

106–65, div. A, title X, §1067(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 774; Pub. L. 108–375, div. A, title X, §1084(c)(3), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2061.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 108–375 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

1999—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106–65 substituted “and the Committee on Armed Services” for “and the Committee on National Security”.

§ 2015. Payment of expenses to obtain professional credentials

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, may pay for—

(1) expenses for members of the armed forces to obtain professional credentials, including expenses for professional accreditation, State-imposed and professional licenses, and professional certification; and

(2) examinations to obtain such credentials.

(b) **LIMITATION.**—The authority under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials that are a prerequisite for appointment in the armed forces.

(Added Pub. L. 109–163, div. A, title V, §538(a), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3250.)

ENHANCEMENT OF MECHANISMS TO CORRELATE SKILLS AND TRAINING FOR MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES WITH SKILLS AND TRAINING REQUIRED FOR CIVILIAN CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES

Pub. L. 113–66, div. A, title V, §542, Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 762, provided that:

“(a) **IMPROVEMENT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ABOUT CORRELATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries of the military departments, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, make information on civilian credentialing opportunities available to members of the Armed Forces beginning with, and at every stage of, training of members for military occupational specialties, in order to permit members—

“(A) to evaluate the extent to which such training correlates with the skills and training required in connection with various civilian certifications and licenses; and

“(B) to assess the suitability of such training for obtaining or pursuing such civilian certifications and licenses.

“(2) **COORDINATION WITH TRANSITION GOALS PLANS SUCCESS PROGRAM.**—Information shall be made available under paragraph (1) in a manner consistent with the Transition Goals Plans Success (GPS) program.

“(3) **TYPES OF INFORMATION.**—The information made available under paragraph (1) shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

“(A) Information on the civilian occupational equivalents of military occupational specialties (MOS).

“(B) Information on civilian license or certification requirements, including examination requirements.

“(C) Information on the availability and opportunities for use of educational benefits available to members of the Armed Forces, as appropriate, corresponding training, or continuing education that leads to a certification exam in order to provide a pathway to credentialing opportunities.

“(4) **USE AND ADAPTATION OF CERTAIN PROGRAMS.**—In making information available under paragraph (1), the Secretaries of the military departments may use and adapt appropriate portions of the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) programs of the Army and the Navy and the Credentialing and Educational Research Tool (CERT) of the Air Force.

“(b) **IMPROVEMENT OF ACCESS OF ACCREDITED CIVILIAN CREDENTIALING AND RELATED ENTITIES TO MILITARY TRAINING CONTENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretaries of the military departments, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, shall, to the maximum extent practicable consistent with national security and privacy requirements, make available to entities specified in paragraph (2), upon request of such entities, information such as military course training curricula, syllabi, and materials, levels of military advancement attained, and professional skills developed.

“(2) **ENTITIES.**—The entities specified in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Civilian credentialing agencies.

“(B) Entities approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or by State approving agencies, for purposes of the use of educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(3) **CENTRAL REPOSITORY.**—The actions taken pursuant to paragraph (1) may include the establishment of a central repository of information on training and training materials provided members in connection with military occupational specialties that is readily accessible by entities specified in paragraph (2) in order to meet requests described in paragraph (1).”

PILOT PROGRAM ON RECEIPT OF CIVILIAN CREDENTIALING FOR SKILLS REQUIRED FOR MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALTIES

Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title V, §558, Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1418, as amended by Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title V, §543, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1737, provided that:

“(a) **PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.**—Commencing not later than nine months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 31, 2011], the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of permitting enlisted members of the Armed Forces to obtain civilian credentialing or licensing for skills required for military occupational specialties (MOS) or qualification for duty specialty codes.

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

“(1) designate not less than three military occupational specialties or duty specialty codes for coverage under the pilot program;

“(2) consider utilizing industry-recognized certifications or licensing standards for civilian occupational skills comparable to the specialties or codes so designated; and

“(3) permit enlisted members of the Armed Forces to obtain the credentials or licenses required for the specialties or codes so designated through civilian credentialing or licensing entities, institutions, or bodies selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program, whether concurrently with military training, at the completion of military training, or both.

“(c) **DURATION.**—The Secretary shall complete the pilot program by not later than five years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

“(d) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after commencement of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program. The report shall set forth the following:

“(1) The number of enlisted members who participated in the pilot program.

“(2) A description of the costs incurred by the Department of Defense in connection with the receipt by members of credentialing or licensing under the pilot program.

“(3) A comparison of the cost associated with receipt by members of credentialing or licensing under the pilot program with the cost of receipt of similar credentialing or licensing by recently-discharged veterans of the Armed Forces under programs currently operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor.

“(4) The recommendation of the Secretary as to the feasibility and advisability of expanding the pilot program to additional military occupational specialties or duty specialty codes, and, if such expansion is considered feasible and advisable, a list of the military occupational specialties and duty specialty codes recommended for inclusion in the expansion.”

§ 2016. Undergraduate nurse training program: establishment through agreement with academic institution

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AUTHORIZED.—(1) To increase the number of nurses in the armed forces, the Secretary of Defense may enter into an agreement with one or more academic institutions to establish and operate an undergraduate program (in this section referred to as a “undergraduate nurse training program”) under which participants will earn a bachelor of science degree in nursing and serve as a member of the armed forces.

(2) The Secretary of Defense may authorize the participation of members of the other uniformed services in the undergraduate nurse training program if the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services jointly determine the participation of such members in the program will facilitate an increase in the number of nurses in the other uniformed services.

(b) GRADUATION RATES.—An undergraduate nurse training program shall have the capacity to graduate 25 students with a bachelor of science degree in nursing in the first class of the program, 50 in the second class, and 100 annually thereafter.

(c) ELEMENTS.—An undergraduate nurse training program shall have the following elements:

(1) It shall involve an academic partnership with one or more academic institutions with existing accredited schools of nursing.

(2) It shall recruit as participants qualified individuals with at least two years of appropriate academic preparation, as determined by the Secretary of Defense.

(d) LOCATION OF PROGRAMS.—(1) An academic institution selected to operate an undergraduate nurse training program shall establish the program at or near a military installation that has a military treatment facility designated as a medical center with inpatient capability and multiple graduate medical education programs located on the installation or within reasonable proximity to the installation.

(2) Before approving a location as the site of an undergraduate nurse training program, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment to ensure that the establishment of the program at that location will not adversely impact or displace existing nurse training programs, either conducted by the Department of Defense or by a civilian entity, at the location.

(e) LIMITATION ON FACULTY.—An agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall not require members of the armed forces who are nurses to

serve as faculty members for an undergraduate nurse training program.

(f) MILITARY SERVICE COMMITMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall encourage members of the armed forces to apply to participate in an undergraduate nurse training program. Graduates of the program shall incur a military service obligation in a regular or reserve component, as determined by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, § 525(b)(1), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2286; amended Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title V, § 551(a)–(c), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4219.)

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111–383, § 551(a), substituted “a bachelor of science degree in nursing” for “a nursing degree”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111–383, § 551(b), inserted “in nursing” after “bachelor of science degree”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111–383, § 551(c), amended subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “An academic institution selected to operate an undergraduate nurse training program shall establish the program at or near a military installation. A military installation at or near which an undergraduate nurse training program is established must—

“(1) be one of the ten largest military installations in the United States, in terms of the number of active duty personnel assigned to the installation and family members residing on or in the vicinity of the installations; and

“(2) have a military treatment facility with inpatient capability designated as a medical center located on the installation or within 10 miles of the installation.”

PLAN AND PILOT PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH UNDERGRADUATE NURSE TRAINING PROGRAM

Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, § 525(c)–(f), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2287, 2288, as amended by Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title V, § 551(d), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4219, provided that:

“(c) UNDERGRADUATE NURSE TRAINING PROGRAM PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 2009], the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a plan to establish an undergraduate nurse training program in the Department of Defense in accordance with the authority provided by section 2169 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), section 2016 of such title, as added by subsection (b), or any other authority available to the Secretary.

“(d) PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The plan required by subsection (c) shall provide for the establishment of a pilot program to increase the number of nurses serving in the Armed Forces.

“(2) IMPLEMENTATION AND DURATION.—The pilot program shall begin not later than December 31, 2011, and be of not less than five years in duration.

“(3) GRADUATION RATES.—The goal of the pilot program is to achieve graduation rates at least equal to the rates required for the undergraduate nurse training programs authorized by section 2016 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (b).

“(4) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 2009], the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, including a description of the program selected to be undertaken, the program’s goals, and any additional legal authorities that may be needed to undertake the program.

“(5) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each academic year of the pilot pro-