

under court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; and

(2) a spouse of a member of the armed forces who is also a member of the armed forces.

(d) **PORTABLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “portable career” includes an occupation identified by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, as requiring education and training that results in a credential that is recognized nationwide by industry or specific businesses.

(e) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to govern the availability and use of assistance under this section. The Secretary shall ensure that programs established under this section do not result in inequitable treatment for spouses of members of the armed forces who are also members, since they are excluded from participation in the programs under subsection (c)(2).

(Added Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, § 582(a), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4473; amended Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, § 576, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1406.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-92 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

#### FIRST EXPANSION OF THE MY CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, § 580F, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1410, as amended by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title V, § 586, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3655, provided that:

“(a) **PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION; ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall modify the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense to ensure that military spouses participating in the program may receive financial assistance for the pursuit or maintenance (including continuing education courses) of a license, certification, or Associate’s degree in any career field or occupation.

“(b) **NATIONAL TESTING.**—Financial assistance under subsection (a) may be applied to the costs of national tests that may earn a participating military spouse course credits required for a degree approved under the program (including the College Level Examination Program tests).”

#### IMPROVEMENT OF MY CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title V, § 574, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1780, provided that:

“(a) **OUTREACH ON AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to ensure that military spouses who are eligible for participation in the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense are, to the extent practicable, made aware of the program.

“(b) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 13, 2018], the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding the following:

“(1) Mechanisms to increase awareness of the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense among military spouses who are eligible to participate in the program.

“(2) Mechanisms to increase participation in the My Career Advancement Account program among

military spouses who are eligible to participate in the program.

“(c) **TRAINING FOR INSTALLATION CAREER COUNSELORS ON PROGRAM.**—The Secretaries of the military departments shall take appropriate actions to ensure that career counselors at military installations receive appropriate training and current information on eligibility for and use of benefits under the My Career Advancement Account program, including financial assistance to cover costs associated with professional recertification, portability of occupational licenses, professional credential exams, and other mechanisms in connection with the portability of professional licenses.”

#### § 1785. Youth sponsorship program

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall require that there be at each military installation a youth sponsorship program to facilitate the integration of dependent children of members of the armed forces into new surroundings when moving to that military installation as a result of a parent’s permanent change of station.

(b) **DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.**—The program at each installation shall provide for involvement of dependent children of members presently stationed at the military installation and shall be directed primarily toward children in their preteen and teenage years.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331.)

#### § 1786. Dependent student travel within the United States

Funds available to the Department of Defense for the travel and transportation of dependent students of members of the armed forces stationed overseas may be obligated for transportation allowances for travel within or between the contiguous States.

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331.)

#### § 1787. Reporting of child abuse

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall request each State to provide for the reporting to the Secretary of any report the State receives of known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect in which the person having care of the child is a member of the armed forces (or the spouse of the member).

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “child abuse and neglect” has the meaning provided in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93-247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(Added Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331; amended Pub. L. 112-239, div. A, title X, § 1076(d)(2), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1951.)