

§ 9814. Qualifications pay

(a) Notwithstanding section 5334, the Administrator may set the pay of an employee paid under the General Schedule at any step within the pay range for the grade of the position, if such employee—

- (1) possesses unusually high or unique qualifications; and
- (2) is assigned—
 - (A) new duties, without a change of position; or
 - (B) to a new position.

(b) If an exercise of the authority under this section relates to a current employee selected for another position within the Administration, a determination shall be made that the employee's contribution in the new position will exceed that in the former position, before setting pay under this section.

(c) Pay as set under this section is basic pay for such purposes as pay set under section 5334.

(d) If the employee serves for at least 1 year in the position for which the pay determination under this section was made, or a successor position, the pay earned under such position may be used in succeeding actions to set pay under chapter 53.

(e) Before setting any employee's pay under this section, the Administrator shall submit a plan to the Office of Personnel Management and the appropriate committees of Congress, that includes—

- (1) criteria for approval of actions to set pay under this section;
- (2) the level of approval required to set pay under this section;
- (3) all types of actions and positions to be covered;
- (4) the relationship between the exercise of authority under this section and the use of other pay incentives; and
- (5) a process to evaluate the effectiveness of this section.

(Added Pub. L. 108-201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 474.)

Editorial Notes**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (a), is set out under section 5332 of this title.

§ 9815. Reporting requirement

The Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, not later than February 28 of each of the next 6 years beginning after the date of enactment of this chapter, a report that provides the following:

- (1) A summary of all bonuses paid under subsections (b) and (c) of section 9804 during the preceding fiscal year. Such summary shall include the total amount of bonuses paid, the total number of bonuses paid, the percentage of the amount of bonuses awarded to supervisors and management officials, and the average percentage used to calculate the total average bonus amount, under each of those subsections.
- (2) A summary of all bonuses paid under subsections (b) and (c) of section 9805 during the

preceding fiscal year. Such summary shall include the total amount of bonuses paid, the total number of bonuses paid, the percentage of the amount of bonuses awarded to supervisors and management officials, and the average percentage used to calculate the total average bonus amount, under each of those subsections.

(3) The total number of term appointments converted during the preceding fiscal year under section 9806 and, of that total number, the number of conversions that were made to address a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2).

(4) The number of positions for which the rate of basic pay was fixed under section 9807 during the preceding fiscal year, the number of positions for which the rate of basic pay under such section was terminated during the preceding fiscal year, and the number of times the rate of basic pay was fixed under such section to address a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2).

(5) The number of scholarships awarded under section 9809 during the preceding fiscal year and the number of scholarship recipients appointed by the Administration during the preceding fiscal year.

(6) The total number of distinguished scholar appointments made under section 9810 during the preceding fiscal year and, of that total number, the number of appointments that were made to address a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2).

(7) The average amount paid per appointee, and the largest amount paid to any appointee, under section 9811 during the preceding fiscal year for travel and transportation expenses.

(8) The total number of employees who were awarded enhanced annual leave under section 9812 during the preceding fiscal year; of that total number, the number of employees who were serving in a position addressing a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2); and, for employees in each of those respective groups, the average amount of additional annual leave such employees earned in the preceding fiscal year (over and above what they would have earned absent section 9812).

(9) The total number of appointments made under section 9813 during the preceding fiscal year and, of that total number, the number of appointments that were made to address a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2).

(10) The number of employees for whom the Administrator set the pay under section 9814 during the preceding fiscal year and the number of times pay was set under such section to address a critical need described in the workforce plan pursuant to section 9802(b)(2).

(11) A summary of all recruitment, relocation, redesignation, and retention bonuses paid under authorities other than this chapter and excluding the authorities provided in sections 5753 and 5754 of this title, during the preceding fiscal year. Such summary shall include, for each type of bonus, the total amount of bonuses paid, the total number of bonuses

paid, the percentage of the amount of bonuses awarded to supervisors and management officials, and the average percentage used to calculate the total average bonus amount.

(Added Pub. L. 108–201, §3(a), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 475.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of this chapter, referred to in introductory provisions, is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 108–201, which was approved Feb. 24, 2004.

CHAPTER 99—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES

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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115–232, div. A, title XI, §1101(b), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2000, added item 9905.

2011—Pub. L. 112–81, div. A, title XI, §1101(d)(1), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1610, amended chapter heading generally, substituting “DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES” for “DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE NATIONAL SECURITY PERSONNEL SYSTEM”.

2009—Pub. L. 111–84, div. A, title XI, §1113(f)(2), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2502, added item 9902 and struck out former item 9902 “Establishment of human resources management system”.

§ 9901. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management; and

(2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Defense.

(Added Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title XI, §1101(a)(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1621.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

IMPACT ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

Pub. L. 108–136, div. A, title XI, §1101(b), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1633, provided that:

“(1) Any exercise of authority under chapter 99 of such title [this chapter] (as added by subsection (a)), including under any system established under such chapter, shall be in conformance with the requirements of this subsection.

“(2) No other provision of this Act [see Tables for classification] or of any amendment made by this Act may be construed or applied in a manner so as to limit, supersede, or otherwise affect the provisions of this section [enacting this chapter], except to the extent that it does so by specific reference to this section.”

§ 9902. Department of Defense personnel authorities

(a) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND WORKFORCE INCENTIVES.—(1) The Secretary, in coordination with the Director, shall promulgate regulations providing for the following:

(A) A fair, credible, and transparent performance appraisal system for employees.

(B) A fair, credible, and transparent system for linking employee bonuses and other performance-based actions to performance appraisals of employees.

(C) A process for ensuring ongoing performance feedback and dialogue among supervisors, managers, and employees throughout the appraisal period and setting timetables for review.

(D) Development of attractive career paths.

(E) Development of “performance assistance plans” that are designed to give employees formal training, on-the-job training, counseling, mentoring, and other assistance.

(2) In developing the regulations required by this subsection, the Secretary, in coordination with the Director, may waive the requirements of chapter 43 (other than sections 4302 and 4303(e)) and the regulations implementing such chapter, to the extent necessary to achieve the objectives of this subsection.

(3)(A) The Secretary may establish a fund, to be known as the “Department of Defense Civilian Workforce Incentive Fund” (in this paragraph referred to as the “Fund”).

(B) The Fund shall consist of the following:

(i) Amounts appropriated to the Fund.

(ii) Amounts available for compensation of employees that are transferred to the Fund.

(C) Amounts in the Fund shall be available for the following:

(i) Incentive payments for employees based on team or individual performance (which payments shall be in addition to basic pay).

(ii) Incentive payments to attract or retain employees with particular or superior qualifications or abilities.

(D) The authority provided in this paragraph is in addition to, and does not supersede or replace, any authority or source of funding otherwise available to the Secretary to pay bonuses or make incentive payments to civilian employees of the Department.

(4)(A) Any action taken by the Secretary under this subsection, or to implement this subsection, shall be subject to the requirements of subsection (c) and chapter 71.

(B) Any rules or regulations promulgated pursuant to this subsection shall be deemed an agency rule or regulation under section 7117(a)(2), and shall not be deemed a Government-wide rule or regulation under section 7117(a)(1).

(b) FLEXIBILITIES RELATING TO APPOINTMENTS.—(1) The Secretary, in coordination with the Director, shall promulgate regulations to redesign the procedures which are applied by the Department of Defense in making appointments to positions within the competitive service in order to—

(A) better meet mission needs;

(B) respond to managers’ needs and the needs of applicants;

(C) produce high-quality applicants;

(D) support timely decisions;

(E) uphold appointments based on merit system principles; and

(F) promote competitive job offers.