

(Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, title I, §107, as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2839; amended Pub. L. 108-454, title VII, §702, Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3624.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 517 of the former Appendix to this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 107 of act Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, art. I, as added Oct. 6, 1942, ch. 581, §4, 56 Stat. 770, related to effect on rights and remedies pursuant to written agreements entered after commencement of military service, prior to the general amendment of this Act by Pub. L. 108-189.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-454, §702(1), inserted after first sentence: “Any such waiver that applies to an action listed in subsection (b) of this section is effective only if it is in writing and is executed as an instrument separate from the obligation or liability to which it applies.”

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 108-454, §702(2), (3), added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to any case not final before Dec. 19, 2003, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-189, set out as a note under section 3901 of this title.

§ 3919. Exercise of rights under chapter not to affect certain future financial transactions

Application by a servicemember for, or receipt by a servicemember of, a stay, postponement, or suspension pursuant to this chapter in the payment of a tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, or other civil obligation or liability of that servicemember shall not itself (without regard to other considerations) provide the basis for any of the following:

- (1) A determination by a lender or other person that the servicemember is unable to pay the civil obligation or liability in accordance with its terms.
- (2) With respect to a credit transaction between a creditor and the servicemember—
 - (A) a denial or revocation of credit by the creditor;
 - (B) a change by the creditor in the terms of an existing credit arrangement; or
 - (C) a refusal by the creditor to grant credit to the servicemember in substantially the amount or on substantially the terms requested.
- (3) An adverse report relating to the creditworthiness of the servicemember by or to a person engaged in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information.
- (4) A refusal by an insurer to insure the servicemember.
- (5) An annotation in a servicemember’s record by a creditor or a person engaged in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information, identifying the servicemember as a member of the National Guard or a reserve component.
- (6) A change in the terms offered or conditions required for the issuance of insurance.

(Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, title I, §108, as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2840.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 518 of the former Appendix to this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 108 of act Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, art. I, as added Pub. L. 102-12, §7, Mar. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 38, related to the effect of certain future financial transactions on the exercise of rights, prior to the general amendment of this Act by Pub. L. 108-189.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to any case not final before Dec. 19, 2003, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-189, set out as a note under section 3901 of this title.

§ 3920. Legal representatives

(a) Representative

A legal representative of a servicemember for purposes of this chapter is either of the following:

- (1) An attorney acting on the behalf of a servicemember.
- (2) An individual possessing a power of attorney.

(b) Application

Whenever the term “servicemember” is used in this chapter, such term shall be treated as including a reference to a legal representative of the servicemember.

(Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, title I, §109, as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2840.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 519 of the former Appendix to this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to any case not final before Dec. 19, 2003, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-189, set out as a note under section 3901 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER II—GENERAL RELIEF

§ 3931. Protection of servicemembers against default judgments

(a) Applicability of section

This section applies to any civil action or proceeding, including any child custody proceeding, in which the defendant does not make an appearance.

(b) Affidavit requirement

(1) Plaintiff to file affidavit

In any action or proceeding covered by this section, the court, before entering judgment for the plaintiff, shall require the plaintiff to file with the court an affidavit—

- (A) stating whether or not the defendant is in military service and showing necessary facts to support the affidavit; or
- (B) if the plaintiff is unable to determine whether or not the defendant is in military service, stating that the plaintiff is unable to determine whether or not the defendant is in military service.

(2) Appointment of attorney to represent defendant in military service

If in an action covered by this section it appears that the defendant is in military service,