L. 99-335, title II, §207(b), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 594.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1986—Par. (1). Pub. L. 99-335 amended par. (1) generally including within term “air traffic controller” or “controller” references to a flight service station facility and to employment providing preflight, inflight, or airport advisory service to aircraft operators and striking out provision that regulations prescribed by the Secretary be used in determining who is an air traffic controller.

1980—Pub. L. 96-347 substituted “controller; Secretary” for “controller” in section catchline, and in text included employees of the Department of Defense within the meaning of air traffic controller or controller and defined “Secretary” to mean Secretary of Transportation with respect to controllers in the Department of Transportation and Secretary of Defense with respect to controllers in the Department of Defense.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-335 effective Jan. 1, 1987, see section 702(a) of Pub. L. 99-335, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8401 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 3 of Pub. L. 96-347 provided that: “This Act [amending this section and sections 3307, 3381 to 3385, and 8335 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 8335 of this title] shall take effect on the later of—

“(1) October 1, 1980, or

“(2) the ninetieth day after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 12, 1980].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on 90th day after May 16, 1972, see, section 10 of Pub. L. 92-297, set out as a note under section 3381 of this title.

### CHAPTER 23—MERIT SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

Sec.	
2301.	Merit system principles.
2302.	Prohibited personnel practices.
2303.	Prohibited personnel practices in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
2304.	Responsibility of the Government Accountability Office.
2305.	Coordination with certain other provisions of law.

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814, substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in item 2304.

### § 2301. Merit system principles

(a) This section shall apply to—

(1) an Executive agency; and

(2) the Government Printing Office.

(b) Federal personnel management should be implemented consistent with the following merit system principles:

(1) Recruitment should be from qualified individuals from appropriate sources in an endeavor to achieve a work force from all segments of society, and selection and advancement should be determined solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge, and skills, after fair and open competition which assures that all receive equal opportunity.