

108 Stat. 2858; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VI, § 638(a)-(c), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2581; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VI, § 645(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1801, provided that:

“(a) A person—

“(1) who, on September 21, 1972, was, or during the period beginning on September 22, 1972, and ending on March 20, 1974, became, a widow of a person who was entitled to retired or retainer pay when he died;

“(2) who is eligible for a pension under subchapter III of chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, or section 306 of the Veterans’ and Survivors’ Pension Improvement Act of 1978 [set out as note under section 1521 of Title 38]; and

“(3) whose annual income, as determined in establishing that eligibility, is less than the maximum annual rate of pension in effect under section 1541(b) of title 38, United States Code;

shall be paid an annuity by the Secretary concerned unless she is eligible to receive an annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan established pursuant to clause (3) of the first section of this Act [this subchapter]. However, such a person who is the widow of a retired officer of the Public Health Service or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and who would otherwise be eligible for an annuity under this section except that she does not qualify for the pension described in clause (2) of this subsection because the service of her deceased spouse is not considered active duty under section 101(21) of title 38, United States Code, is entitled to an annuity under this section.

“(b) The annuity under subsection (a) of this section shall be in an amount which when added to the widow’s income determined under subsection (a)(3) of this section, plus the amount of any annuity being received under sections 1431-1436 of title 10, United States Code, but exclusive of a pension described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, equals the maximum annual rate of pension in effect under section 1541(b) of title 38, United States Code. In addition, the Secretary concerned shall pay to the widow, described in the last sentence of subsection (a) of this section, an amount equal to the pension she would otherwise have been eligible to receive under subchapter III of chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code, if the service of her deceased spouse was considered active duty under section 101(21) of that title.

“(c) The amount of an annuity payable under this section, although counted as income in determining the amount of any pension described in subsection (a)(2) of this section, shall not be considered to affect the eligibility [sic] of the recipient of such annuity for such pension, even though, as a result of including the amount of the annuity as income, no amount of such pension is due.

“(d) Subsection 1450(i) and section 1453 as added to title 10, United States Code, by clause 3 of the first section of this Act, are applicable to persons covered by this section.

“(e)(1) Payment of annuities under this section shall be made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. In making such payments, the Secretary shall combine with the payment under this section payment of any amount due the same person under section 653(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989 [Pub. L. 100-456] (10 U.S.C. 1448 note). If appropriate for administrative convenience (or otherwise determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs), that Secretary may combine a payment to any person for any month under this section (and, if applicable, under section 653(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 1989) with any other payment for that month under laws administered by the Secretary so as to provide that person with a single payment for that month.

“(2) The Secretary concerned shall annually transfer to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs such amounts as may be necessary for payments by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under this section and for costs of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in administering this sec-

tion. Such transfers shall be made from amounts that would otherwise be used for payment of annuities by the Secretary concerned under this section. The authority to make such a transfer is in addition to any other authority of the Secretary concerned to transfer funds for a purpose other than the purpose for which the funds were originally made available. In the case of a transfer by the Secretary of a military department, the provisions of section 2215 of title 10, United States Code, do not apply.

“(3) The Secretary concerned shall promptly notify the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of any change in beneficiaries under this section.”

[Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VI, § 638(d), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2581, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending section 4 of Pub. L. 92-425, set out above] take effect on July 1, 1997, and apply with respect to payments of benefits for any month after June 1997.”]

[Pub. L. 98-94, title IX, § 942(b), Sept. 24, 1983, 97 Stat. 654, provided that: “Any annuity payable by reason of subsection (a) [amending section 4(a)(1) of Pub. L. 92-425, set out above] shall be payable only for months after September 1983.”]

END OF 90-DAY PERIOD WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

The 90-day period, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), (4)(B), with respect to certain individuals shall be considered to end on Mar. 31, 1980, see section 208 of Pub. L. 95-397, set out as a note under section 1447 of this title.

§ 1448a. Election to discontinue participation: one-year opportunity after second anniversary of commencement of payment of retired pay

(a) AUTHORITY.—A participant in the Plan may, subject to the provisions of this section, elect to discontinue participation in the Plan at any time during the one-year period beginning on the second anniversary of the date on which payment of retired pay to the participant commences.

(b) CONCURRENCE OF SPOUSE.—

(1) CONCURRENCE REQUIRED.—A married participant may not (except as provided in paragraph (2)) make an election under subsection (a) without the concurrence of the participant’s spouse.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—A participant may make such an election without the concurrence of the participant’s spouse by establishing to the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned that one of the conditions specified in section 1448(a)(3)(C) of this title exists.

(3) FORM OF CONCURRENCE.—The concurrence of a spouse under paragraph (1) shall be made in such written form and shall contain such information as may be required under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(c) LIMITATION ON ELECTION WHEN FORMER SPOUSE COVERAGE IN EFFECT.—The limitation set forth in section 1450(f)(2) of this title applies to an election to discontinue participation in the Plan under subsection (a).

(d) WITHDRAWAL OF ELECTION TO DISCONTINUE.—Section 1448(b)(1)(D) of this title applies to an election under subsection (a).

(e) CONSEQUENCES OF DISCONTINUATION.—Section 1448(b)(1)(E) of this title applies to an election under subsection (a).

(f) NOTICE TO AFFECTED BENEFICIARIES.—The Secretary concerned shall notify any former

spouse or other natural person previously designated under section 1448(b) of this title of an election to discontinue participation under subsection (a).

(g) **EFFECTIVE DATE OF ELECTION.**—An election under subsection (a) is effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the month in which the election is received by the Secretary concerned.

(h) **INAPPLICABILITY OF IRREVOCABILITY PROVISIONS.**—Paragraphs (4)(B) and (5)(C) of section 1448(a) of this title do not apply to prevent an election under subsection (a).

(Added Pub. L. 105–85, div. A, title VI, §641(a)(1), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1797.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 105–85, div. A, title VI, §641(c), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1799, provided that: “Section 1448a of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 18, 1997].”

TRANSITION PROVISION FOR CURRENT PARTICIPANTS

Pub. L. 105–85, div. A, title VI, §641(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1798, provided that: “Notwithstanding the limitation on the time for making an election under section 1448a of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), that is specified in subsection (a) of such section, a participant in the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of such title may make an election in accordance with that section within one year after the effective date of that section under subsection (c) [set out as an Effective Date note above] if the second anniversary of the commencement of payment of retired pay to the participant precedes that effective date.”

§ 1449. Mental incompetency of member

(a) **ELECTION BY SECRETARY CONCERNED ON BEHALF OF MENTALLY INCOMPETENT MEMBER.**—If a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies is determined to be mentally incompetent by medical officers of the armed force concerned or of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, an election described in subsection (a)(2) or (b) of section 1448 of this title may be made on behalf of that person by the Secretary concerned.

(b) **REVOCATION OF ELECTION BY MEMBER.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY UPON SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION OF MENTAL COMPETENCE.**—If a person for whom the Secretary has made an election under subsection (a) is later determined to be mentally competent by an authority named in that subsection, that person may, within 180 days after that determination, revoke that election.

(2) **DEDUCTIONS FROM RETIRED PAY OR CRSC NOT TO BE REFUNDED.**—Any deduction made from retired pay or combat-related special compensation by reason of such an election may not be refunded.

(Added Pub. L. 92–425, §1(3), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 708; amended Pub. L. 95–397, title II, §207(a), Sept. 30, 1978, 92 Stat. 848; Pub. L. 101–189, div. A, title XIV, §1407(a)(3), title XVI, §1621(a)(1), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1588, 1602; Pub. L. 104–201, div. A, title VI, §634, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2560; Pub. L. 114–328, div. A, title VI, §643(c)(1), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2166.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 114–328 inserted “or CRSC” after “retired pay” in heading and “or combat-related special compensation” after “from retired pay” in text.

1996—Pub. L. 104–201 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “If a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies is determined to be mentally incompetent by medical officers of the armed force concerned or of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, any election described in subsection (a)(2) or (b) of section 1448 of this title may be made on behalf of that person by the Secretary concerned. If the person for whom the Secretary has made an election is later determined to be mentally competent by an authority named in the first sentence, he may, within 180 days after that determination revoke that election. Any deductions made from retired pay by reason of such an election will not be refunded.”

1989—Pub. L. 101–189 substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration” and struck out “or retainer” after “made from retired”.

1978—Pub. L. 95–397 substituted “subsection (a)(2) or (b)” for “the first sentence of subsection (a), or subsection (b)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95–397 effective Oct. 1, 1978, and applicable to annuities payable by virtue of amendment for months beginning on or after such date, see section 210 of Pub. L. 95–397, set out as a note under section 1447 of this title.

§ 1450. Payment of annuity: beneficiaries

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Effective as of the first day after the death of a person to whom section 1448 of this title applies (or on such other day as that person may provide under subsection (j)), a monthly annuity under section 1451 of this title shall be paid to the person’s beneficiaries under the Plan, as follows:

(1) **SURVIVING SPOUSE OR FORMER SPOUSE.**—The eligible surviving spouse or the eligible former spouse.

(2) **SURVIVING CHILDREN.**—The surviving dependent children in equal shares, if the eligible surviving spouse or the eligible former spouse is dead, dies, or otherwise becomes ineligible under this section.

(3) **DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**—The dependent children in equal shares if the person to whom section 1448 of this title applies (with the concurrence of the person’s spouse, if required under section 1448(a)(3) of this title) elected to provide an annuity for dependent children but not for the spouse or former spouse.

(4) **SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS FOR SOLE BENEFIT OF CERTAIN DEPENDENT CHILDREN.**—Notwithstanding subsection (i), a supplemental or special needs trust established under subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 1917(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396p(d)(4)) for the sole benefit of a dependent child considered disabled under section 1614(a)(3) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a)(3)) who is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical incapacity.

(5) **NATURAL PERSON DESIGNATED UNDER “INSURABLE INTEREST” COVERAGE.**—The natural person designated under section 1448(b)(1) of this title, unless the election to provide an annuity to the natural person has been changed as provided in subsection (f).

(b) **TERMINATION OF ANNUITY FOR DEATH, REMARRIAGE BEFORE AGE 55, ETC.**—