

who is appointed or designated as a chaplain may, if he fails to maintain the qualifications needed to perform his professional function, be discharged or, if eligible for retirement, may be retired.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2867.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 15, 1981, but the authority to prescribe regulations under this section effective on Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701 of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as an Effective Date of 1980 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

[§ 644. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, § 1622(b), Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2961]

Section, added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2867; amended Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title XI, §1115, Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1503, related to authority to suspend officer personnel laws. See section 123 of this title.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 1996, see section 1691(b)(1) of Pub. L. 103-337, set out as an Effective Date note under section 10001 of this title.

§ 645. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) The term “promotion zone” means a promotion eligibility category consisting of the officers on an active-duty list in the same grade and competitive category—

(A) who—

(i) in the case of officers in grades below colonel, for officers of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force, or captain, for officers of the Navy, have neither (I) failed of selection for promotion to the next higher grade, nor (II) been removed from a list of officers recommended for promotion to that grade (other than after having been placed on that list after a selection from below the promotion zone); or

(ii) in the case of officers in the grade of colonel or brigadier general, for officers of the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force, or captain or rear admiral (lower half), for officers of the Navy, have neither (I) not been recommended for promotion to the next higher grade when considered in the promotion zone, nor (II) been removed from a list of officers recommended for promotion to that grade (other than after having been placed on that list after a selection from below the promotion zone); and

(B) are senior to the officer designated by the Secretary of the military department concerned to be the junior officer in the promotion zone eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade.

(2) The term “officers above the promotion zone” means a group of officers on an active-

duty list in the same grade and competitive category who—

(A) are eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade;

(B) are in the same grade as those officers in the promotion zone for that competitive category; and

(C) are senior to the senior officer in the promotion zone for that competitive category.

(3) The term “officers below the promotion zone” means a group of officers on the active-duty list in the same grade and competitive category who—

(A) are eligible for consideration for promotion to the next higher grade;

(B) are in the same grade as the officers in the promotion zone for that competitive category; and

(C) are junior to the junior officer in the promotion zone for that competitive category.

(Added Pub. L. 96-513, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2867; amended Pub. L. 97-86, title IV, §405(b)(1), Dec. 1, 1981, 95 Stat. 1105; Pub. L. 98-525, title V, §533(a), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2528; Pub. L. 99-145, title V, §514(b)(1), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 628; Pub. L. 102-25, title VII, §701(i)(1), Apr. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 115; Pub. L. 118-159, div. A, title V, §521(e), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 1881.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Par. (1)(A). Pub. L. 118-159 substituted “Marine Corps, and Space Force,” for “and Marine Corps,” in cls. (i) and (ii).

1991—Pars. (1) to (3). Pub. L. 102-25 inserted “The term” after par. designations and lowercased initial letter of quoted phrases.

1985—Par. (1)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 99-145 substituted “rear admiral (lower half)” for “commodore”.

1984—Par. (1)(A)(i)(II), (ii)(II). Pub. L. 98-525, §533(a)(1), inserted “(other than after having been placed on that list after a selection from below the promotion zone)”.

Par. (1)(B). Pub. L. 98-525, §533(a)(2), inserted “in the promotion zone” after “the junior officer” and struck out “in the promotion zone” after “higher grade”.

1981—Par. (1)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 97-86 substituted “commodore” for “commodore admiral”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-86 effective Sept. 15, 1981, see section 405(f) of Pub. L. 97-86, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 15, 1981, but the authority to prescribe regulations under this section effective on Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701 of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as an Effective Date of 1980 Amendment note under section 101 of this title.

§ 646. Consideration of performance as a member of the Joint Staff

The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shall ensure that officer personnel policies of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force concerning promotion, retention, and as-

signment give appropriate consideration to the performance of an officer as a member of the Joint Staff.

(Added Pub. L. 98-525, title XIII, §1301(d)(1), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2612; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §924(b)(1)(C), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3820.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “Marine Corps, and Space Force” for “and Marine Corps”.

§ 647. Force shaping authority

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary concerned may, solely for the purpose of restructuring an armed force under the jurisdiction of that Secretary—

(1) discharge an officer described in subsection (b); or

(2) transfer such an officer from the active-duty list of that armed force to the reserve active-status list of a reserve component.

(b) **COVERED OFFICERS.**—(1) The authority under this section may be exercised in the case of an officer (other than an officer of the Space Force) who—

(A) has completed not more than six years of service as a commissioned officer in the armed forces; or

(B) has completed more than six years of service as a commissioned officer in the armed forces, but has not completed a minimum service obligation applicable to that member.

(2) In this subsection, the term “minimum service obligation” means the initial period of required active duty service together with any additional period of required active duty service incurred during the initial period of required active duty service.

(c) **APPOINTMENT OF TRANSFERRED OFFICERS.**—An officer of the Regular Army, Regular Air Force, Regular Navy, or Regular Marine Corps who is transferred to a reserve active-status list under this section shall be discharged from the regular component concerned and appointed as a reserve commissioned officer under section 12203 of this title.

(d) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary concerned shall prescribe regulations for the exercise of the Secretary’s authority under this section.

(e) **SPACE FORCE.**—For a similar provision with respect to officers of the Space Force, see section 20405 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 108-375, div. A, title V, §501(c)(1)(A), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 1873; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title V, §503(b), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 95; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §924(b)(4)(H), (16), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3822, 3823; Pub. L. 118-31, div. A, title XVII, §1718(b), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 658.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2023—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 118-31, §1718(b)(1), inserted “(other than an officer of the Space Force)” after “in the case of an officer” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-31, §1718(b)(2), which directed amendment of subsec. (c) by substituting “or Regular Marine Corps” for “Regular Marine Corps, of Regular Space Force”, was executed by making the substitution for “Regular Marine Corps, or Regular Space Force” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 118-31, §1718(b)(3), added subsec. (e).

2021—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 116-283, §924(b)(16), struck out “of that armed force” before period at end.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-283, §924(b)(4)(H), substituted “Regular Marine Corps, or Regular Space Force” for “or Regular Marine Corps”.

2008—Subsec. (b)(1)(A), (B). Pub. L. 110-181 substituted “six years” for “5 years”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after Oct. 28, 2004, see section 501(g) of Pub. L. 108-375, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 531 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER VI—ALTERNATIVE PROMOTION AUTHORITY FOR OFFICERS IN DESIGNATED COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES

Sec. 649a.	Officers in designated competitive categories.
649b.	Selection for promotion.
649c.	Eligibility for consideration for promotion.
649d.	Opportunities for consideration for promotion.
649e.	Promotions.
649f.	Failure of selection for promotion.
649g.	Retirement: retirement for years of service; selective early retirement.
649h.	Continuation on active duty.
649i.	Continuation on active duty: officers in certain military specialties and career tracks.
649j.	Other administrative authorities.
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§ 649a. Officers in designated competitive categories

(a) **AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES OF OFFICERS.**—Each Secretary of a military department may designate one or more competitive categories for promotion of officers under section 621 of this title that are under the jurisdiction of such Secretary as a competitive category of officers whose promotion, retirement, and continuation on active duty shall be subject to the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) **LIMITATION ON EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of a military department may not designate a competitive category of officers for purposes of this subchapter until 60 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the designation of the competitive category. The report on the designation of a competitive category shall set forth the following:

(1) A detailed description of officer requirements for officers within the competitive category.

(2) An explanation of the number of opportunities for consideration for promotion to each particular grade, and an estimate of promotion timing, within the competitive category.

(3) An estimate of the size of the promotion zone for each grade within the competitive category.