

subsection (a) shall be treated for purposes of chapter 13 of title 31 as a violation of section 1341(a)(1)(A) of such title.

(Added Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, § 1053(a)(1), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2396.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, § 1053(b), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2396, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall take effect on the date that is 31 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 17, 2006].

“(2) MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN POLICIES AND REGULATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 17, 2006], the Secretary of Defense shall modify the policies and regulations of the Department of Defense regarding the preparation and submittal to Congress of budget materials for the Department of Defense to take into account section 2773b of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).”

§ 2774. Claims for overpayment of pay and allowances and of travel and transportation allowances

(a) A claim of the United States against a person arising out of an erroneous payment of any pay or allowances made before, on, or after October 2, 1972, or arising out of an erroneous payment of travel and transportation allowances, to or on behalf of a member or former member of the uniformed services, the collection of which would be against equity and good conscience and not in the best interest of the United States, may be waived in whole or in part by—

(1) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget; or

(2) the Secretary concerned, as defined in section 101(5) of title 37, when—

(A) the claim is in an amount aggregating not more than \$10,000; and

(B) the waiver is made in accordance with standards which the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prescribe.

(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget or the Secretary concerned, as the case may be, may not exercise his authority under this section to waive any claim—

(1) if, in his opinion, there exists, in connection with the claim, an indication of fraud, misrepresentation, fault, or lack of good faith on the part of the member or any other person having an interest in obtaining a waiver of the claim; or

(2) if application for waiver is received in his office after the expiration of five years immediately following the date on which the erroneous payment was discovered.

(c) A person who has repaid to the United States all or part of the amount of a claim, with respect to which a waiver is granted under this section, is entitled, to the extent of the waiver, to refund, by the department concerned at the time of the erroneous payment, of the amount repaid to the United States, if he applies to that department for that refund within two years following the effective date of the waiver. The Secretary concerned shall pay from current applicable appropriations that refund in accordance with this section.

(d) In the audit and settlement of accounts of any accountable officer or official, full credit shall be given for any amounts with respect to which collection by the United States is waived under this section.

(e) An erroneous payment, the collection of which is waived under this section, is considered a valid payment for all purposes.

(f) This section does not affect any authority under any other law to litigate, settle, compromise, or waive any claim of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 92-453, § 1(1), Oct. 2, 1972, 86 Stat. 758; amended Pub. L. 96-513, title V, § 511(98), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2928; Pub. L. 99-224, § 2(a), Dec. 28, 1985, 99 Stat. 1741; Pub. L. 100-26, § 7(j)(7)(A), (B), Apr. 21, 1987, 101 Stat. 283; Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VI, § 657(b), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1393; Pub. L. 104-316, title I, § 105(b), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3830; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title VI, § 671(a), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2270.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 109-364, § 671(a)(1), substituted “\$10,000” for “\$1,500”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 109-364, § 671(a)(2), substituted “five years” for “three years”.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-316, § 105(b)(1), substituted “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” for “Comptroller General” in par. (1), and in par. (2) inserted “and” at end of subpar. (A), redesignated subpar. (C) as (B) and substituted “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” for “Comptroller General”, and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows “the claim is not the subject of an exception made by the Comptroller General in the account of any accountable officer or official; and”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-316, § 105(b)(2), substituted “Director of the Office of Management and Budget” for “Comptroller General”.

1991—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 102-190 substituted “\$1,500” for “\$500”.

1987—Pub. L. 100-26, § 7(j)(7)(A), substituted “allowances and of” for “allowances, and” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-26, § 7(j)(7)(B), struck out “as defined in section 101(3) of title 37,” after “uniformed services.”

1985—Pub. L. 99-224, § 2(a)(1), substituted “and” for “other than” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-224, § 2(a)(2), substituted “made before, on, or after October 2, 1972, or arising out of an erroneous payment of travel and transportation allowances” for “, other than travel and transportation allowances, made before or after October 2, 1972”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 99-224, § 2(a)(3), struck out “of pay or allowances, other than travel and transportation allowances,” after “payment”.

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-513 substituted “October 2, 1972” for “the effective date of this section”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title VI, § 671(c), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2270, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 716 of Title 32, National Guard] shall take effect on March 1, 2007.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-316 effective 60 days after Oct. 19, 1996, see section 101(e) of Pub. L. 104-316, set out as a note under section 4593 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-224 applicable to any claim arising out of an erroneous payment of travel and

transportation allowances made on or after Dec. 28, 1985, see section 4 of Pub. L. 99-224, set out as a note under section 5584 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-513 effective Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701(b)(3) of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

CANCELLATION OF DEBTS UP TO \$2,500 OF UNIFORMED SERVICE MEMBERS INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATION DESERT SHIELD/STORM

Pub. L. 104-61, title VIII, § 8052, Dec. 1, 1995, 109 Stat. 662, provided that: "Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense may, when he considers it in the best interest of the United States, cancel any part of an indebtedness, up to \$2,500, that is or was owed to the United States by a member or former member of a uniformed service if such indebtedness, as determined by the Secretary, was incurred in connection with Operation Desert Shield/Storm: *Provided*, That the amount of an indebtedness previously paid by a member or former member and cancelled under this section shall be refunded to the member."

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 103-335, title VIII, § 8060, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2633.

Pub. L. 103-139, title VIII, § 8071, Nov. 11, 1993, 107 Stat. 1457.

Pub. L. 102-396, title IX, § 9100, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1926.

Pub. L. 102-172, title VIII, § 8138, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1212.

§ 2775. Liability of members assigned to military housing

(a)(1) A member of the armed forces shall be liable to the United States for damage to any family housing unit or unaccompanied personnel housing unit, or damage to or loss of any equipment or furnishings of any family housing unit or unaccompanied personnel housing unit, assigned to or provided such member if (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) the damage or loss was caused by the abuse or negligence of the member (or a dependent of the member) or of a guest of the member (or a dependent of the member).

(2) A member of the armed forces—

(A) who is assigned or provided a family housing unit; and

(B) who fails to clean satisfactorily that housing unit (as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) upon termination of the assignment or provision of that housing unit,

shall be liable to the United States for the cost of cleaning made necessary as a result of that failure.

(b) 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 establish limitations on liability under this section, including (in the case of liability under subsection (a)(1)) different limitations based upon the degree of abuse or negligence involved, and may compromise or waive a claim of the United States under this section.

(c)(1) The Secretary concerned may deduct from a member's pay an amount sufficient to pay for the cost of any repair or replacement made necessary as the result of any abuse or negligence referred to in subsection (a)(1), or the cost of any cleaning made necessary by a failure to clean satisfactorily a family housing unit referred to in subsection (a)(2), for which the member is liable. Regulations implementing this section may also provide for the collection of amounts owed under this section by any other authorized means.

(2) The final determination of an amount to be deducted from the pay of an officer of an armed force in accordance with regulations prescribed under this section shall be deemed to be a special order authorizing such deduction for the purposes of section 1007 of title 37.

(d) Amounts received under this section shall be credited to the family housing operations and maintenance account, in the case of damage to a family housing unit (or the equipment or furnishings of a family housing unit) or failure to clean satisfactorily a family housing unit, or to the operations and maintenance account, in the case of damage to an unaccompanied personnel housing unit (or the equipment or furnishings of an unaccompanied personnel housing unit), of the military department or defense agency concerned, or the operating expenses account of the Coast Guard, as appropriate. Amounts so credited shall be available for use for the same purposes and under the same circumstances as other funds in those accounts.

(e) 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, shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall include—

(1) regulations for determining the cost of repairs and replacements made necessary as the result of abuse or negligence for which a member is liable under subsection (a)(1);

(2) regulations for determining the cost of cleaning made necessary as a result of the failure to clean satisfactorily for which a member is liable under subsection (a)(2); and

(3) provisions for limitations of liability, the compromise or waiver of claims, and the collection of amounts owed under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 96-418, title V, § 506(a), Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1765; amended Pub. L. 97-214, § 10(a)(6), July 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 175; Pub. L. 98-407, title VIII, § 801(a)(1), Aug. 28, 1984, 98 Stat. 1517; Pub. L. 99-167, title VIII, § 802(a)-(d)(1), Dec. 3, 1985, 99 Stat. 986; Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XIII, § 1343(a)(19), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3993; Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, § 1704(b)(1), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsecs. (a)(1), (2)(B), (b), (e). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted "of Homeland Security" for "of Transportation".

1986—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 99-661, § 1343(a)(19)(A), substituted "(as determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy) the" for "it is determined, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation