

porting 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.)

Editorial Notes

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”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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.)

Editorial Notes

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—

(A) the basis for the determination;

(B) any additional categories of individuals to be eligible for the travel program under subsection (c)(6);

(C) how the Secretary will ensure that the travel program is established and operated in compliance with the conditions specified in subsection (b); and

(D) the metrics by which the Secretary will monitor the travel program to determine the efficient and effective execution of the travel program.

(b) **CONDITIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION.**—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall operate the travel program in a budget-neutral manner.

(2) No additional funds may be used, or flight hours performed, for the purpose of providing transportation under the travel program.

(c) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary of Defense shall provide transportation under the travel program (if established) to the following categories of individuals:

(1) Members of the armed forces on active duty.

(2) Members of the Selected Reserve who hold a valid Uniformed Services Identification and Privilege Card.

(3) Retired members of a regular or reserve component of the armed forces, including retired members of reserve components who, but for being under the eligibility age applicable under section 12731 of this title, would be eligible for retired pay under chapter 1223 of this title.

(4) Subject to subsection (f), veterans with a permanent service-connected disability rated as total.

(5) Such categories of dependents of individuals described in paragraphs (1) through (3) as the Secretary shall specify in the regulations under subsection (a), under such conditions and circumstances as the Secretary shall specify in such regulations.

(6) Such other categories of individuals as the Secretary, in the discretion of the Secretary, considers appropriate.

(d) **PRIORITIES AND RESTRICTIONS.**—In operating the travel program, the Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) in the sole discretion of the Secretary, establish an order of priority for transportation under the travel program for categories of eligible individuals that is based on considerations of military necessity, humanitarian concerns, and enhancement of morale;

(2) give priority in consideration of transportation under the travel program to the demands of members of the armed forces in the regular components and in the reserve components on active duty and to the need to provide such members, and their dependents, a means of respite from such demands; and

(3) implement policies aimed at ensuring cost control (as required by subsection (b)) and the safety, security, and efficient processing of travelers, including limiting the benefit under the travel program to one or more categories of otherwise eligible individuals if considered necessary by the Secretary.

(e) **SPECIAL PRIORITY FOR RETIRED MEMBERS RESIDING IN COMMONWEALTHS AND POSSESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES WHO NEED CERTAIN HEALTH CARE SERVICES.**—(1) Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1), in establishing space-available transportation priorities under the travel program, the Secretary of Defense shall provide transportation for an individual described in paragraph (2), and a single dependent of the individual if needed to accompany the individual, at a priority level in the same category as the priority level for an unaccompanied dependent over the age of 18 traveling on environmental and morale leave.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), paragraph (1) applies with respect to an individual described in subsection (c)(3) who—

(A) resides in or is located in a Commonwealth or possession of the United States; and

(B) is referred by a military or civilian primary care provider located in that Commonwealth or possession to a specialty care provider for services to be provided outside of that Commonwealth or possession.

(3) If an individual described in subsection (c)(3) is a retired member of a reserve compo-