

2001—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-95 added subsec. (c).
1998—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 105-368, §1005(b)(2), substituted “October 9, 1996” for “the date of the enactment of this section”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 105-368, §903(a)(1), substituted “April 1, 1999, April 1, 2000, and April 1, 2001” for “April 1, 1997, April 1, 1998, and April 1, 1999”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 105-368, §903(a)(2), added par. (3).

DEADLINE FOR PRESCRIBING STANDARDS

Pub. L. 105-368, title IX, §903(b), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3361, provided that: “The standards of job performance required by paragraph (3) of section 1706(b) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall be prescribed not later than January 1, 1999.”

§ 1707. Limitations

(a) Funds appropriated to carry out this chapter may not be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 14401 et seq.).

(b) The Secretary may furnish sensori-neural aids only in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 105-12, §9(i)(1), Apr. 30, 1997, 111 Stat. 27; amended Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(a)(2), (f)(2), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2462, 2464; Pub. L. 107-330, title III, §308(g)(5), Dec. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 2829.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 105-12, Apr. 30, 1997, 111 Stat. 23, which is classified principally to chapter 138 (§14401 et seq.) of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14401 of Title 42.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-135, §208(f)(2), substituted “Limitations” for “Restriction on use of funds for assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing” as section catchline.

Pub. L. 107-135, §208(a)(2), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-330 inserted “(42 U.S.C. 14401 et seq.)” before period at end.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Apr. 30, 1997, and applicable to Federal payments made pursuant to obligations incurred after Apr. 30, 1997, for items and services provided on or after such date, subject to also being applicable with respect to contracts entered into, renewed, or extended after Apr. 30, 1997, as well as contracts entered into before Apr. 30, 1997, to the extent permitted under such contracts, see section 11 of Pub. L. 105-12, set out as a note under section 14401 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

§ 1708. Temporary lodging

(a) The Secretary may furnish persons described in subsection (b) with temporary lodging in a Fisher house or other appropriate facility in connection with the examination, treatment, or care of a veteran under this chapter or, as provided for under subsection (e)(5), in connection with benefits administered under this title.

(b) Persons to whom the Secretary may provide lodging under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) A veteran who must travel a significant distance to receive care or services under this title.

(2) A member of the family of a veteran and others who accompany a veteran and provide the equivalent of familial support for such veteran.

(c) In this section, the term “Fisher house” means a housing facility that—

(1) is located at, or in proximity to, a Department medical facility;

(2) is available for residential use on a temporary basis by patients of that facility and others described in subsection (b)(2); and

(3) is constructed by, and donated to the Secretary by, the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Armed Services Foundation.

(d) The Secretary may establish charges for providing lodging under this section. The proceeds from such charges shall be credited to the medical services account and shall be available until expended for the purposes of providing such lodging.

(e) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. Such regulations shall include provisions—

(1) limiting the duration of lodging provided under this section;

(2) establishing standards and criteria under which charges are established for such lodging under subsection (d);

(3) establishing criteria for persons considered to be accompanying a veteran under subsection (b)(2);

(4) establishing criteria for the use of the premises of temporary lodging facilities under this section; and

(5) establishing any other limitations, conditions, and priorities that the Secretary considers appropriate with respect to lodging under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 106-419, title II, §221(a), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1844; amended Pub. L. 110-387, title IX, §901(a)(8), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4142.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-387 substituted “medical services account” for “medical care account”.

§ 1709. Comprehensive policy on reporting and tracking sexual assault incidents and other safety incidents

(a) POLICY REQUIRED.—(1) Not later than September 30, 2012, the Secretary shall develop and implement a centralized and comprehensive policy on the reporting and tracking of sexual assault incidents and other safety incidents that occur at each medical facility of the Department, including—

(A) suspected, alleged, attempted, or confirmed cases of sexual assault, regardless of whether such assaults lead to prosecution or conviction;

(B) criminal and purposefully unsafe acts;

(C) alcohol or substance abuse related acts (including by employees of the Department); and

(D) any kind of event involving alleged or suspected abuse of a patient.

(2) In developing and implementing a policy under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the effects of such policy on—