

116-259, which added this section, was enacted. Pub. L. 116-259 was approved Dec. 23, 2020.

Sections 201(a), 202(a), 203(a), and 305 (c) and (d), referred to in text, mean those respective sections of Pub. L. 116-259.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Amendments Act of 2020, and not as part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 which comprises this chapter.

§ 3079a. Treatment of commission in commissioned officer corps as employment in Administration for purposes of certain hiring decisions

(a) In general

In any case in which the Secretary accepts an application for a position of employment with the Administration and limits consideration of applications for such position to applications submitted by individuals serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration, the Secretary shall deem an officer who has served as an officer in the commissioned officer corps of the Administration for at least three years to be serving in a career or career-conditional position in the competitive service within the Administration for purposes of such limitation.

(b) Career appointments

If the Secretary selects an application submitted by an officer described in subsection (a) for a position described in such subsection, the Secretary shall give such officer a career or career-conditional appointment in the competitive service, as appropriate.

(c) Competitive service defined

In this section, the term “competitive service” has the meaning given the term in section 2102 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 107-372, title II, §269A, as added Pub. L. 116-259, title II, §209(a), Dec. 23, 2020, 134 Stat. 1168.)

§ 3079b. Shore leave for professional mariners

(a) In general

The Under Secretary may prescribe regulations relating to shore leave for professional mariners without regard to the requirements of section 6305 of title 5.

(b) Requirements

The regulations prescribed under subsection (a) shall—

- (1) require that a professional mariner serving aboard an ocean-going vessel be granted a leave of absence of 4 days per pay period; and
- (2) provide that a professional mariner serving in a temporary promotion position aboard a vessel may be paid the difference between such mariner’s temporary and permanent rates of pay for leave accrued while serving in the temporary promotion position.

(c) Professional mariner defined

In this section, the term “professional mariner” means an individual employed on a vessel

of the Administration who has the necessary expertise to serve in the engineering, deck, steward, electronic technician, or survey department.

(Pub. L. 107-372, title II, §269B, as added Pub. L. 117-263, div. K, title CXVII, §11706(a), Dec. 23, 2022, 136 Stat. 4157.)

CHAPTER 44—OCEANS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Sec.

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| 3101. | Interagency oceans and human health research program. |
| 3102. | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Oceans and Human Health Initiative. |
| 3103. | Public information and outreach. |
| 3104. | Authorization of appropriations. |

§ 3101. Interagency oceans and human health research program

(a) Coordination

The President, through the National Science and Technology Council, shall coordinate and support a national research program to improve understanding of the role of the oceans in human health.

(b) Implementation plan

Within 1 year after December 8, 2004, the National Science and Technology Council, through the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall develop and submit to the Congress a plan for coordinated Federal activities under the program. Nothing in this subsection is intended to duplicate or supersede the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia established under section 4001¹ of this title. In developing the plan, the Committee will consult with the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia. Such plan will build on and complement the ongoing activities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Science Foundation, and other departments and agencies and shall—

(1) establish, for the 10-year period beginning in the year it is submitted, the goals and priorities for Federal research which most effectively advance scientific understanding of the connections between the oceans and human health, provide usable information for the prediction of marine-related public health problems and use the biological potential of the oceans for development of new treatments of human diseases and a greater understanding of human biology;

(2) describe specific activities required to achieve such goals and priorities, including the funding of competitive research grants, ocean and coastal observations, training and support for scientists, and participation in international research efforts;

(3) identify and address, as appropriate, relevant programs and activities of the Federal agencies and departments that would contribute to the program;

(4) identify alternatives for preventive unnecessary duplication of effort among Federal agencies and departments with respect to the program;

¹ See References in Text note below.