

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 2, 1972, except that continuation boards may not be held until one year thereafter, see section 3 of Pub. L. 92-451, set out as an Effective Date of 1972 Amendment note under section 290 of this title.

## TREATMENT OF INCUMBENTS; TRANSITION

Pub. L. 111-281, title V, §511(h)(1), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2953, provided that:

“Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an officer who, on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 15, 2010], is serving as Chief of Staff, Commander, Atlantic Area, or Commander, Pacific Area—

“(A) shall continue to have the grade of vice admiral with pay and allowance of that grade until such time that the officer is relieved of his duties and appointed and confirmed to another position as a vice admiral or admiral; or

“(B) for the purposes of transition, may continue at the grade of vice admiral with pay and allowance of that grade, for not more than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, to perform the duties of the officer’s former position and any other such duties that the Commandant prescribes.”

**[§ 50a. Repealed. Pub. L. 111-281, title V, § 511(b), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2952]**

Section, added Pub. L. 103-206, title II, §205(b)(1), Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2422, related to appointment and grade of Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard.

**§ 51. Retirement**

(a) An officer, other than the Commandant, who, while serving in the grade of vice admiral, is retired for physical disability shall be placed on the retired list with the highest grade in which that officer served.

(b) An officer, other than the Commandant, who is retired while serving in the grade of vice admiral, or who, after serving at least 2½ years in the grade of vice admiral, is retired while serving in a lower grade, may in the discretion of the President, be retired with the highest grade in which that officer served.

(c) An officer, other than the Commandant, who, after serving less than 2½ years in the grade of vice admiral, is retired while serving in a lower grade, shall be retired in his permanent grade.

(d) An officer serving in the grade of admiral or vice admiral shall continue to hold that grade—

(1) while being processed for physical disability retirement, beginning on the day of the processing and ending on the day that officer is retired, but not for more than 180 days; and

(2) while awaiting retirement, beginning on the day that officer is relieved from the position of Commandant, Vice Commandant, or Vice Admiral and ending on the day before the officer’s retirement, but not for more than 60 days.

(Added Pub. L. 92-451, §1(5), Oct. 2, 1972, 86 Stat. 755; amended Pub. L. 99-348, title II, §205(b)(3), July 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 700; Pub. L. 103-206, title II, §§204(d), 205(c), Dec. 20, 1993, 107 Stat. 2421, 2422; Pub. L. 111-281, title V, §511(c), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2952.)

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsecs. (a) to (c). Pub. L. 111-281, §511(c)(1), added subsecs. (a) to (c) and struck out former subsecs. (a) to (c) which read as follows:

“(a) An officer who, while serving in the grade of vice admiral, is retired for physical disability shall be placed on the retired list with the grade of vice admiral.

“(b) An officer who is retired while serving in the grade of vice admiral, or who, after serving at least two and one-half years in the grade of vice admiral, is retired while serving in a lower grade, may in the discretion of the President, be retired with the grade of vice admiral.

“(c) An officer who, after serving less than two and one-half years in the grade of vice admiral, is retired while serving in a lower grade, shall be retired in his permanent grade.”

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 111-281, §511(c)(2), substituted “or Vice Admiral” for “Area Commander, or Chief of Staff”.

1993—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-206, §205(c)(1), substituted “in the grade of vice admiral” for “as Commander, Atlantic Area, or Commander, Pacific Area”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-206, §205(c)(2), substituted “in the grade of vice admiral” for “as Commander, Atlantic Area, or Commander, Pacific Area”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-206, §204(d), added subsec. (d). 1986—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 99-348, §205(b)(3)(A), struck out “and retired pay” after “with the grade”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-348, §205(b)(3)(B), struck out “and with the retired pay of that grade” after “permanent grade”.

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**§ 52. Vice admirals and admiral, continuity of grade**

The continuity of an officer’s precedence on the active duty promotion list, date of rank, grade, pay, and allowances as a vice admiral or admiral shall not be interrupted by the termination of an appointment for the purpose of reappointment to another position as a vice admiral or admiral.

(Added Pub. L. 97-322, title I, §115(a)(1), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1585; amended Pub. L. 101-225, title II, §203(1), Dec. 12, 1989, 103 Stat. 1911; Pub. L. 111-281, title V, §511(d), (f)(2), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2952, 2953.)

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-281 substituted “Vice admirals and admiral, continuity of grade” for “Vice admirals, continuity of grade” in section catchline and inserted “or admiral” after “allowances as a vice admiral” in text.

1989—Pub. L. 101-225 inserted “or admiral” after “position as a vice admiral”.

**§ 53. Office of the Coast Guard Reserve; Director**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE; DIRECTOR.—There is in the executive part of the Coast Guard an Office of the Coast Guard Reserve. The head of the Office is the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve. The Director of the Coast Guard Reserve is the principal adviser to the Commandant on Coast Guard Reserve matters and may have such additional functions as the Commandant may direct.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—The President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint the Director of the Coast Guard Reserve, from officers of the Coast Guard who—