

derserved based on the criteria developed under section 401 of this Act [38 U.S.C. 8110 note].”

§ 7694. Specialty education loan repayment

(a) IN GENERAL.—Payments under the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program shall consist of payments for the principal and interest on loans described in section 7682(a)(2) of this title for individuals selected to participate in the Program to the holders of such loans.

(b) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary shall make payments for any given participant in the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program on a schedule determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNT; WAIVER.—(1) The amount of payments made for a participant under the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program may not exceed \$160,000 over a total of 4 years of participation in the Program, of which not more than \$40,000 of such payments may be made in each year of participation in the Program.

(2)(A) The Secretary may waive the limitations under paragraph (1) in the case of a participant described in subparagraph (B). In the case of such a waiver, the total amount of payments payable to or for that participant is the total amount of the principal and the interest on the participant's loans referred to in subsection (a).

(B) A participant described in this subparagraph is a participant in the Program who the Secretary determines serves in a position for which there is a shortage of qualified employees by reason of either the location or the requirements of the position.

(Added Pub. L. 115-182, title III, §303(a), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1465.)

§ 7695. Choice of location

Each participant in the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program who completes residency may select, from a list of medical facilities of the Veterans Health Administration provided by the Secretary, at which such facility the participant will work in a medical specialty described in section 7692 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 115-182, title III, §303(a), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1465.)

§ 7696. Term of obligated service

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any requirements under section 5379(c) of title 5, a participant in the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program must agree, in writing and before the Secretary may make any payment to or for the participant, to—

(1) obtain a license to practice medicine in a State;

(2) successfully complete post-graduate training leading to eligibility for board certification in a specialty;

(3) serve as a full-time clinical practice employee of the Veterans Health Administration for 12 months for every \$40,000 in such benefits that the employee receives, but in no case for fewer than 24 months; and

(4) except as provided in subsection (b), to begin such service as a full-time practice employee by not later than 60 days after completing a residency.

(b) FELLOWSHIP.—In the case of a participant who receives an accredited fellowship in a medical specialty other than a medical specialty described in section 7692 of this title, the Secretary, on written request of the participant, may delay the term of obligated service under subsection (a) for the participant until after the participant completes the fellowship, but in no case later than 60 days after completion of such fellowship.

(c) PENALTY.—(1) An employee who does not complete a period of obligated service under this section shall owe the Federal Government an amount determined in accordance with the following formula: $A = B \times ((T - S) \div T)$.

(2) In the formula in paragraph (1):

(A) “A” is the amount the employee owes the Federal Government.

(B) “B” is the sum of all payments to or for the participant under the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program.

(C) “T” is the number of months in the period of obligated service of the employee.

(D) “S” is the number of whole months of such period of obligated service served by the employee.

(Added Pub. L. 115-182, title III, §303(a), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1465; amended Pub. L. 116-61, §6(8), Sept. 30, 2019, 133 Stat. 1117.)

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 116-61 struck out second closing parenthesis before period at end.

§ 7697. Relationship to Educational Assistance Program

Assistance under the Specialty Education Loan Repayment Program may be in addition to other assistance available to individuals under the Educational Assistance Program.

(Added Pub. L. 115-182, title III, §303(a), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1466.)

CHAPTER 77—VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

SUBCHAPTER I—ORGANIZATION; GENERAL

Sec.
7701. Organization of the Administration.
7703. Functions of the Administration.

SUBCHAPTER II—QUALITY ASSURANCE

7731. Establishment.
7732. Functions.
7732A. Employee certification.
7733. Personnel.
7734. Annual report to Congress.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-389, title II, §225(a)(2), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4158, added item 7732A.

2006—Pub. L. 109-233, title IV, §402(d)(2), June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 411, substituted “QUALITY ASSURANCE” for “VETERANS OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM” in item for subchapter II and struck out former items 7721 “Purpose; definitions”, 7722 “Outreach services”, 7723 “Veterans assistance offices”, 7724 “Outstationing of counseling and outreach personnel”, 7725 “Use of other