

for the charter air transportation of members of the armed forces.

(g) WAIVER.—After considering recommendations by the Commercial Airlift Review Board, the Secretary may waive any provision of this section in an emergency.

(h) AUTHORITY TO PROTECT SAFETY-RELATED INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED BY AN AIR CARRIER.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of Defense may (notwithstanding any other provision of law) withhold from public disclosure safety-related information that is provided to the Secretary voluntarily by an air carrier for the purposes of this section.

(2) Information may be withheld under paragraph (1) from public disclosure only if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the disclosure of the information would inhibit an air carrier from voluntarily providing, in the future, safety-related information for the purposes of this section or for other air safety purposes involving the Department of Defense or another Federal agency; and

(B) the receipt of such information generally enhances the fulfillment of responsibilities under this section or other air safety responsibilities involving the Department of Defense or another Federal agency.

(3) If the Secretary provides to the head of another agency safety-related information described in paragraph (1) with respect to which the Secretary has made a determination described in paragraph (2), the head of that agency shall (notwithstanding any other provision of law) withhold the information from public disclosure unless the disclosure is specifically authorized by the Secretary.

(i) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section, including requirements and identification of inspecting personnel with respect to preflight safety inspections required by subsection (b)(3).

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The terms “air carrier”, “aircraft”, “air transportation”, and “charter air transportation” have the meanings given such terms by section 40102(a) of title 49.

(2) The term “members of the armed forces” means members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

(Added Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XII, § 1204(a)(1), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3969; amended Pub. L. 103-272, § 5(b)(1), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1373; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, § 1075(a), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1911; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, § 924(b)(1)(P), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3820.)

AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (j)(2). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “Marine Corps, and Space Force” for “and Marine Corps”.
1997—Subsecs. (h) to (j). Pub. L. 105-85 added subsec. (h) and redesignated former subsecs. (h) and (i) as (i) and (j), respectively.

1994—Subsecs. (a)(1)(A), (d)(1)(B)(i). Pub. L. 103-272, § 5(b)(1)(A), substituted “chapter 447 of title 49” for “title VI of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. App. 1421 et seq.)”.

Subsec. (i)(1). Pub. L. 103-272, § 5(b)(1)(B), substituted “section 40102(a) of title 49” for “sections 101(3), 101(5), 101(10), and 101(15), respectively, of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 (49 U.S.C. App. 1301(3), 1301(5), 1301(10), and 1301(15))”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, § 1075(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1911, provided that: “Subsection (h) of section 2640 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to requests for information made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 18, 1997].”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XII, § 1204(c), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3971, provided that: “Section 2640 of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply only to contracts which are entered into on or after the date on which the regulations required by subsection (b) are prescribed [set out below].”

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title XII, § 1204(b), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3971, required Secretary of Defense, not later than 120 days after Nov. 14, 1986, to prescribe regulations required by this section.

§ 2641. Transportation of certain veterans on Department of Defense aeromedical evacuation aircraft

(a) The Secretary of Defense may provide transportation on an aircraft operating under the aeromedical evacuation system of the Department of Defense for the purpose of transporting a veteran to or from a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility or of transporting the remains of a deceased veteran who died at such a facility after being transported to the facility under this subsection. Transportation of the remains of a deceased veteran under this subsection may be provided to the place from which the veteran was transported to the facility or to any other destination which is not farther away from the facility than such place.

(b) Transportation under this section shall be provided in accordance with an agreement entered into between the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such an agreement shall provide that transportation may be furnished to a veteran (or for the remains of a veteran) on an aircraft referred to in subsection (a) only if—

(1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs notifies the Secretary of Defense that the veteran needs or has been furnished medical care or services in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests such transportation in connection with the travel of such veteran (or of the remains of such veteran) to or from the Department of Veterans Affairs facility where the care or services are to be furnished or were furnished to such veteran;

(2) there is space available for the veteran (or the remains of the veteran) on the aircraft; and

(3) there is an adequate number of medical and other service attendants to care for all persons being transported on the aircraft.

(c) A veteran is not eligible for transportation under this section unless the veteran is a primary beneficiary within the meaning of clause (A) of section 8111(g)(5) of title 38.

(d)(1) A charge may not be imposed on a veteran (or on the survivors of a veteran) for transportation provided to the veteran (or for the remains of the veteran) under this section.

(2) An agreement under subsection (b) shall provide that the Department of Veterans Affairs shall reimburse the Department of Defense for any costs incurred in providing transportation to veterans (or for the remains of veterans) under this section that would not otherwise have been incurred by the Department of Defense.

(e) In this section, the term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38.

(Added Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title XII, §1250(a)(1), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1167; amended Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XVI, §1621(a)(1), (2), (8), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1602, 1603; Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title VI, §652(b), title X, §1070(e)(8), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2794, 2859.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(1), inserted before period “or of transporting the remains of a deceased veteran who died at such a facility after being transported to the facility under this subsection. Transportation of the remains of a deceased veteran under this subsection may be provided to the place from which the veteran was transported to the facility or to any other destination which is not farther away from the facility than such place”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(2)(A)(i), inserted “(or for the remains of a veteran)” after “furnished to a veteran” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(2)(A)(ii), inserted “(or of the remains of such veteran)” after “of such veteran”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(2)(A)(iii), inserted “(or the remains of the veteran)” after “for the veteran”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-337, §1070(e)(8), substituted “section 8111(g)(5) of title 38” for “section 5011(g)(5) of title 38”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(2)(B), inserted “(or on the survivors of a veteran)” after “on a veteran” and “(or for the remains of the veteran)” after “to the veteran”.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 103-337, §652(b)(2)(C), inserted “(or for the remains of veterans)” after “to veterans”.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-189, §1621(a)(1), substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-189, §1621(a)(2), substituted “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs” in introductory provisions and in par. (1).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 101-189, §1621(a)(8), substituted “the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests” for “the Administrator requests”.

Pub. L. 101-189, §1621(a)(1), substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration” in two places.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 101-189, §1621(a)(1), substituted “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY INTO TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT

Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title XII, §1250(b), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1168, directed Secretary of Defense and Administrator of Veterans’ Affairs to enter into an agreement required by this section not later than 60 days after Dec. 4, 1987.

§ 2641a. Transportation of American Samoa veterans on Department of Defense aircraft for certain medical care in Hawaii

(a) TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may provide transportation on Department of Defense aircraft for the purpose of transporting any veteran specified in subsection (b) between American Samoa and the State of Hawaii if such transportation is required in order to provide hospital care to such veteran as described in that subsection.

(b) VETERANS ELIGIBLE FOR TRANSPORT.—A veteran eligible for transport under subsection (a) is any veteran who—

(1) resides in and is located in American Samoa; and

(2) as determined by an official of the Department of Veterans Affairs designated for that purpose by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, must be transported to the State of Hawaii in order to receive hospital care to which such veteran is entitled under chapter 17 of title 38 in facilities of such Department in the State of Hawaii.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) Transportation may be provided to veterans under this section only on a space-available basis.

(2) A charge may not be imposed on a veteran for transportation provided to the veteran under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 105-262, title VIII, §8121(a), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2332; amended Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title X, §1066(a)(24), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 771.)

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 106-65, §1066(a)(24)(A), struck out “, United States Code,” after “title 38”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 106-65, §1066(a)(24)(B), struck out heading and text of subsec. (d). Text read as follows: “In this section:

“(1) The term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

“(2) The term ‘hospital care’ has the meaning given that term in section 1701(5) of title 38, United States Code.”

§ 2641b. Space-available travel on Department of Defense aircraft: program authorized and eligible recipients

(a) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Defense may establish a program (in this section referred to as the “travel program”) to provide transportation on Department of Defense aircraft on a space-available basis to the categories of individuals eligible under subsection (c).

(2) If the Secretary makes a determination to establish the travel program, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations for the operation of the travel program not later than one year after the date on which the determination was made. The regulations shall take effect on that date or such earlier date as the Secretary shall specify in the regulations.

(3) Not later than 30 days after making the determination to establish the travel program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees an initial implementation report describing—