

retired pay from a Coast Guard employee, member, or retired member who is delinquent in payment under the terms of the contract under which the card was issued and does not dispute the amount of the delinquency.

(Added Pub. L. 108–293, title II, §210(a), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1036.)

**§ 518. Reimbursement for medical-related travel expenses for certain persons residing on islands in the continental United States**

In any case in which a covered beneficiary (as defined in section 1072(5) of title 10) resides on an island that is located in the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia and that lacks public access roads to the mainland and is referred by a primary care physician to a specialty care provider (as defined in section 1074i(b) of title 10) on the mainland who provides services less than 100 miles from the location where the beneficiary resides, the Secretary shall reimburse the reasonable travel expenses of the covered beneficiary and, when accompanied by an adult is necessary, for a parent or guardian of the covered beneficiary or another member of the covered beneficiary's family who is at least 21 years of age.

(Added Pub. L. 111–281, title II, §203(a), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 2909.)

**CHAPTER 14—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE**

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**AMENDMENTS**

2014—Pub. L. 113–281, title II, §214(b)(2)(C), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3034, added items 541, 544, and 552.

**SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**§ 531. Work-life policies and programs**

The Commandant is authorized—

(1) to establish an office for the purpose of developing, promulgating, and coordinating policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members;

(2) to implement and oversee policies, programs, and activities described in paragraph (1) as the Commandant considers necessary; and

(3) to perform such other duties as the Commandant considers necessary.

(Added Pub. L. 113–281, title II, §214(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3029.)

**§ 532. Surveys of Coast Guard families**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Commandant, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members, may survey—

- (1) any Coast Guard member;
- (2) any retired Coast Guard member;
- (3) the immediate family of any Coast Guard member or retired Coast Guard member; and
- (4) any survivor of a deceased Coast Guard member.

(b) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—Participation in any survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be voluntary.

(c) **FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING.**—Each person surveyed under subsection (a) shall be considered an employee of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.

(Added Pub. L. 113–281, title II, §214(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3029.)

**SUBCHAPTER II—COAST GUARD FAMILY SUPPORT**

**§ 541. Reimbursement for adoption expenses**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO REIMBURSE.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program under which a member of the Coast Guard may be reimbursed, as provided in this section, for qualifying adoption expenses incurred by the member in the adoption of a child under 18 years of age.

(b) **ADOPTIONS COVERED.**—An adoption for which expenses may be reimbursed under this section includes an adoption by a single person, an infant adoption, an intercountry adoption, and an adoption of a child with special needs (as defined in section 473(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673(c))).

(c) **BENEFITS PAID AFTER ADOPTION IS FINAL.**—Benefits paid under this section in the case of an adoption may be paid only after the adoption is final.

(d) **TREATMENT OF OTHER BENEFITS.**—A benefit may not be paid under this section for any expense paid to or for a member of the Coast Guard under any other adoption benefits program administered by the Federal Government or under any such program administered by a State or local government.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—(1) Not more than \$2,000 may be paid under this section to a member of the Coast Guard, or to two such members who are spouses of each other, for expenses incurred in the adoption of a child.

(2) Not more than \$5,000 may be paid under this section to a member of the Coast Guard, or to two such members who are spouses of each other, for adoptions by such member (or members) in any calendar year.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “qualifying adoption expenses” means reasonable and necessary expenses that are directly related to the legal adoption of a child under 18 years of age, but only if such adoption is arranged by a qualified adoption