

policies and programs for military dependent students with special needs.

“(3) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than March 31, 2021, the Comptroller General of the United States shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing and a report [on] the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘free appropriate public education’ has the meaning given that term in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401).

“(2) The term ‘local educational agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

“(3) The term ‘special education dispute’ means a complaint filed regarding the education provided to a child with a disability (as defined in section 602 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401)), including a complaint filed in accordance with section 615 or 639 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1415, 1439).”

FOUNDATION FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, § 563(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2307, provided that:

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may establish a foundation for the provision of assistance to the Department of Defense in providing support to military families with special needs.

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the foundation shall be to assist the Department of Defense as follows:

“(A) In conducting outreach to identify military families with special needs.

“(B) In developing programs to support and provide services to military families with special needs.

“(C) In developing educational curricula for the training of professional and paraprofessional personnel providing support and services on special needs to military families with special needs.

“(D) In conducting research on the following:

“(i) The unique factors associated with a military career (including deployments of members of the Armed Forces) and their effects on families and individuals with special needs.

“(ii) Evidence-based therapeutic and medical services for members of military families with special needs, including research in conjunction with non-Department of Defense entities such as the National Institutes of Health.

“(E) In providing vocational education and training for adolescent and adult members of military families with special needs.

“(F) In carrying out other initiatives to contribute to improved support for military families with special needs.

“(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDING.—The Secretary may provide the foundation such financial support as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the provision to the foundation of appropriated funds and non-appropriated funds available to the Department of Defense.

“(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—The foundation shall submit to the Secretary, and to the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives], each year a report on its activities under this subsection during the preceding year. Each report shall include, for the year covered by such report, the following:

“(A) A description of the programs and activities of the foundation.

“(B) The budget of the foundation, including the sources of any funds provided to the foundation.

“(5) MILITARY FAMILY WITH SPECIAL NEEDS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘military family with special needs’ has the meaning given such term in section 1781c(i) of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)).”

MILITARY DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CENTERS TO ASSIST MILITARY CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, § 563(c), as added Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title V, § 582(c)(2), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4227, provided that: “The Secretary of a military department may establish or support centers on or in the vicinity of military installations under the jurisdiction of such Secretary to coordinate and provide medical and educational services for children with special needs of members of the Armed Forces who are assigned to such installations.”

ADVISORY PANEL ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR MILITARY FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title V, § 563(d), as added by Pub. L. 111–383, div. A, title V, § 582(c)(2), Jan. 7, 2011, 124 Stat. 4227; amended by Pub. L. 117–81, div. A, title V, § 562(a), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 1746, provided that:

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection [Jan. 7, 2011], the Secretary of Defense shall establish an advisory panel on community support for military families with special needs.

“(2) MEMBERS.—The advisory panel shall consist of nine individuals, appointed by the Secretary of Defense, who are each a member of a military family with special needs. In appointing individuals to the panel, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(A) one individual is the spouse of an enlisted member;

“(B) one individual is the spouse of an officer in a grade below O-6;

“(C) one individual is a junior enlisted member;

“(D) one individual is a junior officer;

“(E) individuals reside in different geographic regions;

“(F) one individual is a member serving at a remote installation or is a member of the family of such a member; and

“(G) at least two individuals are members serving on active duty, each with a dependent who—

“(i) is enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program; and

“(ii) has an individualized education program.

“(3) DUTIES.—The advisory panel shall—

“(A) provide informed advice to the Director of the Office of Community Support for Military Families With Special Needs [now Office of Special Needs] on the implementation of the policy required by subsection (e) [now (d)] of section 1781c of title 10, United States Code, and on the discharge of the programs required by subsection (f) [now (e)] of such section;

“(B) assess and provide information to the Director on services and support for children with special needs that is available from other departments and agencies of the Federal Government and from State and local governments; and

“(C) otherwise advise and assist the Director in the discharge of the duties of the Office of Community Support for Military Families With Special Needs in such manner as the Secretary of Defense and the Director jointly determine appropriate.

“(4) MEETINGS.—The Director shall meet with the advisory panel at such times, and with such frequency, as the Director considers appropriate. The Director shall meet with the panel at least once each year. The Director may meet with the panel through teleconferencing or by other electronic means.”

§ 1782. Surveys of military families

(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal programs relating to military families and the need for new programs, may conduct surveys of—

- (1) members of the armed forces who are on active duty, in an active status, or retired;
- (2) family members of such members; and

(3) survivors of deceased retired members and of members who died while on active duty.

(b) **RESPONSES TO BE VOLUNTARY.**—Responses to surveys conducted under this section shall be voluntary.

(c) **FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS.**—With respect to a survey authorized under subsection (a) that includes a person referred to in that subsection who is not an employee of the United States or is not otherwise considered an employee of the United States for the purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44, the person shall be considered as being an employee of the United States for the purposes of that section.

(d) **SURVEY REQUIRED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010.**—Notwithstanding subsection (a), during fiscal year 2010, the Secretary of Defense shall conduct a survey otherwise authorized under such subsection. Thereafter, additional surveys may be conducted not less often than once every three fiscal years.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 330; amended Pub. L. 107–107, div. A, title V, § 572, Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1122; Pub. L. 110–181, div. A, title V, § 581(c), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 122.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110–181 added subsec. (d).

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107–107, § 572(a), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Text read as follows: “The Secretary of Defense may conduct surveys of members of the armed forces on active duty or in an active status, members of the families of such members, and retired members of the armed forces to determine the effectiveness of Federal programs relating to military families and the need for new programs.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107–107, § 572(b), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Text read as follows: “With respect to such surveys, family members of members of the armed forces and reserve and retired members of the armed forces shall be considered to be employees of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.”

§ 1783. Family members serving on advisory committees

A committee within the Department of Defense which advises or assists the Department in the performance of any function which affects members of military families and which includes members of military families in its membership shall not be considered an advisory committee under section 1001(2) of title 5 solely because of such membership.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, § 568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 330; amended Pub. L. 117–286, § 4(a)(50), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4311.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2022—Pub. L. 117–286 substituted “section 1001(2) of title 5” for “section 3(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)”.

§ 1784. Employment opportunities for military spouses

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President shall order such measures as the President considers nec-

essary to increase employment opportunities for spouses of members of the armed forces. Such measures may include—

(1) excepting, pursuant to section 3302 of title 5, from the competitive service positions in the Department of Defense located outside of the United States to provide employment opportunities for qualified spouses of members of the armed forces in the same geographical area as the permanent duty station of the members; and

(2) providing preference in hiring for positions in nonappropriated fund activities to qualified spouses of members of the armed forces stationed in the same geographical area as the nonappropriated fund activity for positions in wage grade UA–8 and below and equivalent positions and for positions paid at hourly rates.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations—

(1) to implement such measures as the President orders under subsection (a);

(2) to provide preference to qualified spouses of members of the armed forces in hiring for any civilian position in the Department of Defense if the spouse is among persons determined to be best qualified for the position and if the position is located in the same geographical area as the permanent duty station of the member;

(3) to ensure that notice of any vacant position in the Department of Defense is provided in a manner reasonably designed to reach spouses of members of the armed forces whose permanent duty stations are in the same geographic area as the area in which the position is located; and

(4) to ensure that the spouse of a member of the armed forces who applies for a vacant position in the Department of Defense shall, to the extent practicable, be considered for any such position located in the same geographic area as the permanent duty station of the member.

(c) **STATUS OF PREFERENCE ELIGIBLES.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to provide a spouse of a member of the armed forces with preference in hiring over an individual who is a preference eligible.

(d) **SPACE-AVAILABLE USE OF FACILITIES FOR SPOUSE TRAINING PURPOSES.**—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department may make available to a non-Department of Defense entity space in non-excess facilities controlled by that Secretary for the purpose of the non-Department of Defense entity providing employment-related training for military spouses.

(e) **EMPLOYMENT BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Secretary of Defense shall work with the Director of the Office of Personnel Management and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies to expand and facilitate the use of existing Federal programs and resources in support of military spouse employment.

(f) **PRIVATE-SECTOR EMPLOYMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense—

(1) shall seek to develop partnerships with firms in the private sector to enhance employment opportunities for spouses of members of