

section may contribute amounts for purposes of receiving an increased amount of educational assistance as provided for in paragraph (2).

(B) An individual covered by subparagraph (A) may make the contributions authorized by that subparagraph at any time while a member of a reserve component, but not more frequently than monthly.

(C) The total amount of the contributions made by an individual under subparagraph (A) may not exceed \$600. Such contributions shall be made in multiples of \$20.

(D) Contributions under this subsection shall be made to the Secretary concerned. Such Secretary shall deposit any amounts received as contributions under this subsection into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(2) Effective as of the first day of the enrollment period following the enrollment period in which an individual makes contributions under paragraph (1), the monthly amount of educational assistance allowance applicable to such individual under this section shall be the monthly rate otherwise provided for under subsection (c) increased by—

(A) an amount equal to \$5 for each \$20 contributed by such individual under paragraph (1) for an approved program of education pursued on a full-time basis; or

(B) an appropriately reduced amount based on the amount so contributed as determined under regulations that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe, for an approved program of education pursued on less than a full-time basis.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, § 527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1890; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, § 539(b), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3250; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, § 528(c), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 109.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(4)(C). Pub. L. 110-181, § 528(c)(1), substituted “for—” for “for two continuous years or more.” and added cls. (i) and (ii).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-181, § 528(c)(2), added subsec. (f).

2006—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-163 added subsec. (e).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-163 applicable to a licensing or certification test administered on or after Jan. 6, 2006, see section 539(c) of Pub. L. 109-163, set out as a note under section 16131 of this title.

§ 16162a. Accelerated payment of educational assistance

(a) **PAYMENT ON ACCELERATED BASIS.**—The educational assistance allowance payable under section 16162 of this title with respect to an eligible member described in subsection (b) may, upon the election of such eligible member, be paid on an accelerated basis in accordance with this section.

(b) **ELIGIBLE MEMBERS.**—An eligible member described in this subsection is a member of a reserve component entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is—

(1) enrolled in an approved program of education not exceeding two years in duration and not leading to an associate, bachelors,

masters, or other degree, subject to subsection (g); and

(2) charged tuition and fees for the program of education that, when divided by the number of months (and fractions thereof) in the enrollment period, exceeds the amount equal to 200 percent of the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title.

(c) **AMOUNT OF ACCELERATED PAYMENT.**—(1) The amount of the accelerated payment of educational assistance payable with respect to an eligible member making an election under subsection (a) for a program of education shall be the lesser of—

(A) the amount equal to 60 percent of the established charges for the program of education; or

(B) the aggregate amount of educational assistance allowance to which the member remains entitled under this chapter at the time of the payment.

(2)(A) In this subsection, except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term “established charges”, in the case of a program of education, means the actual charges (as determined pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs) for tuition and fees which similarly circumstanced individuals who are not eligible for benefits under this chapter and who are enrolled in the program of education would be required to pay. Established charges shall be determined on the following basis:

(i) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the term, quarter, or semester.

(ii) In the case of an individual enrolled in a program of education not offered on a term, quarter, or semester basis, the tuition and fees charged the individual for the entire program of education.

(B) In this subsection, the term “established charges” does not include any fees or payments attributable to the purchase of a vehicle.

(3) The educational institution providing the program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is elected by an eligible member under subsection (a) shall certify to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

(d) **TIME OF PAYMENT.**—An accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section for a program of education shall be made not later than the last day of the month immediately following the month in which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives a certification from the educational institution regarding—

(1) the member’s enrollment in and pursuit of the program of education; and

(2) the amount of the established charges for the program of education.

(e) **CHARGE AGAINST ENTITLEMENT.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), for each acceler-

ated payment of educational assistance allowance made with respect to an eligible member under this section, the member's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be charged the number of months (and any fraction thereof) determined by dividing the amount of the accelerated payment by the full-time monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to the member under section 16162 of this title as of the beginning date of the enrollment period for the program of education for which the accelerated payment is made.

(2) If the monthly rate of educational assistance allowance otherwise payable with respect to an eligible member under section 16162 of this title increases during the enrollment period of a program of education for which an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance is made under this section, the charge to the member's entitlement to educational assistance under this chapter shall be determined by prorating the entitlement chargeable, in the manner provided for under paragraph (1), for the periods covered by the initial rate and increased rate, respectively, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include requirements, conditions, and methods for the request, issuance, delivery, certification of receipt and use, and recovery of overpayment of an accelerated payment of educational assistance allowance under this section. The regulations may include such elements of the regulations prescribed under section 3014A of title 38 as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate for purposes of this section.

(g) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of educational assistance payable under this section in any fiscal year for enrollments covered by subsection (b)(1) may not exceed \$3,000,000.

(Added Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §528(b)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 107.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §528(b)(3), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 109, provided that: "The amendments made by this subsection [enacting this section] shall take effect on October 1, 2008, and shall only apply to initial enrollments in approved programs of education after such date."

§ 16163. Eligibility for educational assistance

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—On or after September 11, 2001, a member of a reserve component is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter if the member—

(1) served on active duty in support of a contingency operation for 90 consecutive days or more; or

(2) in the case of a member of the Army National Guard of the United States or Air National Guard of the United States, performed full time National Guard duty under section 502(f) of title 32 for 90 consecutive days or more when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for the purpose of responding to a national emergency declared by the President and supported by Federal funds.

(b) DISABLED MEMBERS.—Notwithstanding the eligibility requirements in subsection (a), a member who was ordered to active service as prescribed under subsection (a)(1) or (a)(2) but is released from duty before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty shall be entitled to educational assistance under this chapter at the rate prescribed in section 16162(c)(4)(A) of this title.

(c) WRITTEN NOTIFICATION.—(1) Each member who becomes entitled to educational assistance under subsection (a) shall be given a statement in writing prior to release from active service that summarizes the provisions of this chapter and stating clearly and prominently the substance of section 16165 of this title as such section may apply to the member.

(2) At the request of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary concerned shall transmit a notice of entitlement for each such member to that Secretary.

(d) BAR FROM DUAL ELIGIBILITY.—A member who qualifies for educational assistance under this chapter may not receive credit for such service under both the program established by chapter 30 of title 38 and the program established by this chapter but shall make an irrevocable election (in such form and manner as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) as to the program to which such service is to be credited.

(e) BAR FROM DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an individual entitled to educational assistance under this chapter who is also eligible for educational assistance under chapter 1606 of this title, chapter 30, 31, 32, 33, or 35 of title 38, or under the Hostage Relief Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-449; 5 U.S.C. 5561 note) may not receive assistance under more than one such program and shall elect (in such form and manner as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may prescribe) under which program the member elects to receive educational assistance.

(2) The restriction on duplication of educational assistance under paragraph (1) does not apply to the entitlement of educational assistance under section 16131(i) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, §527(a), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1892; amended Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title V, §540(a), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3251; Pub. L. 110-252, title V, §5003(b)(1)(C), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2375; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title X, §1073(a)(36), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2474.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Hostage Relief Act of 1980, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), is Pub. L. 96-449, Oct. 14, 1980, 94 Stat. 1967, as amended, which was formerly set out as a note under section 5561 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted "such program" for "such programs".

2008—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 110-252 inserted "33," after "32,".

2006—Subsec. (e)(1). Pub. L. 109-163 substituted "Secretary of Veterans Affairs" for "Secretary concerned".