

amendment, text read as follows: "The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall be composed of a chief judge and at least two and not more than six associate judges."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-117, §1032(a), inserted heading and amended text of subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "The chief judge is the head of the Court".

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-117, §1033, inserted heading and amended text of subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

"(e)(1) The chief judge of the Court shall receive a salary at the same rate as is received by judges of the United States Courts of Appeals.

"(2) Each judge of the Court, other than the chief judge, shall receive a salary at the same rate as is received by judges of the United States district courts."

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-368, §512(a)(1), substituted "Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims" for "Court of Veterans Appeals".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-368, §512(a)(1), substituted "Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims" for "Court of Veterans Appeals".

Pub. L. 105-368, §501, inserted at end "A judge who is nominated by the President for appointment to an additional term on the Court without a break in service and whose term of office expires while that nomination is pending before the Senate may continue in office for up to 1 year while that nomination is pending."

1992—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 102-585 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added pars. (2) and (3).

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4053 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 102-82 added subsec. (g).

1989—Subsec. (f)(1). Pub. L. 101-94 inserted "or" before "engaging" and substituted "law" for "law, or physical or mental disability which, in the opinion of the President, prevents the proper execution of the judge's duties".

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114-315, title II, §204(b), Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1550, provided that: "The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to the selection of a chief judge occurring on or after January 1, 2020."

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-260 effective on the date that is 180 days after Jan. 10, 2013, see section 302(c)(1) of Pub. L. 112-260, set out as a note under section 7255 of this title.

Pub. L. 112-260, title III, §302(c)(2), Jan. 10, 2013, 126 Stat. 2426, provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (b) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to judges confirmed on or after January 1, 2012."

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-117, title X, §1036, Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1595, provided that:

"(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subtitle [subtitle C (§§1031-1036) of title X of Pub. L. 106-117, amending this section and sections 7254, 7281, 7296, and 7297 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1999].

"(b) SAVINGS PROVISION FOR INCUMBENT CHIEF JUDGE.—The amendments made by this subtitle shall not apply while the individual who is chief judge of the Court [United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims] on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 30, 1999] continues to serve as chief judge. If that individual, upon termination of service as chief judge, provides notice under section 7257 of title 38, United States Code, of availability for service in a recalled status, the rate of pay applicable to that individual under section 7296(c)(1)(A) of such title while serving in a recalled status shall be at the rate of pay applicable to that individual at the time of retirement, if greater than the rate otherwise applicable under that section."

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 512(a)(1) of Pub. L. 105-368 effective on first day of first month beginning more than 90 days after Nov. 11, 1998, see section 513 of Pub. L. 105-368, set out as a note under section 7251 of this title.

#### INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES TO COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS

Section 302 of Pub. L. 100-687 prohibited President from appointing associate judges of the United States Court of Veterans Appeals under subsec. (b) of this section, until the chief judge of such Court has been appointed and that judges could be appointed after Feb. 1, 1989.

#### § 7254. Organization

(a) The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall have a seal which shall be judicially noticed.

(b) The Court may hear cases by judges sitting alone or in panels, as determined pursuant to procedures established by the Court. Any such panel shall have not less than three judges. The Court shall establish procedures for the assignment of the judges of the Court to such panels and for the designation of the chief of each such panel.

(c)(1) A majority of the judges of the Court shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the Court. A vacancy in the Court shall not impair the powers or affect the duties of the Court or of the remaining judges of the Court.

(2) A majority of the judges of a panel of the Court shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the panel. A vacancy in a panel of the Court shall not impair the powers or affect the duties of the panel or of the remaining judges of the panel.

(d) PRECEDENCE OF JUDGES.—The chief judge of the Court shall have precedence and preside at any session that the chief judge attends. The other judges shall have precedence and preside according to the seniority of their original commissions. Judges whose commissions bear the same date shall have precedence according to seniority in age.

(e) Judges of the Court shall have the authority to administer oaths.

(Added Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title III, §301(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4114, §4054; amended Pub. L. 101-94, title IV, §402, Aug. 16, 1989, 103 Stat. 628; Pub. L. 101-237, title VI, §602(b), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2095; renumbered §7254, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-54, §14(e)(4), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 287; Pub. L. 102-82, §8(3), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 377; Pub. L. 105-368, title V, §512(a)(1), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3341; Pub. L. 106-117, title X, §1034, Nov. 30, 1999, 113 Stat. 1595.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-117 inserted heading and amended text of subsec. (d) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: "In the event of a vacancy in the position of chief judge of the Court, the associate judge senior in service on the Court shall serve as acting chief judge unless the President designates one of the other associate judges to serve as acting chief judge, in which case the judge so designated shall serve as acting chief judge."

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-368 substituted "Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims" for "Court of Veterans Appeals".

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4054 of this title as this section.

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 102-54 amended section as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 102-40, and Pub. L. 102-82 amended section, identically, by redesignating the second subsec. (d), relating to authority to administer oaths as, (e).

1989—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101-237 added subsec. (d) relating to authority to administer oaths.

Pub. L. 101-94 added subsec. (d) relating to acting chief judge in event of vacancy.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1999 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-117 effective Nov. 30, 1999, with savings provision for incumbent chief judge, see section 1036 of Pub. L. 106-117, set out as a note under section 7253 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-368 effective on first day of first month beginning more than 90 days after Nov. 11, 1998, see section 513 of Pub. L. 105-368, set out as a note under section 7251 of this title.

### § 7255. Offices, duty stations, and residences

(a) **PRINCIPAL OFFICE.**—The principal office of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall be in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, but the Court may sit at any place within the United States.

(b) **OFFICIAL DUTY STATIONS.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the official duty station of each judge while in active service shall be the principal office of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

(2) The place where a recall-eligible retired judge maintains the actual abode in which such judge customarily lives shall be considered the recall-eligible retired judge's official duty station.

(c) **RESIDENCES.**—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), after appointment and while in active service, each judge of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall reside within 50 miles of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to recall-eligible retired judges of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

(Added Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title III, §301(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4114, §4055; renumbered §7255, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; amended Pub. L. 105-368, title V, §512(a)(1), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3341; Pub. L. 108-454, title VIII, §801, Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3625; Pub. L. 112-260, title III, §302(a)(1), Jan. 10, 2013, 126 Stat. 2425.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 112-260, which directed the general amendment of section 7255 without specifying the Code title to be amended, was executed by amending this section generally, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The principal office of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall be in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, but the Court may sit at any place within the United States.”

2004—Pub. L. 108-454 substituted “Washington, D.C., metropolitan area” for “District of Columbia”.

1998—Pub. L. 105-368 substituted “Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims” for “Court of Veterans Appeals”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4055 of this title as this section.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-260, title III, §302(c)(1), Jan. 10, 2013, 126 Stat. 2425, provided that: “Subsection (c) of section 7255 [probably means 38 U.S.C. 7255(c)], as added by subsection (a), and the amendment made by subsection (b) [amending section 7253 of this title] shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 10, 2013].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-368 effective on first day of first month beginning more than 90 days after Nov. 11, 1998, see section 513 of Pub. L. 105-368, set out as a note under section 7251 of this title.

#### FACILITIES FOR COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Pub. L. 101-94, title II, §201, Aug. 16, 1989, 103 Stat. 626, as amended by Pub. L. 105-368, title V, §512(c), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3342, provided that:

“(a) **SPACE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**—The Administrator of General Services shall provide suitable building space in the District of Columbia for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as the Court's principal place of business. The Administrator shall, if necessary, arrange for temporary space for the Court if permanent space is not immediately available for the Court. The Administrator shall place a high priority on the provision of such temporary and permanent space for the Court.

“(b) **APPROVAL BY COURT.**—Any space to be provided for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims under subsection (a) must be acceptable to the Court.

“(c) **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.**—Any building space provided to the Court under subsection (a) shall be adjacent to additional building space (in an amount acceptable to the Court) that can be made available to the Court in the future if needed for expansion of the facilities of the Court.”

Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title III, §303, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4121, provided for the initial location of the principal office of the Court of Veterans Appeals.

### § 7256. Times and places of sessions

The times and places of sessions of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims shall be prescribed by the chief judge.

(Added Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title III, §301(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4115, §4056; renumbered §7256, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; amended Pub. L. 105-368, title V, §512(a)(1), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3341.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-368 substituted “Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims” for “Court of Veterans Appeals”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4056 of this title as this section.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-368 effective on first day of first month beginning more than 90 days after Nov. 11, 1998, see section 513 of Pub. L. 105-368, set out as a note under section 7251 of this title.

### § 7257. Recall of retired judges

(a)(1) A retired judge of the Court may be recalled for further service on the Court in accordance with this section. To be eligible to be recalled for such service, a retired judge must at the time of the judge's retirement provide to the chief judge of the Court (or, in the case of the chief judge, to the clerk of the Court) notice in writing that the retired judge is available for further service on the Court in accordance with