

university, or technical school in the United States that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse; or

(B) the education prerequisites and professional licensure or credential required, by a government or government sanctioned licensing body, for an occupation that expands employment and portable career opportunities for the spouse.

(2) As an alternative to, or in addition to, establishing a program under this subsection, the Secretary may provide tuition assistance to an eligible spouse who is pursuing education, training, or a license or credential to expand the spouse's employment and portable career opportunities.

(b) **ELIGIBLE SPOUSES.**—(1) Assistance under this section is limited to a spouse of a member of the armed forces who is serving on active duty.

(2) A spouse who is eligible for a program under this section and begins a course of education or training for a degree, license, or credential described in subsection (a) may not become ineligible to complete such course of education or training solely because the member to whom the spouse is married is promoted to a higher grade.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—Subsection (b) does not include—

(1) a person who is married to, but legally separated from, a member of the armed forces under court order or statute of any State or territorial possession of the United States; and

(2) a spouse of a member of the armed forces who is also a member of the armed forces.

(d) **DOULA AND IBCLC CERTIFICATIONS.**—In carrying out the programs authorized by subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide assistance to the spouse of a member of the armed forces described in subsection (b) with obtaining certification—

(1) as a doula or International Board Certified Lactation Consultant; and

(2) provided by an organization that receives reimbursement under the extramedical maternal health providers demonstration project required by section 746 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note).

(e) **PORTABLE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “portable career” includes an occupation identified by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, as requiring education and training that results in a credential that is recognized nationwide by industry or specific businesses.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to govern the availability and use of assistance under this section. The Secretary shall ensure that programs established under this section do not result in inequitable treatment for spouses of members of the armed forces who are also members, since they are excluded from participation in the programs under subsection (c)(2).

(Added Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title V, §582(a), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4473; amended Pub. L.

116-92, div. A, title V, §576, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1406; Pub. L. 118-31, div. A, title VI, §634, Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 297.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2023—Subsecs. (d) to (f). Pub. L. 118-31 added subsec. (d) and redesignated former subsecs. (d) and (e) as (e) and (f), respectively.

2019—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-92 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

FIRST EXPANSION OF THE MY CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, §580F, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1410, as amended by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title V, §586, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3655, provided that:

“(a) **PROFESSIONAL LICENSE OR CERTIFICATION; ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall modify the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense to ensure that military spouses participating in the program may receive financial assistance for the pursuit or maintenance (including continuing education courses) of a license, certification, or Associate's degree in any career field or occupation.

“(b) **NATIONAL TESTING.**—Financial assistance under subsection (a) may be applied to the costs of national tests that may earn a participating military spouse course credits required for a degree approved under the program (including the College Level Examination Program tests).”

IMPROVEMENT OF MY CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACCOUNT PROGRAM FOR MILITARY SPOUSES

Pub. L. 115-232, div. A, title V, §574, Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 1780, provided that:

“(a) **OUTREACH ON AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions to ensure that military spouses who are eligible for participation in the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense are, to the extent practicable, made aware of the program.

“(b) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 13, 2018], the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth such recommendations as the Comptroller General considers appropriate regarding the following:

“(1) Mechanisms to increase awareness of the My Career Advancement Account program of the Department of Defense among military spouses who are eligible to participate in the program.

“(2) Mechanisms to increase participation in the My Career Advancement Account program among military spouses who are eligible to participate in the program.

“(c) **TRAINING FOR INSTALLATION CAREER COUNSELORS ON PROGRAM.**—The Secretaries of the military departments shall take appropriate actions to ensure that career counselors at military installations receive appropriate training and current information on eligibility for and use of benefits under the My Career Advancement Account program, including financial assistance to cover costs associated with professional recertification, portability of occupational licenses, professional credential exams, and other mechanisms in connection with the portability of professional licenses.”

§ 1785. Youth sponsorship program

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall require that there be at each military installation a youth sponsorship program to facili-

tate the integration of dependent children of members of the armed forces into new surroundings when moving to that military installation as a result of a parent's permanent change of station.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS.—The program at each installation shall provide for involvement of dependent children of members presently stationed at the military installation and shall be directed primarily toward children in their preteen and teenage years.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331.)

§ 1786. Dependent student travel within the United States

Funds available to the Department of Defense for the travel and transportation of dependent students of members of the armed forces stationed overseas may be obligated for transportation allowances for travel within or between the contiguous States.

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331.)

§ 1787. Reporting of child abuse

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall request each State to provide for the reporting to the Secretary of any report the State receives of known or suspected instances of child abuse and neglect in which the person having care of the child is a member of the armed forces (or the spouse of the member).

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “child abuse and neglect” has the meaning provided in section 3 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Public Law 93–247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note).

(Added Pub. L. 104–106, div. A, title V, §568(a)(1), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 331; amended Pub. L. 112–239, div. A, title X, §1076(d)(2), Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 1951.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112–239 substituted “section 3” for “section 3(1)” and “Public Law 93–247; 42 U.S.C. 5101 note” for “42 U.S.C. 5102”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

IMPROVEMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TRACKING OF AND RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS OF CHILD ABUSE, ADULT CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN, AND SERIOUS HARMFUL BEHAVIOR BETWEEN CHILDREN AND YOUTH INVOLVING MILITARY DEPENDENTS ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Pub. L. 116–283, div. A, title V, §549B, Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3621, provided that:

“(a) IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall, consistent with recommendations of the Comptroller General of the United States in Government Accountability Office report GA0–20–110, take actions in accordance with this section in order to improve the efforts of the Department of Defense to track and respond to incidents of serious harm to children involving dependents of members of the Armed Forces that occur on military installations (in this section referred to as ‘covered incidents of serious harm to children’).

“(2) SERIOUS HARM TO CHILDREN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘serious harm to children’ includes the following:

“(A) Caregiver child abuse involving physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect.

“(B) Non-caregiver adult crimes against children.

“(C) Serious harmful behaviors between children and youth of a physical, sexual, or emotional nature.

“(b) DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING OF INCIDENTS OF HARM TO CHILDREN.—

“(1) NON-CAREGIVER ADULT CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a process for the Department of Defense to track reported covered incidents of serious harm to children described in subsection (a)(2)(B) in which the alleged offender is an adult who is not a parent, guardian, or someone in a caregiving role at the time of the incident. The information so tracked shall comport with the information tracked by the Department in reported covered incidents of serious harm to children in which the alleged offender is a parent, guardian, or someone in a caregiving role at the time of the incident.

“(2) SERIOUS HARMFUL BEHAVIORS BETWEEN CHILDREN AND YOUTH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and maintain in the Department of Defense a centralized database to track incidents of serious harmful behaviors between children and youth described in subsection (a)(2)(C), including information across the Department on problematic sexual behavior in children and youth that are reported to an appropriate office, as determined by the Secretary, or investigated by a military criminal investigative organization, regardless of whether the alleged offender was another child, an adult, or someone in a non-caregiving role at the time of an incident.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—The centralized database required by this paragraph shall include, for each incident within the database, the following:

“(i) Information pertinent to a determination by the Department on whether such incident meets the definition of an incident of serious harmful behavior between children and youth.

“(ii) The results of any investigation of such incident by a military criminal investigative organization.

“(iii) Information on the ultimate disposition of the incident, if any, including any administrative or prosecutorial action taken.

“(C) ANNUAL REPORTS ON INFORMATION.—The information collected and maintained in the centralized database required by this paragraph shall be reported on an annual basis as part of the annual reports by the Secretary on child abuse and domestic abuse in the military as required by section 574 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2141).

“(D) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than March 31, 2021, and every six months thereafter until the centralized database required by this paragraph is fully operational, the Secretary shall brief the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on the status of the database.

“(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPORTING GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue guidance regarding which incidents of serious harmful behavior between children and youth require reporting to the Family Advocacy Program, a military criminal investigative organization, or another component of the Department of Defense designated by the Secretary.

“(c) RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS HARM TO CHILDREN REPORTED TO FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAMS.—

“(1) INCIDENT DETERMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the voting membership of each Incident Determination