

L. 115-282, title I, §117(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4230.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2901 was renumbered section 5101 of this title.

##### AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 531 of this title as this section.

#### § 2902. Surveys of Coast Guard families

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Commandant, in order to determine the effectiveness of Federal policies, programs, and activities related to the families of Coast Guard members, may survey—

- (1) any Coast Guard member;
- (2) any retired Coast Guard member;
- (3) the immediate family of any Coast Guard member or retired Coast Guard member; and
- (4) any survivor of a deceased Coast Guard member.

(b) **VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.**—Participation in any survey conducted under subsection (a) shall be voluntary.

(c) **FEDERAL RECORDKEEPING.**—Each individual surveyed under subsection (a) shall be considered an employee of the United States for purposes of section 3502(3)(A)(i) of title 44.

(Added Pub. L. 113-281, title II, §214(a), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3029, §532; renumbered §2902, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §117(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4230; amended Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXV [LXXXV], §8505(a)(47), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4750.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2902 was renumbered section 5102 of this title.

##### AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 116-283 substituted “individual” for “person”.

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 532 of this title as this section.

#### § 2903. Reimbursement for adoption expenses

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO REIMBURSE.**—The Secretary shall carry out a program under which a member of the Coast Guard may be reimbursed, as provided in this section, for qualifying adoption expenses incurred by the member in the adoption of a child under 18 years of age.

(b) **ADOPTIONS COVERED.**—An adoption for which expenses may be reimbursed under this section includes an adoption by a single individual, an infant adoption, an intercountry adoption, and an adoption of a child with special needs (as defined in section 473(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 673(c))).

(c) **BENEFITS PAID AFTER ADOPTION IS FINAL.**—Benefits paid under this section in the case of an adoption may be paid only after the adoption is final.

(d) **TREATMENT OF OTHER BENEFITS.**—A benefit may not be paid under this section for any expense paid to or for a member of the Coast

Guard under any other adoption benefits program administered by the Federal Government or under any such program administered by a State or local government.

(e) **LIMITATIONS.**—(1) Not more than \$2,000 may be paid under this section to a member of the Coast Guard, or to two such members who are spouses of each other, for expenses incurred in the adoption of a child.

(2) Not more than \$5,000 may be paid under this section to a member of the Coast Guard, or to two such members who are spouses of each other, for adoptions by such member (or members) in any calendar year.

(f) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “qualifying adoption expenses” means reasonable and necessary expenses that are directly related to the legal adoption of a child under 18 years of age, but only if such adoption is arranged by a qualified adoption agency. Such term does not include any expense incurred—

(A) by an adopting parent for travel; or

(B) in connection with an adoption arranged in violation of Federal, State, or local law.

(2) The term “reasonable and necessary expenses” includes—

(A) public and private agency fees, including adoption fees charged by an agency in a foreign country;

(B) placement fees, including fees charged adoptive parents for counseling;

(C) legal fees (including court costs) in connection with services that are unavailable to a member of the Coast Guard under section 1044 or 1044a of title 10; and

(D) medical expenses, including hospital expenses of the biological mother of the child to be adopted and of a newborn infant to be adopted.

(3) The term “qualified adoption agency” means any of the following:

(A) A State or local government agency which has responsibility under State or local law for child placement through adoption.

(B) A nonprofit, voluntary adoption agency which is authorized by State or local law to place children for adoption.

(C) Any other source authorized by a State to provide adoption placement if the adoption is supervised by a court under State or local law.

(Added Pub. L. 102-190, div. A, title VI, §651(b)(1), Dec. 5, 1991, 105 Stat. 1386, §514; amended Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1054(g), Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2503; Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title VI, §652(b), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2582; renumbered §541, Pub. L. 113-281, title II, §214(b)(1)(A), Dec. 18, 2014, 128 Stat. 3033; renumbered §2903, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §117(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4230; Pub. L. 116-283, div. G, title LVXXXV [LXXXV], §8505(a)(48), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4750.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2903 was renumbered section 5103 of this title.