

5026, and 5027 of this title, amending sections 4952 to 4955, 4958, 4959, 4971, 4974, 4992 to 4994, 5001, 5011 to 5013, 5021, 5024, 5041, 5047, 5056, 5061, 5081, 5082, 5084, 5671, 5715, 5751, 5773, 5775, 5777, 9910b, 11803, 11825, 11842, and 11851 of this title, enacting provisions set out as a note under section 4954 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 5601 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1989’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-551, §1, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3071, provided that: “This Act [enacting this section and section 4959 of this title, amending sections 4953, 4955, 4971, 4972, 4974, 4992, 5011, 5013, 5024, 5041 to 5044, 5047, 5052, 5055, 5056, 5059, 5061, 5081, 5082, and 5084 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and section 5011 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 5041 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1986’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-288, §1, May 21, 1984, 98 Stat. 189, provided: “That this Act [enacting section 5024 of this title, amending sections 4951 to 4956, 4958, 4971, 4972, 4974, 4991 to 4993, 5001, 5011, 5013, 5041 to 5044, 5047, 5052, 5056 to 5060, 5081, 5082, 5084, 9902, and 9912 of this title, repealing section 5045 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 5042 and 5045 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1984’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 96-143, §1, Dec. 13, 1979, 93 Stat. 1074, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 5063 and 5064 of this title, amending sections 4953, 4955, 4958, 4973, 4974, 4992, 5021, 5043, 5044, 5050, 5055, 5057, 5058, 5060, 5081, and 5084 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 4992 and 5084 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 4955 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1979’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 94-293, §1, May 27, 1976, 90 Stat. 525, provided: “That this Act [enacting sections 4958 and 4993 of this title, amending sections 4974, 4992, 5011, 5042, 5045, 5081, 5083, and 5084 of this title, repealing section 5053 of this title, and enacting provision set out as a note under section 4958 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act Amendments of 1976’.”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 93-113, title I, §1(a), formerly §1(part), Oct. 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 394, as renumbered and amended by Pub. L. 103-82, title III, §391, Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 915, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending section 3067 of this title and section 8332(b)(7) of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and repealing sections 2991, 2992 to 2992b, 2993 to 2993b, 2994 to 2994d, and 3044 to 3044e of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and section 5041 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973’.”

SUBCHAPTER I—NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ANTIPOVERTY PROGRAMS

PART A—VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

§ 4951. Congressional statement of purpose

This part provides for the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program of full-time volunteer service, together with appropriate powers and responsibilities designed to assist in the development and coordination of such pro-

gram. The purpose of this part is to strengthen and supplement efforts to eliminate and alleviate poverty and poverty-related problems in the United States by encouraging and enabling persons from all walks of life, all geographical areas, and all age groups, including low-income individuals, elderly and retired Americans, to perform meaningful and constructive volunteer service in agencies, institutions, and situations where the application of human talent and dedication may assist in the solution of poverty and poverty-related problems and secure and increase opportunities for self-advancement by persons affected by such problems. In addition, the objectives of this part are to generate the commitment of private sector resources, to encourage volunteer service at the local level, to support efforts by local agencies and community organizations to achieve long-term sustainability of projects, and to strengthen local agencies and community organizations to carry out the objectives of this part.

(Pub. L. 93-113, title I, §101, Oct. 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 396; Pub. L. 98-288, §2, May 21, 1984, 98 Stat. 189; Pub. L. 103-82, title III, §321, Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 899; Pub. L. 111-13, title II, §2101, Apr. 21, 2009, 123 Stat. 1581.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Pub. L. 111-13 substituted in second sentence “‘increase opportunities for self-advancement by persons affected by such problems.’” for “‘exploit opportunities for self-advancement by persons afflicted with such problems.’” and in third sentence “‘at the local level, to support efforts by local agencies and community organizations to achieve long-term sustainability of projects, and to strengthen local agencies and community organizations to carry out the objectives of this part.’” for “‘at the local level, and to strengthen local agencies and organizations to carry out the purpose of this part.’”

1993—Pub. L. 103-82 amended last sentence generally. Prior to amendment last sentence read as follows: “In addition the objective of this part is to generate the commitment of private sector resources and to encourage volunteer service at the local level to carry out the purposes set forth in this section.”

1984—Pub. L. 98-288, in second sentence, inserted “and alleviate” after “eliminate”, struck out “human, social, and environmental” after “poverty-related”, inserted “, all geographical areas,” after “all walks of life” and “low-income individuals,” before “elderly”, and inserted at end “In addition the objective of this part is to generate the commitment of private sector resources and to encourage volunteer service at the local level to carry out the purposes set forth in this section.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-13 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 6101(a) of Pub. L. 111-13, set out as a note under section 4950 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-82, title III, §392, Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 917, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle B (§§311-392) of title III of Pub. L. 103-82, enacting sections 5028, 5028a, and 5065 of this title, amending this section, sections 4952 to 4955, 4957, 4959, 4960, 4971 to 4973, 4992, 4993, 5000, 5001, 5011, 5013, 5021, 5024 to 5026, 5041 to 5044, 5055, 5057, 5062, 5081, 5082, and 5084 of this title, and sections 8143, 8332, 8334, 8411, and 8422 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, repealing sections 4974, 4994, 5012, 5047, 5060, and 5091 to 5091n of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 4950 and 4952

of this title and section 8332 of Title 5, and amending provisions set out as notes under sections 4950 and 5001 of this title] shall become effective on October 1, 1993.”

§ 4952. Authority to operate VISTA program

This part shall be administered by one of the Assistant Directors appointed pursuant to section 12651e(d)(1)(A) of this title. Such Director may recruit, select, and train persons to serve in full-time volunteer programs consistent with the provisions and to carry out the purpose of this part.

(Pub. L. 93-113, title I, § 102, Oct. 1, 1973, 87 Stat. 396; Pub. L. 98-288, § 3, May 21, 1984, 98 Stat. 189; Pub. L. 101-204, title I, § 101(d)(1), Dec. 7, 1989, 103 Stat. 1811; Pub. L. 103-82, title III, § 322(a), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 899.)

AMENDMENTS

1993—Pub. L. 103-82 substituted “This part shall be administered by one of the Assistant Directors appointed pursuant to section 12651e(d)(1)(A) of this title. Such Director” for “The Director”.

1989—Pub. L. 101-204 struck out subsec. (a) designation before “The Director may”, struck out subsec. (b) which related to replacement of applicants who become unavailable for service, and struck out subsec. (c) which related to age quotas.

1984—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-288 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-82, title III, § 322(b), Sept. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 899, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the effective date of section 203(b).” [Section 203(b) of Pub. L. 103-82 is effective 18 months after Sept. 21, 1993, or on such earlier date as the President shall determine to be appropriate and announce by proclamation in the Federal Register, see section 203(d) of Pub. L. 103-82, set out as a note under section 12651 of this title.]

§ 4953. Selection and assignment of volunteers

(a) Covered projects and programs

The Director, on the receipt of applications by public or nonprofit private organizations to receive volunteers under this part, may assign volunteers selected under subsection (b) of this section to work in appropriate projects and programs sponsored by such organizations, including work—

(1) in meeting the health, education, welfare, or related needs of Indians living on reservations or Federal trust lands, of migratory and seasonal farmworkers and their families, and of residents of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands;

(2) in the care and rehabilitation of mentally ill, developmentally disabled, and other individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with severe disabilities;

(3) in addressing the problems of the homeless, unemployed individuals, and low-income youths;

(4) in addressing the special needs connected with alcohol and drug abuse through prevention, education, rehabilitation, treatment, and related activities, consistent with the purpose of this part;

(5) in addressing significant health care problems, including mental illness, chronic and life-threatening illnesses, and health care for homeless individuals (especially homeless children) through prevention, treatment, and community-based care activities;

(6) in connection with programs or activities authorized, supported, or of a character eligible for assistance under this chapter or the Community Service Block Grant Act [42 U.S.C. 9901 et seq.], titles VIII and X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 [42 U.S.C. 2991 et seq., 2996 et seq.], the Head Start Act [42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.], the Community Economic Development Act of 1981 [42 U.S.C. 9801 et seq.], or other similar Acts, in furtherance of the purpose of this subchapter;

(7) in strengthening, supplementing, and expanding efforts to address the problem of illiteracy throughout the United States;

(8) in assisting with the reentry and reintegration of formerly incarcerated youth and adults into society, including providing training and counseling in education, employment, and life skills;

(9) in developing and carrying out financial literacy, financial planning, budgeting, saving, and reputable credit accessibility programs in low-income communities, including those programs that educate individuals about financing home ownership and higher education;

(10) in initiating and supporting before-school and after-school programs, serving children in low-income communities, that may engage participants in mentoring, tutoring, life skills and study skills programs, service-learning, physical, nutrition, and health education programs, and other activities addressing the needs of the children;

(11) in establishing and supporting community economic development initiatives, with a priority on work on such initiatives in rural areas and the other areas where such initiatives are needed most;

(12) in assisting veterans and their family members through establishing or augmenting programs that assist such persons with access to legal assistance, health care (including mental health care), employment counseling or training, education counseling or training, affordable housing, and other support services; and

(13) in addressing the health and wellness of individuals in low-income communities and individuals in underserved communities, including programs to increase access to preventive services, insurance, and health services.

(b) Recruitment and placement procedures for local and national placement of volunteers; establishment, requirements, etc.

(1) The Director shall establish placement procedures that involve sponsoring organizations and that offer opportunities for both local and national placement of volunteers for service under this part.

(2)(A) The Director shall establish and maintain within the national headquarters of the Corporation (or any successor entity of such agency) a volunteer placement office which shall be responsible for all functions related to