

gency programs. The Secretary shall consult with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education and with universities with which facilities of the Department have a major affiliation to determine the feasibility and advisability of making telehealth a mandatory component of medical residency programs.

“(2) **TELEMEDICINE DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘telemedicine’ means the use by a health care provider of telecommunications to assist in the diagnosis or treatment of a patient’s medical condition.”

§ 7407. Administrative provisions for section 7405 and 7406 appointments

(a) When the Under Secretary for Health determines that it is not possible to recruit qualified citizens for the necessary services, appointments under sections 7405 and 7406 of this title may be made without regard to the citizenship requirements of section 7402(c) of this title or of any other law prohibiting the employment of, or payment of compensation to, a person who is not a citizen of the United States.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Under Secretary for Health may waive for the purpose of the appointment of an individual under section 7405 or 7406 of this title the requirements set forth in section 7402(b) of this title—

(A) that a physician, dentist, psychologist, optometrist, registered nurse, practical or vocational nurse, or physical therapist be licensed or certified, as appropriate;

(B) that the licensure or certification of such an individual be in a State; and

(C) that a psychologist have completed an internship.

(2) The waivers authorized in paragraph (1) may be granted—

(A) in the case of clauses (A) and (C) of such paragraph, if the individual (i) will be employed to conduct research or serve in an academic position, and (ii) will have no responsibility for furnishing direct patient care services; and

(B) in the case of clause (B) of such paragraph, if the individual will be employed to serve in a country other than the United States and the individual’s licensure or registration is in the country in which the individual is to serve.

(c) The program of training prescribed by the Secretary in order to qualify a person for the position of full-time physician assistant or expanded-function dental auxiliary shall be considered a full-time institutional program for purposes of chapter 34 of this title. The Secretary may consider training for such a position to be on a less than full-time basis for purposes of such chapter when the combined classroom (and other formal instruction) portion of the program and the on-the-job training portion of the program total less than 30 hours per week.

(d) A person may not be appointed under section 7405 or 7406 of this title to an occupational category described in section 7401(1) of this title or in section 7406 of this title unless the person meets the requirements established in section 7402(d) of this title and regulations prescribed under that section.

(e) In accordance with the provisions of section 7425(b) of this title, the provisions of chapter 34 of title 5 pertaining to part-time career

employment shall not apply to part-time appointments under sections 7405 and 7406 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 102–40, title IV, § 401(b)(2), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 228; amended Pub. L. 102–405, title III, § 302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4114(c)–(g) of this title prior to the repeal of that section as part of the complete revision of chapter 73 of this title by Pub. L. 102–40.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Subsecs. (a), (b)(1). Pub. L. 102–405 substituted “Under Secretary for Health” for “Chief Medical Director”.

§ 7408. Appointment of additional employees

(a) There shall be appointed by the Secretary under civil service laws, rules, and regulations, such additional employees, other than those provided in section 7306 and paragraphs (1) and (3) of section 7401 of this title and those specified in sections 7405 and 7406 of this title, as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

(b) The Secretary, after considering an individual’s existing pay, higher or unique qualifications, or the special needs of the Department, may appoint the individual to a position in the Administration providing direct patient-care services or services incident to direct patient-services at a rate of pay above the minimum rate of the appropriate grade.

(Added Pub. L. 102–40, title IV, § 401(b)(2), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 229; amended Pub. L. 103–446, title XII, § 1201(e)(21), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4686.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4111 of this title prior to the repeal of that section as part of the complete revision of chapter 73 of this title by Pub. L. 102–40.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103–446 substituted “civil service” for “civil-service”.

§ 7409. Contracts for scarce medical specialist services

(a) The Secretary may enter into contracts with institutions and persons described in subsection (b) to provide scarce medical specialist services at Department facilities. Such services may include the services of physicians, dentists, podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors, nurses, physician assistants, expanded-function dental auxiliaries, technicians, and other medical support personnel.

(b) Institutions and persons with whom the Secretary may enter into contracts under subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Schools and colleges of medicine, osteopathy, dentistry, podiatry, optometry, and nursing.

(2) Clinics.

(3) Any other group or individual capable of furnishing such scarce medical specialist services.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 401(b)(2), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 229; amended Pub. L. 108-170, title III, § 302(f), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2058.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4117 of this title prior to the repeal of that section as part of the complete revision of chapter 73 of this title by Pub. L. 102-40.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-170 inserted “chiropractors,” after “optometrists,” in second sentence.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-170 effective at end of 180-day period beginning on Dec. 6, 2003, see section 302(h) of Pub. L. 108-170, set out as a note under section 7316 of this title.

§ 7410. Additional pay authorities

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary may authorize the Under Secretary for Health to pay advance payments, recruitment or relocation bonuses, and retention allowances to personnel appointed under section 7306 of this title or section 7401(4) of this title, or personnel described in section 7401(1) of this title,¹ or interview expenses to candidates for appointment as such personnel, in a manner consistent with the authority provided under sections 5524a, 5706b, 5753, and 5754 of title 5.

(2) Payments under paragraph (1) shall not be considered in calculating the limitation under section 7431(e)(4) of this title.

(b) SPECIAL INCENTIVE PAY FOR DEPARTMENT PHARMACIST EXECUTIVES.—(1) In order to recruit and retain highly qualified Department pharmacist executives, the Secretary may authorize the Under Secretary for Health to pay special incentive pay of not more than \$40,000 per year to an individual of the Veterans Health Administration who is a pharmacist executive.

(2) In determining whether and how much special pay to provide to such individual, the Under Secretary shall consider the following:

(A) The grade and step of the position of the individual.

(B) The scope and complexity of the position of the individual.

(C) The personal qualifications of the individual.

(D) The characteristics of the labor market concerned.

(E) Such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) Special incentive pay under paragraph (1) for an individual is in addition to all other pay (including basic pay) and allowances to which the individual is entitled.

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (5), special incentive pay under paragraph (1) for an indi-

vidual shall be considered basic pay for all purposes, including retirement benefits under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, and other benefits.

(5) Special incentive pay under paragraph (1) for an individual shall not be considered basic pay for purposes of adverse actions under subchapter V of this chapter.

(6) Special incentive pay under paragraph (1) may not be awarded to an individual in an amount that would result in an aggregate amount of pay (including bonuses and awards) received by such individual in a year under this title that is greater than the annual pay of the President.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, § 103(a)[(1)], May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 198; amended Pub. L. 102-405, title III, § 302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984; Pub. L. 111-163, title VI, § 601(e), May 5, 2010, 124 Stat. 1169; Pub. L. 117-168, title IX, § 906(c)(3), Aug. 10, 2022, 136 Stat. 1813.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-168 designated existing provisions as par. (1), substituted “personnel appointed under section 7306 of this title or section 7401(4) of this title, or personnel described in section 7401(1) of this title,” for “the personnel described in paragraph (1) of section 7401 of this title” and “in a manner consistent with” for “in the same manner, and subject to the same limitations, as in the case of”, and added par. (2).

2010—Pub. L. 111-163 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

1992—Pub. L. 102-405 substituted “Under Secretary for Health” for “Chief Medical Director”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TREATMENT OF PAY AUTHORITY CHANGES

Pub. L. 117-168, title IX, § 906(c)(4), Aug. 10, 2022, 136 Stat. 1813, provided that: “For the purposes of the amendments made by paragraph (3) [amending this section], the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall treat any award or payment made by the Secretary between January 1, 2017, and the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 10, 2022] to employees appointed under sections 7306, 7401(1), and 7401(4) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary has determined are of equivalent rank to a Senior Executive Service position (as such term is defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code), as if such amendments had been in effect at the time of such award or payment.”

§ 7411. Full-time board-certified physicians and dentists: reimbursement of continuing professional education expenses

The Secretary shall reimburse any full-time board-certified physician or dentist appointed under section 7401(1) of this title for expenses incurred, up to \$1,000 per year, for continuing professional education.

(Added Pub. L. 102-40, title I, § 103(a)[(1)], May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 199.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 102-40, title I, § 103(b), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 199, provided that: “Section 7411 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to expenses incurred for continuing professional education that is pursued after September 30, 1991.”

¹ So in original.