

1971—Pub. L. 92-188, §2(3), substituted “Payment or use of dividends” for “Dividends to pay premiums” as section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-188, §2(1), substituted “or directive in writing exercising any other dividend option allowable under his policy” for “in writing for payment in cash”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 92-188, §2(2), added subsec. (c).

1970—Pub. L. 91-291 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1971 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 92-188, §4, Dec. 15, 1971, 85 Stat. 645, provided that: “The amendments made by this Act [amending this section and sections 703 and 741 [now 903 and 941] of this title] shall take effect on a date established by the Administrator but in no event later than the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than six calendar months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 15, 1971].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-291 effective June 25, 1970, see section 14(a) of Pub. L. 91-291, set out as a note under section 1317 of this title.

§ 1908. Premium payments

The Secretary shall, by regulations, prescribe the time and method of payment of the premiums on insurance, but payments of premiums in advance shall not be required for periods of more than one month each, and may at the election of the insured be deducted from the insured's active-service pay or be otherwise made. An amount equal to the first premium due under a National Service Life Insurance policy may be advanced from current appropriations for active-service pay to any person in the active service in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard, which amount shall constitute a lien upon any service or other pay accruing to the person for whom such advance was made and shall be collected therefrom if not otherwise paid. No disbursing or certifying officer shall be responsible for any loss incurred by reason of such advance. Any amount so advanced in excess of available service or other pay shall constitute a lien on the policy within the provisions of section 5301(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1149, §708; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(24), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3292; Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239; renumbered §1908 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §926(e), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3831.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Pub. L. 116-283 inserted “Space Force,” after “Marine Corps.”

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 708 of this title as this section and substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Pub. L. 102-40 substituted “5301(b)” for “3101(b)”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-576 substituted “the insured’s” for “his”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 1909. Effective date of insurance

Insurance may be made effective, as specified in the application, not later than the first day of the calendar month following the date of application therefor, but the United States shall not be liable thereunder for death occurring before such effective date.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1149, §709; renumbered §1909, Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 709 of this title as this section.

§ 1910. Incontestability

Subject to the provisions of section 1911 of this title all contracts or policies of insurance heretofore or hereafter issued, reinstated, or converted shall be incontestable from the date of issue, reinstatement, or conversion except for fraud, nonpayment of premium, or on the ground that the applicant was not a member of the military or naval forces of the United States. However, in any case in which a contract or policy of insurance is canceled or voided after March 16, 1954, because of fraud, the Secretary shall refund to the insured, if living, or, if deceased, to the person designated as beneficiary (or if none survives, to the estate of the insured) all money, without interest, paid as premiums on such contract or policy for any period subsequent to two years after the date such fraud induced the Secretary to issue, reinstate, or convert such insurance less any dividends, loan, or other payment made to the insured under such contract or policy.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1149, §710; renumbered §1910 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(2)(A)(iii)(II), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403-406.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 710 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted “1911” for “711”.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” before “shall”.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(2)(A)(iii)(II), substituted “Secretary” for “Veterans’ Administration” before “to issue”.

§ 1911. Forfeiture

Any person guilty of mutiny, treason, spying, or desertion, or who, because of conscientious

objections, refuses to perform service in the Armed Forces of the United States or refuses to wear the uniform of such force, shall forfeit all rights to National Service Life Insurance. No insurance shall be payable for death inflicted as a lawful punishment for crime or for military or naval offense, except when inflicted by an enemy of the United States; but the cash surrender value, if any, of such insurance on the date of such death shall be paid to the designated beneficiary, if living, or otherwise to the beneficiary or beneficiaries within the permitted class in accordance with the order specified in section 1916(b) of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1150, §711; renumbered §1911 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 711 of this title as this section and substituted “1916(b)” for “716(b)”.

§ 1912. Total disability waiver

(a) Upon application by the insured and under such regulations as the Secretary may promulgate, payment of premiums on insurance may be waived during the continuous total disability of the insured, which continues or has continued for six or more consecutive months, if such disability began (1) after the date of the insured's application for insurance, (2) while the insurance was in force under premium-paying conditions, and (3) before the insured's sixty-fifth birthday. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in any case in which the total disability of the insured commenced on or after the insured's sixtieth birthday but before the insured's sixty-fifth birthday, the Secretary shall not grant waiver of any premium becoming due prior to January 1, 1965.

(b) The Secretary, upon any application made after August 1, 1947, shall not grant waiver of any premium becoming due more than one year before the receipt by the Secretary of application for the same, except as provided in this section. Any premiums paid for months during which waiver is effective shall be refunded. The Secretary shall provide by regulations for examination or reexamination of an insured claiming benefits under this section, and may deny benefits for failure to cooperate. If it is found that an insured is no longer totally disabled, the waiver of premiums shall cease as of the date of such finding and the policy of insurance may be continued by payment of premiums as provided in said policy. In any case in which the Secretary finds that the insured's failure to make timely application for waiver of premiums or the insured's failure to submit satisfactory evidence of the existence or continuance of total disability was due to circumstances beyond the insured's control, the Secretary may grant waiver or continuance of waiver of premiums.

(c) If the insured dies without filing application for waiver, the beneficiary, within one year after the death of the insured, or, if the beneficiary is insane or a minor, within one year after removal of such legal disability, may file

application for waiver with evidence of the insured's right to waiver under this section. Premium rates shall be calculated without charge for the cost of waiver of premiums provided in this section and no deduction from benefits otherwise payable shall be made on account thereof.

(d) In any case in which an insured has been denied or would have been denied premium waiver under section 602(n) of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940 or this section solely because the insured became totally disabled between the date of valid application for insurance and the subsequent effective date thereof, and in which it is shown that (1) the total disability was incurred in line of duty between October 8, 1940, and July 31, 1946, inclusive, or June 27, 1950, and April 30, 1951, inclusive, and (2) the insured remained continuously so totally disabled to the date of death or June 8, 1960, whichever is earlier, the Secretary may grant waiver of premiums from the beginning of and during the continuous total disability of such insured. Application for waiver of premiums under this subsection must be filed by the insured or, in the event of the insured's death, by the beneficiary within two years after June 8, 1960, except that if the insured or the beneficiary be insane or a minor within the two-year period, application for such waiver may be filed within two years after removal of such legal disability, or if an insane insured shall die before the removal of the disability, application may be filed by the beneficiary within two years after the insured's death. No insurance shall be placed in force under this subsection in any case in which there was an award of benefits under the Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951 or of gratuitous insurance under section 1922(b) of this title. The amount of insurance placed in force hereunder together with any other United States Government life insurance or national service life insurance in force at the time of death, or at the time of the insured's application for waiver hereunder, may not exceed \$10,000 and shall be reduced by the amount of any gratuitous insurance awarded under the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940. Waiver of premiums under this subsection shall render the insurance nonparticipating during the period such premium waiver is in effect. The cost of waiver of premium and death benefits paid as a result of this subsection shall be borne by the United States.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1150, §712; Pub. L. 86-497, June 8, 1960, 74 Stat. 164; Pub. L. 88-364, July 7, 1964, 78 Stat. 302; Pub. L. 97-295, §4(23), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1306; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(25), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3292; renumbered §1912 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(a)(2)(C)(ii), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Servicemen's Indemnity Act of 1951, referred to in subsec. (d), is act Apr. 25, 1951, ch. 39, pt. I, 65 Stat. 33, as amended, which was classified generally to subchapter II (§851 et seq.) of chapter 13 of former Title 38, Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief, and was repealed by act Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 837, title V, §502(9), 70 Stat. 886.