

§ 8508. Relinquishment of Federal jurisdiction

Subject to the provisions of this subchapter and to the extent necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subchapter, there is hereby relinquished to the respective State or dependency of the United States such jurisdiction pertaining to the administration of estates of decedents as may have been ceded to the United States by said State or dependency of the United States respecting the Federal reservation on which is situated any Department facility while such facility is operated by the Department; such jurisdiction with respect to any such property on any such reservation to be to the same extent as if such premises had not been ceded to the United States. Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive any State or dependency of the United States of any jurisdiction which it now has nor to give any State, possession, or dependency of the United States authority over any Federal official as such on such premises or otherwise.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1259, §5208; renumbered §8508, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5208 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “Department” for “Veterans’ Administration” in two places.

§ 8509. Definitions

The term “facility” or “Department facility” as used in this subchapter means those facilities over which the Department has direct and exclusive administrative jurisdiction, including hospitals or other facilities on property owned or leased by the United States while operated by the Department.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1259, §5209; renumbered §8509, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5209 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “Department” for “Veterans’ Administration” wherever appearing.

§ 8510. Finality of decisions

Decisions by the Secretary under this subchapter shall not be reviewable administratively by any other officer of the United States.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1259, §5210; renumbered §8510, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5210 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

SUBCHAPTER II—DEATH WHILE PATIENT OF DEPARTMENT FACILITY

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, substituted “DEPARTMENT” for “VETERANS’ ADMINISTRATION”.

Pub. L. 102-40, title III, §305(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 210, substituted “PATIENT” for “INMATE”.

§ 8520. Vesting of property left by decedents

(a) Whenever any veteran (admitted as a veteran), or a dependent or survivor of a veteran receiving care under the penultimate sentence of section 1781(b) of this title, shall die while a member or patient in any facility, or any hospital while being furnished care or treatment therein by the Department, and shall not leave any surviving spouse, next of kin, or heirs entitled, under the laws of the decedent’s domicile, to the decedent’s personal property as to which such person dies intestate, all such property, including money and choses in action, owned by such person at the time of death and not disposed of by will or otherwise, shall immediately vest in and become the property of the United States as trustee for the sole use and benefit of the General Post Fund (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the “Fund”), a trust fund prescribed by section 1321(a)(45) of title 31.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) are conditions precedent to the initial, and also to the further furnishing of care or treatment by the Department in a facility or hospital. The acceptance and the continued acceptance of care or treatment by any veteran (admitted as a veteran to a Department facility or hospital) shall constitute an acceptance of the provisions and conditions of this subchapter and have the effect of an assignment, effective at such person’s death, of such assets in accordance with and subject to the provisions of this subchapter and regulations issued in accordance with this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1259, §5220; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §208(b), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2860; Pub. L. 97-258, §3(k)(9), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1066; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(99), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3300; renumbered §8520, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(3), (4), 5(c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 406; Pub. L. 107-14, §8(a)(16), June 5, 2001, 115 Stat. 35; Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(e)(9), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2464.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-135 substituted “the penultimate sentence of section 1781(b)” for “the last sentence of section 1713(b)”.

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-14 substituted “hereinafter” for “hereafter”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5220 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “1713(b)” for “613(b)”.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted “Department” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted “Department” for “Veterans’ Administration” in two places.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-576, §701(99)(A), substituted “any surviving” for “surviving him any”, “the

decendent's" for "his" in two places, "such person" for "he", and "owned by such person" for "owned by him".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-576, §701(99)(B), substituted "such person's" for "his".

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-258 substituted "section 1321(a)(45) of title 31" for "section 725s(a)(45) of title 31".

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581 inserted " , or a dependent or survivor of a veteran receiving care under the last sentence of section 613(b) of this title," after "(admitted as a veteran)".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

§ 8521. Presumption of contract for disposition of personalty

The fact of death of a veteran (admitted as such), or a dependent or survivor of a veteran receiving care under the penultimate sentence of section 1781(b) of this title, in a facility or hospital, while being furnished care or treatment therein by the Department, leaving no spouse, next of kin, or heirs, shall give rise to a conclusive presumption of a valid contract for the disposition in accordance with this subchapter, but subject to its conditions, of all property described in section 8520 of this title owned by said decedent at death and as to which such person dies intestate.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1260, §5221; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §208(c), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2860; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(100), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3300; renumbered §8521 and amended Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), (d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238, 239; Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(3), (4), 5(c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 406; Pub. L. 107-135, title II, §208(e)(9), Jan. 23, 2002, 115 Stat. 2464.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-135 substituted "the penultimate sentence of section 1781(b)" for "the last sentence of section 1713(b)".

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5221 of this title as this section and substituted "8520" for "5220".

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted "1713(b)" for "613(b)" and "Department" for "Veterans' Administration".

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted "such person" for "he".

1976—Pub. L. 94-581 inserted " , or a dependent or survivor of a veteran receiving care under the last sentence of section 613(b) of this title," after "(admitted as such)".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

§ 8522. Sale of assets accruing to the Fund

Any assets heretofore or hereafter accruing to the benefit of the Fund, other than money, but including jewelry and other personal effects, may be sold at the times and places and in the manner prescribed by regulations issued by the Secretary. Upon receipt of the purchase price the Secretary is authorized to deliver at the place of sale, said property sold, and upon request to execute and deliver appropriate assignments or other conveyances thereof in the name

of the United States, which shall pass to the purchaser such title as decedent had at date of death. The net proceeds after paying any proper sales expense as determined by the Secretary shall forthwith be paid to the Treasurer of the United States to the credit of the Fund; and may be disbursed as are other moneys in the Fund by the Division of Disbursements, Treasury Department, upon order of said Secretary. Articles of personal adornment which are obviously of sentimental value, shall be retained and not sold or otherwise disposed of until the expiration of five years from the date of death of the veteran, without a claim therefor, unless for sanitary or other proper reasons it is deemed unsafe to retain same, in which event they may be destroyed forthwith. Any other articles coming into possession of the Secretary or the Secretary's representative by virtue of this subchapter which, under regulations promulgated by the Secretary, are determined to be unsalable may be destroyed forthwith or at the time prescribed by regulations, or may be used for the purposes for which disbursements might properly be made from the Fund, or if not usable, otherwise disposed of in accordance with regulations.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1260, §5222; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(101), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3300; renumbered §8522, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5222 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" and "Secretary's" for "Administrator's" wherever appearing.

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted "the Administrator" for "he" in second sentence, and "the Administrator's" for "his" in last sentence.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Division of Disbursements of Treasury Department consolidated into Fiscal Service of Treasury Department by section 1(a)(1) of Reorg. Plan No. III of 1940, eff. June 30, 1940, 5 F.R. 2107, 54 Stat. 1231, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. See section 306 of Title 31, Money and Finance.

§ 8523. Disbursements from the Fund

Disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the Division of Disbursements, Treasury Department, upon the order and within the discretion of the Secretary for the benefit of members and patients while being supplied care or treatment by the Department in any facility or hospital. The authority contained in the preceding sentence is not limited to facilities or hospitals under direct administrative control of the Department. There shall be paid out of the assets of the decedent so far as may be the valid claims of creditors against the decedent's estate that would be legally payable therefrom in the absence of this subchapter and without the benefit of any exemption statute, and which may be presented to the Department within one year from the date of death, or within the time, to the person, and in the manner required or permitted by the law of the State wherein adminis-