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expiration of five months after the date of the enactment of this amendment to this amendatory proviso and the policy has not been continued in another form of Government insurance such policy may be renewed as of the date of its expiration on the same conditions upon payment of the back premiums within five months after such date of enactment; and the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs shall cause notice to be mailed to the holder of any such policy of the provisions of this amendment to this amendatory proviso."

Notice to holder.

Approved April 15, 1947.

[CHAPTER 35]

AN ACT

April 15, 1947
[H. R. 1713]
[Public Law 35]

To provide for the promotion of substitute employees in the postal service, and for other purposes.

Postal service.
Promotion of substitute employees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all substitute employees in the postal service shall be promoted successively at the beginning of the quarter following one year's satisfactory service in each grade until they reach the maximum grade authorized for the respective assignment, without regard to the number of hours they are actually employed in the postal service during the year.

Service credit.

SEC. 2. Each substitute employee in the postal service shall, for promotional and leave purposes, receive credit for one-twelfth of a year for each whole calendar month that the substitute employee has been on the rolls as a substitute since his last promotion as a substitute or appointment as a substitute, whichever is later: *Provided*, That when a regular employee has been reduced to a substitute position, the months of service as a regular employee shall be included with the months served as a substitute to determine the date he will be eligible for automatic promotion under section 1 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the automatic promotion of a substitute employee in the postal service shall be withheld (1) for three months when such employee is absent on leave without pay and not available for duty for ninety days during a calendar year; (2) for six months when such employee is absent on leave without pay and not available for duty for one hundred and eighty days during a calendar year; (3) for nine months when such employee is absent on leave without pay and not available for duty for two hundred and seventy days during a calendar year; and (4) for one year when such employee is absent on leave without pay and not available for duty for three hundred and sixty days during a calendar year.

Regular employee reduced to substitute position.

Withholding of automatic promotion.

60 Stat. 35.
39 U. S. C. § 862a.

SEC. 3. Section 1 of the Act of March 6, 1946 (Public Law 317, Seventy-ninth Congress), entitled "An Act to provide credit for past service to substitute employees of the postal service when appointed to regular positions; to extend annual and sick-leave benefits to war-service indefinite substitute employees; to fix the rate of compensation for temporary substitute rural carriers serving in the place of regular carriers in the armed forces; and for other purposes", is amended to read as follows:

Computation of service upon appointment to regular position.

"Upon appointment to a regular position in the Postal Service, any employee who was a substitute in the Postal Service prior to July 1, 1945, shall receive credit for actual substitute service including time served as a special-delivery messenger, performed prior to July 1, 1945, computed on the basis of one year for each unit of two thousand four hundred and forty-eight hours of service, but such credit shall not exceed four years. The credit thus computed shall be added to credit for the time the employee has been on the rolls as a substitute employee in the Postal Service on and after July 1, 1945, computed

on the basis of one-twelfth of a year for each whole calendar month that the employee has been on the rolls. Upon the appointment of any such employee to a regular position he shall be placed in the salary grade to which he would have progressed had his original appointment been made to a regular position of grade 1, plus four grades, and the progression shall be computed on the basis of years of substitute service as herein provided. Any fractional part of a year's substitute service accumulated since the last compensation increase as a substitute shall be included with the regular service as a regular employee in determining eligibility for promotion to the next higher grade following appointment to a regular position: *Provided*, That no substitute shall be appointed to a higher grade of a regular position than the highest grade to which employees may progress through annual promotions: *Provided further*, That upon appointment of a substitute employee to a regular position he shall not be placed in or promoted to a grade higher than the grade to which he would have progressed, including benefits authorized by section 23 of Public Law 134, approved July 6, 1945, had his original appointment been to a regular position of grade 1: *And provided further*, That employees shall not be allowed credit for service performed under temporary or war-service appointments except when such service is continuous to the date of appointment as a classified substitute or regular employee."

Restrictions.

59 Stat. 460.
39 U. S. C. § 873.

Approved April 15, 1947.

[CHAPTER 38]

AN ACT

To establish a permanent Nurse Corps of the Army and the Navy and to establish a Women's Medical Specialist Corps in the Army.

April 16, 1947
[H. R. 1943]
[Public Law 36]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be cited as the "Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947".

Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947.

TITLE I

ARMY NURSES AND WOMEN'S MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS

SEC. 101. (a) Effective the date of enactment of this Act, there is established in the Medical Department of the Regular Army an Army Nurse Corps, which shall perform such services as may be prescribed by the Secretary of War. The authorized strength of the Army Nurse Corps, Regular Army, shall be in the ratio of six members thereof to every one thousand persons of the total authorized strength of the Regular Army, but not less than a minimum authorized strength of two thousand five hundred and fifty-eight members. The Army Nurse Corps, Regular Army, shall consist of officers in the grades of second lieutenant to lieutenant colonel, inclusive: *Provided*, That the number of lieutenant colonels on active duty shall at no time exceed seven-tenths per centum, and the number of majors on active duty shall at no time exceed $1\frac{6}{10}$ per centum, of the authorized Regular Army officer strength of such corps.

Army Nurse Corps.

Authorized strength.

Members; grades.

Restrictions.

(b) From the officers permanently commissioned in such Army Nurse Corps, in permanent grade of major or above, and upon the recommendation of the Surgeon General of the Army, the Secretary of War shall appoint the Chief of the Army Nurse Corps, who shall serve as such Chief during his pleasure for a term not to exceed four years and shall not be reappointed, and who, without vacation of her permanent grade, shall have the temporary rank, pay, and allowances of a colonel while so serving.

Chief of Army Nurse Corps.