

Stat. 4682, 4686; Pub. L. 105-368, title VIII, § 805(4), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3359; Pub. L. 115-182, title III, § 303(b)(1)(C), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1466; Pub. L. 116-171, title V, § 502(b)(1)(D), Oct. 17, 2020, 134 Stat. 818.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Pub. L. 116-171 substituted “VIII, or IX” for “or VIII” in pars. (1)(A), (2)(D), and (5).

2018—Pub. L. 115-182 substituted “VI, or VIII” for “or VI” in pars. (1)(A), (2)(D), and (5).

1998—Pub. L. 105-368 substituted “subchapter II, III, V, or VI” for “subchapter II, III, or V” in pars. (1)(A), (2)(D), and (5).

1994—Pub. L. 103-446, § 1201(e)(26), substituted “subchapter II” for “subchapters II” in pars. (1)(A), (2)(D), and (5).

Pub. L. 103-446, § 1201(b)(1), substituted “Veterans Health Administration” for “Department of Medicine and Surgery” in pars. (1)(B) and (2)(D).

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, § 402(b)(1), renumbered section 4304 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” and “Secretary’s” for “Administrator’s” wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 102-40, § 403(b)(3), substituted “7402” for “4105” in par. (1)(B).

1990—Pars. (1)(A), (2)(D), (5). Pub. L. 101-366 substituted “subchapters II, III, or V” for “subchapter II or III”.

SUBCHAPTER II—SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

§ 7611. Authority for program

As part of the Educational Assistance Program, the Secretary shall carry out a scholarship program under this subchapter. The program shall be known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professional Scholarship Program (hereinafter in this chapter referred to as the “Scholarship Program”).

(Added Pub. L. 100-322, title II, § 216(b), May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 520, § 4311; renumbered § 7611, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; amended Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(2)(B)(vi), (b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403-405.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 4311 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” and “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SUBMISSION OF OVERDUE REPORT

Pub. L. 105-114, title II, § 207(b), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2289, required the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress, not later than 180 days after Nov. 21, 1997, the report evaluating the operation of the health professional scholarship program that was required to be submitted not later than Mar. 31, 1997.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Pub. L. 104-110, title II, § 202(b), Feb. 13, 1996, 110 Stat. 770, provided that the Secretary was to submit to Congress, not later than Mar. 31, 1997, a report setting forth the results of a study evaluating the operation of the health professional scholarship program under this subchapter and provided that the study was to evaluate

the efficacy of the program with respect to recruitment and retention of health care personnel for the Department of Veterans Affairs and was to compare the costs and benefits of the program with the costs and benefits of alternative methods of ensuring adequate recruitment and retention of such personnel.

§ 7612. Eligibility; application; agreement

(a)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, an individual must be accepted for enrollment or be enrolled (as described in section 7602 of this title) as a full-time student to be eligible to participate in the Scholarship Program.

(2) An individual who is an eligible Department employee may be accepted as a participant if accepted for enrollment or enrolled (as described in section 7602 of this title) for study on less than a full-time but not less than a half-time basis. (Such a participant is hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as a “part-time student”.)

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2) of this subsection, an eligible Department employee is a full-time Department employee who is permanently assigned to a Department health-care facility on the date on which the individual submits the application referred to in section 7603 of this title and on the date on which the individual becomes a participant in the Scholarship Program.

(b)(1) A scholarship may be awarded under this subchapter only in a qualifying field of education or training.

(2) A qualifying field of education or training for purposes of this subchapter is education or training leading to employment as an appointee under paragraph (1) or (3) of section 7401 of this title.

(3) The Secretary may designate additional fields of education or training as qualifying fields of education or training if the education or training leads to employment in a position which would qualify the individual for increased basic pay under subsection (a)(1) of section 7455 of this title for personnel described in subsection (a)(2)(B) of such section.

(4) Before awarding the initial scholarship in a course of education or training other than medicine or nursing, the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Secretary’s intent to award a scholarship in such course of education or training. The notice shall include a statement of the reasons why the award of scholarships in that course of education or training is necessary to assist in providing the Department with an adequate supply of personnel in the health profession concerned. Any such notice shall be given not less than 60 days before the first such scholarship is awarded.

(5) In selecting applicants for the Scholarship Program, the Secretary—

(A) shall give priority to applicants who will be entering their final year in a course of training;

(B) shall give priority to applicants pursuing a course of education or training toward a career in an occupation for which the Inspector General of the Department has, in the most