

**§ 2481. Defense commissary and exchange systems: existence and purpose**

(a) **SEPARATE SYSTEMS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall operate, in the manner provided by this chapter and other provisions of law, a world-wide system of commissary stores and a separate world-wide system of exchange stores. The stores of each system may sell, at reduced prices, food and other merchandise to members of the uniformed services on active duty, members of the uniformed services entitled to retired pay, dependents of such members, and persons authorized to use the system under chapter 54 of this title.

(b) **PURPOSE OF SYSTEMS.**—The defense commissary system and the exchange system are intended to enhance the quality of life of members of the uniformed services, retired members, and dependents of such members, and to support military readiness, recruitment, and retention.

(c) **OVERSIGHT.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall designate a senior official of the Department of Defense to oversee the operation of both the defense commissary system and the exchange system.

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall establish an executive governing body to provide advice to the senior official designated under paragraph (1) regarding the operation of the defense commissary and exchange systems and to ensure the complementary operation of the systems.

(d) **REDUCED PRICES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “reduced prices” means prices for food and other merchandise determined using the price setting process specified in section 2484 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title VI, § 651(a)(3), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1965.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 2481, added Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title VI, § 652(a), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1522, related to the existence of defense commissary system and exchange stores system, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title VI, § 651(a)(1), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1964.

Another prior section 2481 was renumbered section 2686 of this title.

**§ 2482. Commissary stores: criteria for establishment or closure; store size**

(a) **PRIMARY CONSIDERATION FOR ESTABLISHMENT.**—The needs of members of the armed forces on active duty and the needs of dependents of such members shall be the primary consideration whenever the Secretary of Defense—

- (1) assesses the need to establish a commissary store; and
- (2) selects the actual location for the store.

(b) **STORE SIZE.**—In determining the size of a commissary store, the Secretary of Defense shall take into consideration the number of all authorized patrons of the defense commissary system who are likely to use the store.

(c) **CLOSURE CONSIDERATIONS.**—(1) Whenever assessing whether to close a commissary store, the effect of the closure on the quality of life of members and dependents referred to in subsection (a) who use the store and on the welfare and security of the military community in which the commissary is located shall be a primary consideration.

(2) Whenever assessing whether to close a commissary store, the Secretary of Defense shall also consider the effect of the closure on the quality of life of members of the reserve components of the armed forces.

(d) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—(1) The closure of a commissary store in the United States shall not take effect until the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date on which the Secretary of Defense submits to Congress written notice of the reasons supporting the closure. The written notice shall include an assessment of the impact closure will have on the quality of life for military patrons and the welfare and security of the military community in which the commissary is located.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case of the closure of a commissary store as part of the closure of a military installation under a base closure law.

(Added Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title VI, § 651(a)(3), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1965; amended Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title X, § 1064(6), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1587.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 2482 was renumbered section 2485 of this title.

A prior section 2482a was renumbered section 2492 of this title.

**AMENDMENTS**

2011—Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 112–81 inserted “in the United States” after “commissary store”.

**PROHIBITION ON CONSOLIDATION OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RETAIL SYSTEMS**

Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title III, § 367, Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 1987, which provided that the operation and administration of the defense retail systems could not be consolidated or otherwise merged unless the consolidation or merger was specifically authorized by a law enacted after Oct. 17, 1998, was repealed by Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title VI, § 651(e)(3), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1972.

**§ 2483. Commissary stores: use of appropriated funds to cover operating expenses**

(a) **OPERATION OF AGENCY AND SYSTEM.**—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the operation of the Defense Commissary Agency and the defense commissary system shall be funded using such amounts as are appropriated for such purpose.

(b) **OPERATING EXPENSES OF COMMISSARY STORES.**—Appropriated funds shall be used to cover the expenses of operating commissary stores and central product processing facilities of the defense commissary system. For purposes of this subsection, operating expenses include the following:

- (1) Salaries and wages of employees of the United States, host nations, and contractors supporting commissary store operations.
- (2) Utilities.
- (3) Communications.
- (4) Operating supplies and services.
- (5) Second destination transportation costs within or outside the United States.
- (6) Any cost associated with above-store-level management or other indirect support of a commissary store or a central product proc-

essing facility, including equipment maintenance and information technology costs.

(C) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR COMMISSARY OPERATIONS.—Amounts appropriated to cover the expenses of operating the Defense Commissary Agency and the defense commissary system may be supplemented with additional funds from manufacturers' coupon redemption fees, handling fees for tobacco products, and other amounts received as reimbursement for other support activities provided by commissary activities.

(Added Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, §1401(i)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2619, §2484; amended Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title III, §331(a)(1)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-59; Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title VI, §654, Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1523; renumbered §2483, Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title VI, §651(a)(2), (4), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1964, 1966.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2483, added Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title III, §332(a), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1058, related to reimbursement for use of commissary facilities by military departments, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title VI, §651(a)(1), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1964.

Another prior section 2483 was renumbered section 2916 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following appropriation acts:

Oct. 12, 1984, Pub. L. 98-473, title I, §101(h) [title VIII, §8010], 98 Stat. 1904, 1924.

Dec. 8, 1983, Pub. L. 98-212, title VII, §713, 97 Stat. 1440.

Dec. 21, 1982, Pub. L. 97-377, title I, §101(c) [title VII, §714], 96 Stat. 1833, 1852.

Dec. 29, 1981, Pub. L. 97-114, title VII, §714, 95 Stat. 1580.

Dec. 15, 1980, Pub. L. 96-527, title VII, §715, 94 Stat. 3083.

Dec. 21, 1979, Pub. L. 96-154, title VII, §715, 93 Stat. 1155.

Oct. 13, 1978, Pub. L. 95-457, title VIII, §815, 92 Stat. 1246.

Sept. 21, 1977, Pub. L. 95-111, title VIII, §814, 91 Stat. 902.

Sept. 22, 1976, Pub. L. 94-419, title VII, §714, 90 Stat. 1293.

Feb. 9, 1976, Pub. L. 94-212, title VII, §714, 90 Stat. 171.

Oct. 8, 1974, Pub. L. 93-437, title VIII, §814, 88 Stat. 1227.

Jan. 2, 1974, Pub. L. 93-238, title VII, §714, 87 Stat. 1040.

Oct. 26, 1972, Pub. L. 92-570, title VII, §714, 86 Stat. 1198.

Dec. 18, 1971, Pub. L. 92-204, title VII, §714, 85 Stat. 729.

Jan. 11, 1971, Pub. L. 91-668, title VIII, §814, 84 Stat. 2032.

Dec. 29, 1969, Pub. L. 91-171, title VI, §614, 83 Stat. 482.

Oct. 17, 1968, Pub. L. 90-580, title V, §513, 82 Stat. 1132.

Sept. 29, 1967, Pub. L. 90-96, title VI, §613, 81 Stat. 244.

Oct. 15, 1966, Pub. L. 89-687, title VI, §613, 80 Stat. 993.

Sept. 29, 1965, Pub. L. 89-213, title VI, §613, 79 Stat. 875.

Aug. 19, 1964, Pub. L. 88-446, title V, §513, 78 Stat. 477.

Oct. 17, 1963, Pub. L. 88-149, title V, §513, 77 Stat. 266.

Aug. 9, 1962, Pub. L. 87-577, title V, §513, 76 Stat. 330.

Aug. 17, 1961, Pub. L. 87-144, title VI, §613, 75 Stat. 377.

July 7, 1960, Pub. L. 86-601, title V, §513, 74 Stat. 351.

Aug. 18, 1959, Pub. L. 86-166, title V, §613, 73 Stat. 380.

Aug. 22, 1958, Pub. L. 85-724, title VI, §613, 72 Stat. 725.

Aug. 2, 1957, Pub. L. 85-117, title VI, §614, 71 Stat. 325.

July 2, 1956, ch. 488, title VI, §614, 70 Stat. 469.

July 13, 1955, ch. 358, title VI, §617, 69 Stat. 317.

June 30, 1954, ch. 432, title VII, §717, 68 Stat. 353.

Aug. 1, 1953, ch. 305, title VI, §624, 67 Stat. 353.

July 10, 1952, ch. 630, title VI, §627, 66 Stat. 535.

Oct. 18, 1951, ch. 512, title VI, §628, 65 Stat. 449.

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-375 renumbered section 2484 of this title as this section.

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-136, §654(a)(1), substituted “shall” for “may”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-136, §654(a)(2), substituted “shall” for “may” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-136, §654(b), added subsec. (c).

2000—Pub. L. 106-398 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subsecs. (a) to (d) providing that funds available to the Department of Defense could be used to pay for certain costs in connection with the operation of commissary stores only on a reimbursable basis and allowed transportation and utilities to be furnished for the operation of those stores outside of the United States or in Alaska and Hawaii.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title III, §331(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-59, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 2001.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 1, 1985, see section 1404 of Pub. L. 98-525, set out as a note under section 520b of this title.

### § 2484. Commissary stores: merchandise that may be sold; uniform surcharges and pricing

(a) IN GENERAL.—As provided in section 2481(a) of this title, commissary stores are intended to be similar to commercial grocery stores and may sell merchandise similar to that sold in commercial grocery stores.

(b) AUTHORIZED COMMISSARY MERCHANDISE CATEGORIES.—Merchandise sold in, at, or by commissary stores may include items in the following categories:

(1) Meat, poultry, seafood, and fresh-water fish.

(2) Nonalcoholic beverages.

(3) Produce.

(4) Grocery food, whether stored chilled, frozen, or at room temperature.

(5) Dairy products.

(6) Bakery and delicatessen items.

(7) Nonfood grocery items.

(8) Tobacco products.

(9) Health and beauty aids.

(10) Magazines and periodicals.

(c) INCLUSION OF OTHER MERCHANDISE ITEMS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may authorize the sale in, at, or by commissary stores of merchandise not covered by a category specified in subsection (b). The Secretary shall notify Congress of all merchandise authorized for sale pursuant to this paragraph, as well as the removal of any such authorization.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Department of Defense military resale system shall continue to maintain the exclusive right to operate convenience stores, shopettes, and troop stores, including such stores established to support contingency operations.

(3)(A) A military exchange shall be the vendor for the sale of tobacco products in commissary stores and may be the vendor for such merchan-