

“(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 pro-

vided 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.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112–239 substituted “section 3” for “section 3(1)” and “Public Law 93–247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note” for “42 U.S.C. 5102”.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TRACKING OF AND RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS OF CHILD ABUSE, ADULT CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN, AND SERIOUS HARMFUL BEHAVIOR BETWEEN CHILDREN AND YOUTH INVOLVING MILITARY DEPENDENTS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title V, § 549B, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3621, provided that:

“(a) IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, consistent with recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States in Government Accountability Office report GAO–20–110, take actions in accordance with this section in order to improve the efforts of the Department of Defense to track and respond to incidents of serious harm to children involving dependents of members of the Armed Forces that occur on military installations (in this section referred to as ‘covered incidents of serious harm to children’).

“(2) SERIOUS HARM TO CHILDREN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘serious harm to children’ includes the following:

“(A) Caregiver child abuse involving physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.

“(B) Non-caregiver adult crimes against children.

“(C) Serious harmful behaviors between children and youth of a physical, sexual, or emotional nature.

“(b) DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING OF INCIDENTS OF HARM TO CHILDREN.—

“(1) NON-CAREGIVER ADULT CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process for the Department of Defense to track reported covered incidents of serious harm to children described in subsection (a)(2)(B) in which the alleged offender is an adult who is not a parent, guardian, or someone in a caregiving role at the time of the incident. The information so tracked shall comport with the information tracked by the Department in reported covered incidents of serious harm to children in which the alleged offender is a parent, guardian, or someone in a caregiving role at the time of the incident.

“(2) SERIOUS HARMFUL BEHAVIORS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain in the Department of Defense a centralized database to track incidents of serious harmful behaviors between children and youth described in subsection (a)(2)(C), including information across the Department on problematic sexual behavior in children and youth that are reported to an appropriate office, as determined by the Secretary, or investigated by a military criminal investigative organization, regardless of whether the alleged offender was another child, an adult, or someone in a non-caregiving role at the time of an incident.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—The centralized database required by this paragraph shall include, for each incident within the database, the following: