

performance, or completion bonds or other financial instruments from contractors for construction, alteration, repair, or maintenance of Coast Guard vessels if—

- (1) the bond is required by law; or
- (2) the Secretary or Commandant determines after investigation that the amount of the bond in excess of 20 percent of the value of the base contract quantity excluding options, would not prevent a responsible bidder or offeror from competing for award of the contract.

(Added Pub. L. 101-595, title III, §306(a), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2985, §667; renumbered §947, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §107(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4205.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 667 of this title as this section.

§ 948. Contracts for medical care for retirees, dependents, and survivors: alternative delivery of health care

(a) The Secretary may contract for the delivery of health care to which covered beneficiaries are entitled under chapter 55 of title 10. The Secretary may enter into a contract under this section with any of the following:

- (1) Health maintenance organizations.
- (2) Preferred provider organizations.
- (3) Individual providers, individual medical facilities, or insurers.
- (4) Consortiums of these providers, facilities, or insurers.

(b) A contract entered into under this section may provide for the delivery of—

- (1) selected health care services;
- (2) total health care services for selected covered beneficiaries; or
- (3) total health care services for all covered beneficiaries who reside in a geographic area designated by the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary may prescribe a premium, deductible, copayment, or other change for health care provided under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 101-595, title III, §319(a), Nov. 16, 1990, 104 Stat. 2989, §668; renumbered §948, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §107(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4205.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 668 of this title as this section.

§ 949. Telephone installation and charges

Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, amounts appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security are available to install, repair, and maintain telephone wiring in residences owned or leased by the United States Government and, if necessary for national defense purposes in other private residences.

(Added Pub. L. 102-587, title V, §5204(a), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5074, §669; amended Pub. L.

107-296, title XVII, §1704(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; renumbered §949, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §107(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4205.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 669 of this title as this section.

2002—Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

§ 950. Designation, powers, and accountability of deputy disbursing officials

(a)(1) Subject to paragraph (3), a disbursing official of the Coast Guard may designate a deputy disbursing official—

- (A) to make payments as the agent of the disbursing official;
- (B) to sign checks drawn on disbursing accounts of the Secretary of the Treasury; and
- (C) to carry out other duties required under law.

(2) The penalties for misconduct that apply to a disbursing official apply to a deputy disbursing official designated under this subsection.

(3) A disbursing official may make a designation under paragraph (1) only with the approval of the Secretary.

(b)(1) If a disbursing official of the Coast Guard dies, becomes disabled, or is separated from office, a deputy disbursing official may continue the accounts and payments in the name of the former disbursing official until the last day of the second month after the month in which the death, disability, or separation occurs. The accounts and payments shall be allowed, audited, and settled as provided by law. The Secretary of the Treasury shall honor checks signed in the name of the former disbursing official in the same way as if the former disbursing official had continued in office.

(2) The deputy disbursing official, and not the former disbursing official or the estate of the former disbursing official, is liable for the actions of the deputy disbursing official under this subsection.

(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), this section does not apply to the Coast Guard when section 2773 of title 10 applies to the Coast Guard by reason of the operation of the Coast Guard as a service in the Navy.

(2) A designation of a deputy disbursing official under subsection (a) that is made while the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy continues in effect for purposes of section 2773 of title 10 while the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Navy unless and until the designation is terminated by the disbursing official who made the designation or an official authorized to approve such a designation under subsection (a)(3) of such section.

(Added Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title X, §1009(a)(2)(A), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2634, §673; amended Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1704(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314; Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §217(11), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1558; renumbered §950, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §107(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4205.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 673 of this title as this section.

2012—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 112-213 struck out “of Homeland Security (when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy)” after “Secretary”.

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

§ 951. Aircraft accident investigations

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever the Commandant conducts an accident investigation of an accident involving an aircraft under the jurisdiction of the Commandant, the records and report of the investigation shall be treated in accordance with this section.

(b) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Commandant, upon request, shall publicly disclose unclassified tapes, scientific reports, and other factual information pertinent to an aircraft accident investigation.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The Commandant shall only disclose information requested pursuant to paragraph (1) if the Commandant determines—

(A) that such tapes, reports, or other information would be included within and releasable with the final accident investigation report; and

(B) that release of such tapes, reports, or other information—

(i) would not undermine the ability of accident or safety investigators to continue to conduct the investigation; and

(ii) would not compromise national security.

(3) RESTRICTION.—A disclosure under paragraph (1) may not be made by or through officials with responsibility for, or who are conducting, a safety investigation with respect to the accident.

(c) OPINIONS REGARDING CAUSATION OF ACCIDENT.—Following an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a)—

(1) if the evidence surrounding the accident is sufficient for the investigators who conduct the accident investigation to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall set forth the opinion of the investigators as to the cause or causes of the accident; and

(2) if the evidence surrounding the accident is not sufficient for the investigators to come to an opinion as to the cause or causes of the accident, the final report of the accident investigation shall include a description of those factors, if any, that, in the opinion of the investigators, substantially contributed to or caused the accident.

(d) USE OF INFORMATION IN CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS.—For purposes of any civil or criminal proceeding arising from an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), any opinion of the accident investigators as to the cause of, or the factors contributing to, the accident set forth in the accident investigation report may not be considered as evidence in such proceeding, nor may such report be considered an admission of liability by the United States or by any person referred to in such report.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “accident investigation” means any form of investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a), other than a safety investigation; and

(2) the term “safety investigation” means an investigation by Coast Guard personnel of an aircraft accident referred to in subsection (a) that is conducted solely to determine the cause of the accident and to obtain information that may prevent the occurrence of similar accidents.

(Added Pub. L. 112-213, title II, §214(a), Dec. 20, 2012, 126 Stat. 1553, §678; amended Pub. L. 115-232, div. C, title XXXV, §3531(c)(5), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2320; renumbered §951, Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §107(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4205.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-282 renumbered section 678 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-232 substituted “Commandant conducts” for “Commandant of the Coast Guard conducts”.

§ 952. Construction of Coast Guard vessels and assignment of vessel projects

The assignment of Coast Guard vessel conversion, alteration, and repair projects shall be based on economic and military considerations and may not be restricted by a requirement that certain parts of Coast Guard shipwork be assigned to a particular type of shipyard or geographical area or by a similar requirement.

(Added Pub. L. 115-282, title III, §310(a), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4248.)

§ 953. Support for Coast Guard Academy

(a) AUTHORITY.—

(1) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant may enter contract and cooperative agreements with 1 or more qualified organizations for the purpose of supporting the athletic programs of the Coast Guard Academy.