

1982—Pub. L. 97-258 substituted provisions authorizing a disbursing official of a military department to designate a deputy disbursing official with the same duties and penalties for misconduct as those of the disbursing official and allowing a deputy disbursing official to continue the accounts and payments in the name of a former disbursing official for two months after the death, disability, or separation of the former disbursing official for provisions authorizing any officer of an armed force accountable for public money to entrust it to another officer of an armed force to make disbursement as his agent, with both officers pecuniarily responsible to the United States for that money.

§ 2773a. Departmental accountable officials

(a) DESIGNATION BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense may designate any civilian employee of the Department of Defense or member of the armed forces under the Secretary's jurisdiction who is described in subsection (b) as an employee or member who, in addition to any other potential accountability, may be held accountable through personal monetary liability for an illegal, improper, or incorrect payment made by the Department of Defense described in subsection (c). Any such designation shall be in writing. Any employee or member who is so designated may be referred to as a "departmental accountable official".

(b) COVERED EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS.—An employee or member of the armed forces described in this subsection is an employee or member who—

(1) is responsible in the performance of the employee's or member's duties for providing to a certifying official of the Department of Defense information, data, or services that are directly relied upon by the certifying official in the certification of vouchers for payment; and

(2) is not otherwise accountable under subtitle III of title 31 or any other provision of law for payments made on the basis of such vouchers.

(c) PECUNIARY LIABILITY.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may subject a departmental accountable official to pecuniary liability for an illegal, improper, or incorrect payment made by the Department of Defense if the Secretary determines that such payment—

(A) resulted from information, data, or services that that official provided to a certifying official and upon which that certifying official directly relies in certifying the voucher supporting that payment; and

(B) was the result of fault or negligence on the part of that departmental accountable official.

(2) Pecuniary liability under this subsection shall apply in the same manner and to the same extent as applies to an official accountable under subtitle III of title 31.

(3) Any pecuniary liability of a departmental accountable official under this subsection for a loss to the United States resulting from an illegal, improper, or incorrect payment is joint and several with that of any other officer or employee of the United States or member of the uniformed services who is pecuniarily liable for such loss.

(d) CERTIFYING OFFICIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term "certifying official" means an

employee who has the responsibilities specified in section 3528(a) of title 31.

(Added Pub. L. 107-314, div. A, title X, §1005(a), Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2631; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title X, §1056(c)(8), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3440.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-163 inserted "by" after "incorrect payment made".

§ 2773b. Parking of funds: prohibition; penalties

(a) PROHIBITION.—An officer or employee of the Department of Defense may not direct the designation of funds for a particular purpose in the budget of the President, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, or the supporting documents of the Department of Defense component of such budget, with the knowledge or intent that such funds, if made available to the Department, will not be used for the purpose for which they are designated.

(b) PENALTIES.—The direction of the designation of funds in violation of the prohibition in 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