

tion of the integrated adaptive sports program under that section. To the extent feasible, such memorandum or agreement shall be concluded not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 10, 2008].”

ASSISTANCE AT SPORTING EVENTS

Pub. L. 110-389, title VII, §703(c), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4185, provided that: “The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs—

“(1) to make available, to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary, recreational therapists, physical therapists, and other medical staff to facilitate participation of veterans in sporting events conducted under the auspices of the United States Paralympics, Inc.; and

“(2) to allow such personnel to provide support to the programs of the United States Paralympics, Inc., without requiring the use of personal leave.”

§ 522. Studies of rehabilitation of disabled persons

(a) The Secretary may conduct studies and investigations, and prepare reports, relative to the rehabilitation of disabled persons, the relative abilities, aptitudes, and capacities of the several groups of the variously handicapped, and how their potentialities can best be developed and their services best used in gainful and suitable employment including the rehabilitation programs of foreign nations.

(b) In carrying out this section, the Secretary (1) may cooperate with such public and private agencies as the Secretary considers advisable; and (2) may employ consultants who shall receive a reasonable per diem, as prescribed by the Secretary, for each day actually employed, plus necessary travel and other expenses.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 390.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 522 was renumbered section 1522 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 217 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 523. Coordination and promotion of other programs affecting veterans and their dependents

(a) The Secretary shall seek to achieve (1) the maximum feasible effectiveness, coordination, and interrelationship of services among all programs and activities affecting veterans and their dependents carried out by and under all other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch, and (2) the maximum feasible coordination of such programs with programs carried out under this title. The Secretary shall actively promote the effective implementation, enforcement, and application of all provisions of law and regulations providing for special consideration, emphasis, or preference for veterans.

(b) The Secretary shall seek to achieve the effective coordination of the provision, under laws administered by the Department, of benefits and services (and information about such benefits and services) with appropriate programs (and information about such programs) conducted by

State and local governmental agencies and by private entities at the State and local level. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall place special emphasis on veterans who are 65 years of age or older.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 390.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 523 and 524 were renumbered sections 1523 and 1524 of this title, respectively.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 220 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

PILOT PROGRAM ON USE OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO ENSURE THAT VETERANS RECEIVE CARE AND BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY ARE ELIGIBLE

Pub. L. 111-163, title V, §506, May 5, 2010, 124 Stat. 1160, provided that:

“(a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of using community-based organizations and local and State government entities—

“(1) to increase the coordination of community, local, State, and Federal providers of health care and benefits for veterans to assist veterans who are transitioning from military service to civilian life in such transition;

“(2) to increase the availability of high quality medical and mental health services to veterans transitioning from military service to civilian life;

“(3) to provide assistance to families of veterans who are transitioning from military service to civilian life to help such families adjust to such transition; and

“(4) to provide outreach to veterans and their families to inform them about the availability of benefits and connect them with appropriate care and benefit programs.

“(b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot program shall be carried out during the 2-year period beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [May 5, 2010].

“(c) PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program shall be carried out at five locations selected by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.

“(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider the advisability of selecting locations in—

“(A) rural areas;

“(B) areas with populations that have a high proportion of minority group representation;

“(C) areas with populations that have a high proportion of individuals who have limited access to health care; and

“(D) areas that are not in close proximity to an active duty military installation.

“(d) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program through the award of grants to community-based organizations and local and State government entities.

“(e) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A community-based organization or local or State government entity seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor in such form and in such manner as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) A description of the consultations, if any, with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the development of the proposal under the application.

“(B) A plan to coordinate activities under the pilot program, to the greatest extent possible, with

the local, State, and Federal providers of services for veterans to reduce duplication of services and to enhance the effect of such services.

“(f) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—The Secretary shall prescribe appropriate uses of grant funds received under the pilot program.

“(g) REPORT ON PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot program.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

“(B) An assessment of the benefits to veterans of the pilot program.

“(C) The recommendations of the Secretary as to the advisability of continuing the pilot program.”

§ 525. Publication of laws relating to veterans

(a) The Secretary may compile and publish all Federal laws relating to veterans' relief, including laws administered by the Department as well as by other agencies of the Government. Such compilation and publication shall be in such form as the Secretary considers advisable for the purpose of making currently available in convenient form for the use of the Department and full-time representatives of the several service organizations an annotated, indexed, and cross-referenced statement of the laws providing veterans' relief.

(b) The Secretary may maintain such compilation on a current basis either by the publication, from time to time, of supplementary documents or by complete revision of the compilation.

(c) The distribution of the compilation to the representatives of the several service organizations shall be as determined by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 391.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 525 was renumbered section 1525 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 215 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 527. Evaluation and data collection

(a) The Secretary, pursuant to general standards which the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations, shall measure and evaluate on a continuing basis the effect of all programs authorized under this title, in order to determine their effectiveness in achieving stated goals in general, and in achieving such goals in relation to their cost, their effect on related programs, and their structure and mechanisms for delivery of services. Such information as the Secretary may consider necessary for purposes of such evaluations shall be made available to the Secretary, upon request, by all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch.

(b) In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall collect, collate, and analyze on a continuing basis full statistical data regarding participation (including the duration thereof), provision of services, categories of beneficiaries, planning and construction of facilities, acquisition of real property, proposed excessing of land, accretion and attrition of personnel, and cat-

egorized expenditures attributable thereto, under all programs carried out under this title.

(c) The Secretary shall make available to the public, and on a regular basis provide to the appropriate committees of the Congress, copies of all completed evaluative research studies and summaries of evaluations of program impact and effectiveness carried out, and tabulations and analyses of all data collected, under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 391.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 219 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

ESTABLISHMENT OF OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY

Pub. L. 112-260, title II, §201, Jan. 10, 2013, 126 Stat. 2422, provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 10, 2013], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

“(A) establish and maintain an open burn pit registry for eligible individuals who may have been exposed to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits;

“(B) include any information in such registry that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines necessary to ascertain and monitor the health effects of the exposure of members of the Armed Forces to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits;

“(C) develop a public information campaign to inform eligible individuals about the open burn pit registry, including how to register and the benefits of registering; and

“(D) periodically notify eligible individuals of significant developments in the study and treatment of conditions associated with exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

“(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall coordinate with the Secretary of Defense in carrying out paragraph (1).

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) REPORTS BY INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into an agreement with an independent scientific organization to prepare reports as follows:

“(A) Not later than two years after the date on which the registry under subsection (a) is established, an initial report containing the following:

“(i) An assessment of the effectiveness of actions taken by the Secretaries to collect and maintain information on the health effects of exposure to toxic airborne chemicals and fumes caused by open burn pits.

“(ii) Recommendations to improve the collection and maintenance of such information.

“(iii) Using established and previously published epidemiological studies, recommendations regarding the most effective and prudent means of addressing the medical needs of eligible individuals with respect to conditions that are likely to result from exposure to open burn pits.

“(B) Not later than five years after completing the initial report described in subparagraph (A), a follow-up report containing the following:

“(i) An update to the initial report described in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) An assessment of whether and to what degree the content of the registry established under subsection (a) is current and scientifically up-to-date.