

(A) has equivalent pay and benefits; and

(B) better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (d), leave granted under subsection (a) shall be leave without pay.

(d) An employee may elect to substitute for leave under subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of subsection (a)(1) any of the employee's accrued or accumulated annual or sick leave under subchapter I for any part of the 12-week period of leave under such subsection, except that nothing in this subchapter shall require an employing agency to provide paid sick leave in any situation in which such employing agency would not normally provide any such paid leave. An employee may elect to substitute for leave under subsection (a)(3) any of the employee's accrued or accumulated annual or sick leave under subchapter I for any part of the 26-week period of leave under such subsection.

(e)(1) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) or under subsection (a)(3) is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement, the employee shall provide the employing agency with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under such subparagraph, except that if the date of the birth or placement requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

(2) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of subsection (a)(1) or under subsection (a)(3) is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee—

(A) shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employing agency, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the son, daughter, spouse, parent, or covered servicemember of the employee, as appropriate; and

(B) shall provide the employing agency with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under such subparagraph, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

(3) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent, of the employee is on covered active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty, the employee shall provide such notice to the employer as is reasonable and practicable.

(Added Pub. L. 103-3, title II, §201(a)(1), Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 20; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §585(b)(2)-(3)(C), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 132; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title X, §1061(b)(2), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4612; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §565(b)(1)(B), (4), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2311, 2312.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(b)(1)(B)(i), added subpar. (E).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(b)(1)(B)(ii), inserted after second sentence "Subject to subsection (e)(3) and section 6383(f), leave under subsection (a)(1)(E) may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(b)(1)(B)(iii), substituted "(D), or (E)" for "or (D)".

Subsec. (e)(2)(A). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(b)(4), substituted "parent, or covered servicemember" for "or parent".

Subsec. (e)(3). Pub. L. 111-84, §565(b)(1)(B)(iv), added par. (3).

2008—Subsec. (a)(3), (4). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(b)(2), added pars. (3) and (4).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(b)(3)(A)(i), in second sentence, substituted "subsection (b)(5) or (f) (as appropriate) of section 6383" for "section 6383(b)(5)" and inserted "or under subsection (a)(3)" after "subsection (a)(1)".

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(b)(3)(A)(ii), inserted "or under subsection (a)(3)" after "subsection (a)(1)".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(b)(3)(B), inserted at end "An employee may elect to substitute for leave under subsection (a)(3) any of the employee's accrued or accumulated annual or sick leave under subchapter I for any part of the 26-week period of leave under such subsection."

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 110-181, §585(b)(3)(C), as amended by Pub. L. 110-417, inserted "or under subsection (a)(3)" after "subsection (a)(1)" in par. (1) and in introductory provisions of par. (2).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title X, §1061(b), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4612, provided that the amendment made by section 1061(b)(2) is effective as of Jan. 28, 2008, and as if included in Pub. L. 110-181 as enacted.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 6 months after Feb. 5, 1993, see section 405(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-3, set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 29, Labor.

§ 6383. Certification

(a) An employing agency may require that a request for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 6382(a)(1) be supported by certification issued by the health care provider of the employee or of the son, daughter, spouse, or parent of the employee, as appropriate. The employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the employing agency.

(b) A certification provided under subsection (a) shall be sufficient if it states—

(1) the date on which the serious health condition commenced;

(2) the probable duration of the condition;

(3) the appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition;

(4)(A) for purposes of leave under section 6382(a)(1)(C), a statement that the employee is needed to care for the son, daughter, spouse, or parent, and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee is needed to care for such son, daughter, spouse, or parent; and

(B) for purposes of leave under section 6382(a)(1)(D), a statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of the position of the employee; and

(5) in the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule, for planned medical treatment, the dates

on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment.

(c)(1) In any case in which the employing agency has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided under subsection (a) for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 6382(a)(1), the employing agency may require, at the expense of the agency, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the employing agency concerning any information certified under subsection (b) for such leave.

(2) Any health care provider designated or approved under paragraph (1) shall not be employed on a regular basis by the employing agency.

(d)(1) In any case in which the second opinion described in subsection (c) differs from the original certification provided under subsection (a), the employing agency may require, at the expense of the agency, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the employing agency and the employee concerning the information certified under subsection (b).

(2) The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified under subsection (b) shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the employing agency and the employee.

(e) The employing agency may require, at the expense of the agency, that the employee obtain subsequent recertifications on a reasonable basis.

(f) An employing agency may require that a request for leave under paragraph (1)(E) or (3) of section 6382(a) be supported by a certification issued at such time and in such manner as the Office of Personnel Management may by regulation prescribe.

(Added Pub. L. 103-3, title II, §201(a)(1), Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 21; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §585(b)(3)(D), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 132; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §565(b)(1)(C), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2311.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 111-84 substituted “paragraph (1)(E) or (3) of section 6382(a)” for “section 6382(a)(3)”.

2008—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 110-181 added subsec. (f).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 6 months after Feb. 5, 1993, see section 405(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-3, set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 29, Labor.

§ 6384. Employment and benefits protection

(a) Any employee who takes leave under section 6382 for the intended purpose of the leave shall be entitled, upon return from such leave—

(1) to be restored by the employing agency to the position held by the employee when the leave commenced; or

(2) to be restored to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, status, and other terms and conditions of employment.

(b) The taking of leave under section 6382 shall not result in the loss of any employment benefit accrued prior to the date on which the leave commenced.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by or under law, nothing in this section shall be construed to entitle any restored employee to—

(1) the accrual of any employment benefits during any period of leave; or

(2) any right, benefit, or position of employment other than any right, benefit, or position to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not taken the leave.

(d) As a condition to restoration under subsection (a) for an employee who takes leave under section 6382(a)(1)(D), the employing agency may have a uniformly applied practice or policy that requires each such employee to receive certification from the health care provider of the employee that the employee is able to resume work.

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit an employing agency from requiring an employee on leave under section 6382 to report periodically to the employing agency on the status and intention of the employee to return to work.

(Added Pub. L. 103-3, title II, §201(a)(1), Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 22.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 6 months after Feb. 5, 1993, see section 405(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-3, set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 29, Labor.

§ 6385. Prohibition of coercion

(a) An employee shall not directly or indirectly intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any other employee for the purpose of interfering with the exercise of any rights which such other employee may have under this subchapter.

(b) For the purpose of this section—

(1) the term “intimidate, threaten, or coerce” includes promising to confer or conferring any benefit (such as appointment, promotion, or compensation), or taking or threatening to take any reprisal (such as deprivation of appointment, promotion, or compensation); and

(2) the term “employee” means any “employee”, as defined by section 2105.

(Added Pub. L. 103-3, title II, §201(a)(1), Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 22.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 6 months after Feb. 5, 1993, see section 405(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-3, set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 29, Labor.

§ 6386. Health insurance

An employee enrolled in a health benefits plan under chapter 89 who is placed in a leave status under section 6382 may elect to continue the health benefits enrollment of the employee while in such leave status and arrange to pay currently into the Employees Health Benefits Fund (described in section 8909), the appropriate employee contributions.

(Added Pub. L. 103-3, title II, §201(a)(1), Feb. 5, 1993, 107 Stat. 23.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 6 months after Feb. 5, 1993, see section 405(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-3, set out as a note under section 2601 of Title 29, Labor.