

into under subsection (b)(1)(C) does not discharge the person signing the agreement from a debt arising under such agreement or under paragraph (2).

**(i) Regulations**

The Secretary may prescribe such regulations and orders as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry out this section.

**(j) Concurrent completion of service obligations**

A service obligation under this section may be completed concurrently with a service obligation under section 3006 of this title.

(Pub. L. 107-372, title II, §269, as added Pub. L. 116-259, title II, §203(a), Dec. 23, 2020, 134 Stat. 1163.)

**§ 3079-1. Limitation on educational assistance**

**(a) In general**

Each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year in which this Act is enacted, the Secretary of Commerce shall ensure that the total amount expended by the Secretary under section 3077 of this title (as added by section 201(a)), section 3078 of this title (as added by section 202(a)), and section 3079 of this title (as added by section 203(a)) does not exceed the amount by which—

(1) the total amount the Secretary would pay in that fiscal year to officer candidates under section 203(f)(1) of title 37 (as added by section 305(d)), if such section entitled officer candidates to pay at monthly rates equal to the basic pay of a commissioned officer in the pay grade O-1 with less than 2 years of service, exceeds

(2) the total amount the Secretary actually pays in that fiscal year to officer candidates under section 203(f)(1) of such title (as so added).

**(b) Officer candidate defined**

In this section, the term “officer candidate” has the meaning given the term in paragraph (4) of section 3002(b) of this title, as added by section 305(c).

(Pub. L. 116-259, title II, §204, Dec. 23, 2020, 134 Stat. 1165.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The fiscal year in which this Act is enacted, referred to in subsec. (a), means the fiscal year in which Pub. L. 116-259, which added this section, was enacted. Pub. L. 116-259 was approved Dec. 23, 2020.

Sections 201(a), 202(a), 203(a), and 305(c) and (d), referred to in text, mean those respective sections of Pub. L. 116-259.

**CODIFICATION**

Section was enacted as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020, and not as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 3079a. Treatment of commission in commissioned officer corps as employment in Administration for purposes of certain hiring decisions**

**(a) In general**

In any case in which the Secretary accepts an application for a position of employment with the Administration and limits consideration of applications for such position to applications submitted by individuals serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration, the Secretary shall deem an officer who has served as an officer in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration for at least three years to be serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration for purposes of such limitation.

**(b) Career appointments**

If the Secretary selects an application submitted by an officer described in subsection (a) for a position described in such subsection, the Secretary shall give such officer a career or career-conditional appointment in the competitive service, as appropriate.

**(c) Competitive service defined**

In this section, the term “competitive service” has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 107-372, title II, §269A, as added Pub. L. 116-259, title II, §209(a), Dec. 23, 2020, 134 Stat. 1168.)

**CHAPTER 44—OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH**

Sec.	
3101.	Interagency oceans and human health research program.
3102.	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Oceans and Human Health Initiative.
3103.	Public information and outreach.
3104.	Authorization of appropriations.

**§ 3101. Interagency oceans and human health research program**

**(a) Coordination**

The President, through the National Science and Technology Council, shall coordinate and support a national research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health.

**(b) Implementation plan**

Within 1 year after December 8, 2004, the National Science and Technology Council, through the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan for coordinated Federal activities under the program. Nothing in this subsection is intended to duplicate or supersede the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia established under section 4001<sup>1</sup> of this title. In developing the plan, the Committee will consult with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. Such plan will build on

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.