

§ 2123. Members of the program: active duty obligation; failure to complete training; release from program

(a) A member of the program incurs an active duty obligation. The amount of his obligation shall be determined under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, but those regulations may not provide for a period of obligation of less than one year for each year of participation in the program.

(b) A period of time spent in military intern or residency training shall not be creditable in satisfying an active duty obligation imposed by this section.

(c) A member of the program who, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, is dropped from the program for deficiency in conduct or studies, or for other reasons, may be required to perform active duty in an appropriate military capacity in accordance with the active duty obligation imposed by this section.

(d) The Secretary of a military department, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, may relieve a member of the program who is dropped from the program from an active duty obligation imposed by this section, but such relief shall not relieve him from any military obligation imposed by any other law.

(e)(1) A member of the program who is relieved of the member's active duty obligation under this subchapter before the completion of that active duty obligation may be given, with or without the consent of the member, any of the following alternative obligations, as determined by the Secretary of the military department concerned:

(A) A service obligation in another armed force for a period of time not less than the member's remaining active duty service obligation.

(B) A service obligation in a component of the Selected Reserve for a period not less than twice as long as the member's remaining active duty service obligation.

(C) Repayment to the Secretary of Defense of a percentage of the total cost incurred by the Secretary under this subchapter on behalf of the member pursuant to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) or 373 of title 37.

(2) In addition to the alternative obligations specified in paragraph (1), if the member is relieved of an active duty obligation by reason of the separation of the member because of a physical disability, the Secretary of the military department concerned may give the member a service obligation as a civilian employee employed as a health care professional in a facility of the uniformed services for a period of time equal to the member's remaining active duty service obligation.

(3) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations describing the manner in which an alternative obligation may be given under this subsection.

(Added Pub. L. 92-426, §2(a), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 718; amended Pub. L. 96-513, title V, §511(67), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2926; Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title VII, §711(a)(2), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1108; Pub. L. 101-597, title IV, §401(b), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 3035; Pub. L. 104-201, div.

A, title VII, §741(a), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2599; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title VI, §687(c)(5), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3334; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title VI, §618(a)(1)(E), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1426.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (e)(1)(C). Pub. L. 115-91 inserted “or 373” before “of title 37”.

2006—Subsec. (e)(1)(C). Pub. L. 109-163 substituted “pursuant to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of title 37.” for “equal to the percentage of the member's total active duty service obligation being relieved, plus interest.”

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-201 amended subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (e) read as follows: “Any member of the program relieved of his active duty obligation under this subchapter before the completion of such obligation may, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, be assigned to a health professional shortage area designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services for a period equal to the period of obligation from which he was relieved.”

1990—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-597 substituted “a health professional shortage area” for “an area of health manpower shortage”.

1987—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 100-180 substituted “subchapter” for “chapter”.

1980—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 96-513 substituted “Secretary of Health and Human Services” for “Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-201 applicable with respect to individuals who first become members of Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance program or students of Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences on or after Oct. 1, 1996, see section 741(c) of Pub. L. 104-201, set out as a note under section 2114 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-513 effective Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701(b)(3) of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

SAVINGS PROVISION

For savings provision relating to payment or repayment of any bonus, incentive pay, special pay, or similar pay obligated to be paid before Apr. 1, 2006, under a provision of this section amended by section 687(c) of Pub. L. 109-163, see section 687(f) of Pub. L. 109-163, set out as a note under section 510 of this title.

TRANSITION PROVISIONS

Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VII, §741(d)(1), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2600, provided that: “In the case of any member of the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance program who, as of October 1, 1996, is serving an active duty obligation under the program or is incurring an active duty obligation as a participant in the program, and who is subsequently relieved of the active duty obligation before the completion of the obligation, the alternative obligations authorized by the amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] may be used by the Secretary of the military department concerned with the agreement of the member.”

§ 2124. Members of the program: numbers appointed

(a) AUTHORIZED NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PROGRAM.—The number of persons who may be

designated as members of the program for training in each health profession shall be as prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, except that the total number of persons so designated may not, at any time, exceed 6,300.

(b) MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—Of the number of persons designated as members of the program at any time, 300 may be members of the program described in section 2121(a)(1)(B) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 92-426, §2(a), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 718; amended Pub. L. 99-145, title VI, §672(i), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 664; Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title VII, §§711(a)(2), 712(b)(1), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1108, 1112; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title VII, §725(g), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1480; Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VII, §717, Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1404; Pub. L. 111-84, div. A, title V, §524(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2285.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2009—Pub. L. 111-84 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, substituted “6,300” for “6,000”, and added subsec. (b).

1991—Pub. L. 102-190 substituted “except that the total number of persons so designated may not, at any time, exceed 6,000.” for “except that—

“(1) the total number of persons so designated in all of the programs authorized by this subchapter shall not, at any time, exceed 6,000; and

“(2) after September 30, 1991, of the total number of persons so designated, at least 2,500 shall be persons—

“(A) who are in the final two years of their course of study; and

“(B) who have agreed to accept, if offered, residency training in a health profession skill which has been designated by the Secretary as a critically needed wartime skill.”

1989—Par. (2). Pub. L. 101-189 inserted “after September 30, 1991,” after “(2)”.

1987—Pub. L. 100-180, §712(b)(1), substituted “except that—” and pars. (1) and (2) for “except that the total number of persons so designated in all of the programs authorized by this subchapter shall not, at any time, exceed 6,000.”

Pub. L. 100-180, §711(a)(2), substituted “subchapter” for “chapter”.

1985—Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “6,000” for “5,000”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-180, div. A, title VII, §712(b)(2), Dec. 4, 1987, 101 Stat. 1112, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1989.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1985 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 99-145, title VI, §672(j), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 664, which provided that amendment made by that section was to take effect on Oct. 1, 1985, was repealed by Pub. L. 100-180, §711(c)(1), (e)(1), eff. Dec. 4, 1987.

REPEALS

The directory language of, but not the amendment made by, Pub. L. 99-145, title VI, §672(i), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 664, cited as a credit to this section, was repealed by Pub. L. 100-180, §711(c)(1), (e)(1), eff. Dec. 4, 1987.

§ 2125. Members of the program: exclusion from authorized strengths

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, members of the program shall not be counted against any prescribed military strengths.

(Added Pub. L. 92-426, §2(a), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 718.)

§ 2126. Members of the program: service credit

(a) SERVICE NOT CREDITABLE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), service performed while a member of the program shall not be counted—

(1) in determining eligibility for retirement other than by reason of a physical disability incurred while on active duty as a member of the program; or

(2) in computing years of service creditable under section 205 of title 37.

(b) SERVICE CREDITABLE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.—(1) The Secretary concerned may authorize service performed by a member of the program in pursuit of a course of study under this subchapter to be counted in accordance with this subsection if the member—

(A) completes the course of study;

(B) completes the active duty obligation imposed under section 2123(a) of this title; and

(C) possesses a specialty designated by the Secretary concerned as critically needed in wartime.

(2) Service credited under paragraph (1) counts only for the award of retirement points for computation of years of service under section 12732 of this title and for computation of retired pay under section 12733 of this title.

(3) The number of points credited to a member under paragraph (1) for a year of participation in a course of study is 50. The points shall be credited to the member for one of the years of that participation at the end of each year after the completion of the course of study that the member serves in the Selected Reserve and is credited under section 12732(a)(2) of this title with at least 50 points. The points credited for the participation shall be recorded in the member's records as having been earned in the year of the participation in the course of study.

(4) Service may not be counted under paragraph (1) for more than four years of participation in a course of study as a member of the program.

(5) A member of the Selected Reserve may be considered to be in an active status while pursuing a course of study under this subchapter only for purposes of sections 12732(a) and 12733(3) of this title.

(6) A member is not entitled to any retroactive award of, or increase in, pay or allowances under title 37 by reason of an award of service credit under paragraph (1).

(Added Pub. L. 92-426, §2(a), Sept. 21, 1972, 86 Stat. 718; amended Pub. L. 96-513, title V, §501(22), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2908; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title V, §543(a), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2521; Pub. L. 106-65, div. A, title V, §544, Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 608.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 106-65, §544(1), added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “Service credited under paragraph (1) counts only for the following purposes:

“(A) Award of retirement points for computation of years of service under section 12732 of this title and