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Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, comprising this chapter, was originally enacted as act Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, 54 Stat. 1178, known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, and amended by acts Oct. 6, 1942, ch. 581, 56 Stat. 769; July 3, 1944, ch. 397, 58 Stat. 722; Apr. 3, 1948, ch. 170, 62 Stat. 160; June 23, 1952, ch. 450, 66 Stat. 151; July 11, 1956, ch. 570, 70 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1105; Pub. L. 86-721, Sept. 8, 1960, 74 Stat. 820; Pub. L. 87-771, Oct. 9, 1962, 76 Stat. 768; Pub. L. 89-358, Mar. 3, 1966, 80 Stat. 12; Pub. L. 92-540, Oct. 24, 1972, 86 Stat. 1074; Pub. L. 102-12, Mar. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 34; Pub. L. 104-106, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 186; Pub. L. 107-107, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1012; Pub. L. 107-330, Dec. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 2820. Sections of the act Oct. 17, 1940, are shown herein, however, as having been added by Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2835, without reference to the intervening amendments listed above because of the extensive revision of act Oct. 17, 1940, by Pub. L. 108-189.

Act Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2835, comprising this chapter, was formerly set out in the Appendix to this title, prior to the elimination of the Appendix to this title and the editorial reclassification of the Act as this chapter. For disposition of sections of the former Appendix to this title, see Table II, set out preceding section 1 of this title.

§ 3901. Short title

This chapter may be cited as the "Servicemembers Civil Relief Act".

(Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, §1(a), as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2835.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 501 of the former Appendix to this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1 of act Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, 54 Stat. 1178, provided that this Act could be cited as the Sol-

diers' and Sailors' Relief Act of 1940, prior to the general amendment of this Act by Pub. L. 108-189.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 108-189, §3, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2866, provided that: "The amendment made by section 1 [enacting this chapter] shall apply to any case that is not final before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 19, 2003]."

SHORT TITLE OF 2021 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 116-285, §1, Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4878, provided that: "This Act [amending section 3956 of this title] may be cited as the 'Protecting Families of Fallen Servicemembers Act'."

SHORT TITLE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114-142, §1, Mar. 31, 2016, 130 Stat. 326, provided that: "This Act [amending section 3953 of this title and provisions set out as notes under section 3953 of this title] may be cited as the 'Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2015'."

SHORT TITLE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-286, §1, Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3093, provided that: "This Act [amending provisions set out as notes under section 3953 of this title] may be cited as the 'Foreclosure Relief and Extension for Servicemembers Act of 2014'."

SHORT TITLE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-346, §1, Dec. 29, 2010, 124 Stat. 3622, provided that: "This Act [amending provisions set out as a note under section 3953 of this title] may be cited as the 'Helping Heroes Keep Their Homes Act of 2010'."

SHORT TITLE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-97, §1, Nov. 11, 2009, 123 Stat. 3007, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 3998, 4001, and 4025 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 3998, 4001, and 4025 of this title] may be cited as the 'Military Spouses Residency Relief Act'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-12, §1, Mar. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 34, provided that: "This Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the 'Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act Amendments of 1991'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1942 AMENDMENT

Act Oct. 6, 1942, ch. 581, §1, 56 Stat. 769, provided: "That this Act [see Tables for classification] may be cited as the 'Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act Amendments of 1942'."

§ 3902. Purpose

The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to provide for, strengthen, and expedite the national defense through protection extended by this chapter to servicemembers of the United States to enable such persons to devote their entire energy to the defense needs of the Nation; and

(2) to provide for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service.

(Oct. 17, 1940, ch. 888, §2, as added Pub. L. 108-189, §1, Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2836.)