

(d) **COMPETITIVE SERVICE POSITION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “competitive service position” means a position in the competitive service, as defined in section 2102(a)(1) of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 332; amended Pub. L. 105–85, div. A, title X, §1073(a)(34), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1902; Pub. L. 105–261, div. A, title XI, §1106, Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2142.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 105–261 redesignated subsec. (e) as (d) and struck out former subsec. (d) which read as follows:

“(d) **EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a program under which qualified spouses of members of the armed forces shall be given a preference in hiring for the position of child care employee in a position paid from nonappropriated funds if the spouse is among persons determined to be best qualified for the position.

“(2) A spouse who is provided a preference under this subsection at a military child development center may not be precluded from obtaining another preference, in accordance with section 1784 of this title, in the same geographic area as the military child development center.”

1997—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 105–85, §1073(a)(34)(A), struck out comma after “implementing”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 105–85, §1073(a)(34)(B), substituted “section 1784” for “section 1794”.

PORTABILITY OF BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title V, §580(f), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1408, provided that: “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 2019], the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the background investigation and training certification for a child care provider employed by the Department of Defense in a facility of the Department may be transferred to another facility of the Department, without regard to which Secretary of a military department has jurisdiction over either such facility.”

PROVISIONAL OR INTERIM CLEARANCES TO PROVIDE CHILDCARE SERVICES AT MILITARY CHILDCARE CENTERS

Pub. L. 115–232, div. A, title V, §576, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1781, provided that:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall implement a policy to permit the issuance on a provisional or interim basis of clearances for the provision of childcare services at military childcare centers.

“(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The policy required by subsection (a) shall provide for the following:

“(1) Any clearance issued under the policy shall be temporary and contingent upon the satisfaction of such requirements for the issuance of a clearance on a permanent basis as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) Any individual issued a clearance on a provisional or interim basis under the policy shall be subject to such supervision in the provision of childcare services using such clearance as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(c) **CLEARANCE DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘clearance’, with respect to an individual and the provision of childcare services, means the formal approval of the individual, after appropriate background checks and other review, to provide childcare services to children at a military childcare center of the Department of Defense.”

DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR CHILDCARE SERVICES PROVIDERS FOR DEPARTMENT CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS AND EMPLOYEES AT INSTALLATION MILITARY HOUSING OFFICES

Pub. L. 116–92, div. B, title XXX, §3035(c), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1937, provided that: “The Secretary of

Defense shall use the authority in section 559 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 [Pub. L. 115–91, set out below] granted by the amendments made by this section [amending section 559 of Pub. L. 115–91] in a manner consistent with the regulations prescribed for purposes of such section 559 pursuant to subsection (b) of such section 559, without the need to prescribe separate regulations for the use of such authority.”

Pub. L. 115–91, div. A, title V, §559, Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1406, as amended by Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title V, §580(a), div. B, title XXX, §3035(a), (b), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1407, 1937, provided that:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense may appoint, without regard to any provision of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, qualified childcare services providers, and individuals to fill vacancies in installation military housing offices, in the competitive service if the Secretary determines that—

“(1) there is a critical hiring need for childcare services providers for Department of Defense child development centers or for employees at installation military housing offices; and

“(2) there is a shortage of childcare services providers or for installation military housing office employees.

“(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall carry out this section in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

“(c) **DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary shall prescribe the regulations required by subsection (b), and commence implementation of subsection (a), by not later than May 1, 2018.

“(d) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 90 days after the end of each of fiscal years 2019 and 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the use of the appointment authority provided by subsection (a).

“(e) **CHILDCARE SERVICES PROVIDER DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘childcare services provider’ means a person who provides childcare services (including family childcare coordinator services and school age childcare coordinator services) for dependent children of members of the Armed Forces and civilian employees of the Department of Defense in child development centers on Department installations.

“(f) **INSTALLATION MILITARY HOUSING OFFICE DEFINED.**—The term ‘installation military housing office’ means any office whose primary function is performing day-to-day supervision of military housing covered by subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

“(g) **EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.**—The appointment authority provided by subsection (a) expires on September 30, 2021.”

§ 1793. Parent fees

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations establishing fees to be charged parents for the attendance of children at military child development centers. Those regulations shall be uniform for the military departments and shall require that, in the case of children who attend the centers on a regular basis, the fees shall be based on family income.

(b) **LOCAL WAIVER AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may provide authority to installation commanders, on a case-by-case basis, to establish fees for attendance of children at child development centers at rates lower than those prescribed under subsection (a) if the rates prescribed under subsection (a) are not competitive

with rates at local non-military child development centers.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 333.)

§ 1794. Child abuse prevention and safety at facilities

(a) CHILD ABUSE TASK FORCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall maintain a special task force to respond to allegations of widespread child abuse at a military installation. The task force shall be composed of personnel from appropriate disciplines, including, where appropriate, medicine, psychology, and childhood development. In the case of such allegations, the task force shall provide assistance to the commander of the installation, and to parents at the installation, in helping them to deal with such allegations.

(b) NATIONAL HOTLINE.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall maintain a national telephone number for persons to use to report suspected child abuse or safety violations at a military child development center or family home day care site. The Secretary shall ensure that such reports may be made anonymously if so desired by the person making the report. The Secretary shall establish procedures for following up on complaints and information received over that number.

(2) The Secretary shall publicize the existence of the number.

(c) ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations requiring that, in a case of allegations of child abuse at a military child development center or family home day care site, the commander of the military installation or the head of the task force established under subsection (a) shall seek the assistance of local child protective authorities if such assistance is available.

(d) SAFETY REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations on safety and operating procedures at military child development centers. Those regulations shall apply uniformly among the military departments.

(e) INSPECTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require that each military child development center be inspected not less often than four times a year. Each such inspection shall be unannounced. At least one inspection a year shall be carried out by a representative of the installation served by the center, and one inspection a year shall be carried out by a representative of the major command under which that installation operates.

(f) REMEDIES FOR VIOLATIONS.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any violation of a safety, health, or child welfare law or regulation (discovered at an inspection or otherwise) at a military child development center shall be remedied immediately.

(2) In the case of a violation that is not life threatening, the commander of the major command under which the installation concerned operates may waive the requirement that the violation be remedied immediately for a period of up to 90 days beginning on the date of the discovery of the violation. If the violation is not

remedied as of the end of that 90-day period, the military child development center shall be closed until the violation is remedied. The Secretary of the military department concerned may waive the preceding sentence and authorize the center to remain open in a case in which the violation cannot reasonably be remedied within that 90-day period or in which major facility reconstruction is required.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 333.)

§ 1795. Parent partnerships with child development centers

(a) PARENT BOARDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require that there be established at each military child development center a board of parents, to be composed of parents of children attending the center. The board shall meet periodically with staff of the center and the commander of the installation served by the center for the purpose of discussing problems and concerns. The board, together with the staff of the center, shall be responsible for coordinating the parent participation program described in subsection (b).

(b) PARENT PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require the establishment of a parent participation program at each military child development center. As part of such program, the Secretary of Defense may establish fees for attendance of children at such a center, in the case of parents who participate in the parent participation program at that center, at rates lower than the rates that otherwise apply.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 334.)

§ 1796. Subsidies for family home day care

The Secretary of Defense may use appropriated funds available for military child care purposes to provide assistance to family home day care providers so that family home day care services can be provided to members of the armed forces at a cost comparable to the cost of services provided by military child development centers. The Secretary shall prescribe regulations for the provision of such assistance.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 334.)

§ 1797. Early childhood education program

The Secretary of Defense shall require that all military child development centers meet standards of operation necessary for accreditation by an appropriate national early childhood programs accrediting body.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 335.)

§ 1798. Child care services and youth program services for dependents: financial assistance for providers

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may provide financial assistance to an eligible civilian provider of child care services or youth program services that furnishes such services for