

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-419, title IV, §404(b)(2), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1866, provided that the amendment made by section 404(b)(2) is effective Nov. 21, 1997, and as if included in Pub. L. 105-114 as originally enacted.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-82 effective Sept. 1, 1973, see section 501 of Pub. L. 93-82, set out as a note under section 1701 of this title.

## REPORT TO CONGRESS ON RATES AND PROCEDURES COVERING PAYMENT OF BENEFITS FOR CARE OR SERVICES PROVIDED IN VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO INDIVIDUALS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS' HOSPITAL, NURSING HOME, DOMICILIARY, OR MEDICAL CARE

Pub. L. 94-581, title I, §115(c), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2853, provided that at such time as the rates and procedures described in subsec. (d) of this section were prescribed, the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare [now Secretary of Health and Human Services], in consultation with the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs, was to submit to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a full report describing such rates and procedures.

**§ 8154. Exchange of medical information**

(a) The Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with medical schools, hospitals, research centers, and individual members of the medical profession under which medical information and techniques will be freely exchanged and the medical information services of all parties to the agreement will be available for use by any party to the agreement under conditions specified in the agreement. In carrying out the purposes of this section, the Secretary shall utilize recent developments in electronic equipment to provide a close educational, scientific, and professional link between Department hospitals and major medical centers. Such agreements shall be utilized by the Secretary to the maximum extent practicable to create, at each Department hospital which is a part of any such agreement, an environment of academic medicine which will help such hospital attract and retain highly trained and qualified members of the medical profession.

(b) In order to bring about utilization of all medical information in the surrounding medical community, particularly in remote areas, and to foster and encourage the widest possible cooperation and consultation among all members of the medical profession in such community, the educational facilities and programs established at Department hospitals and the electronic link to medical centers shall be made available for use by the surrounding medical community (including State home facilities furnishing domiciliary, nursing home, or hospital care to veterans). The Secretary may charge a fee for such services (on annual or like basis) at rates which the Secretary determines, after ap-

propriate study, to be fair and equitable. The financial status of any user of such services shall be taken into consideration by the Secretary in establishing the amount of the fee to be paid. Any proceeds to the Government received therefrom shall be credited to the applicable Department medical appropriation.

(c) The Secretary is authorized to enter into agreements with public and nonprofit private institutions, organizations, corporations, and other entities in order to participate in cooperative health-care personnel education programs within the geographical area of any Department health-care facility located in an area remote from major academic health centers.

(Added Pub. L. 89-785, title II, §203, Nov. 7, 1966, 80 Stat. 1374, §5054; amended Pub. L. 94-424, §1(1), Sept. 28, 1976, 90 Stat. 1332; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §§206(d), 210(e)(12), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2859, 2865; Pub. L. 96-151, title I, §102(a), Dec. 20, 1979, 93 Stat. 1092; Pub. L. 97-251, §9, Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 716; renumbered §8154, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405.)

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5054 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration" wherever appearing.

1982—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-251 inserted "(including State home facilities furnishing domiciliary, nursing home, or hospital care to veterans)" after "by the surrounding medical community".

1979—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-151 added subsec. (c).

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-581 substituted "by the surrounding" for "by surrounding" and "which the Administrator determines" for "which he determines".

Pub. L. 94-424 inserted provision that any proceeds to the Government received therefrom shall be credited to the applicable Veterans' Administration medical appropriation.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

**§ 8155. Pilot programs; grants to medical schools**

(a) The Secretary may establish an Advisory Subcommittee on Programs for Exchange of Medical Information, of the Special Medical Advisory Group, established under section 7312 of this title, to advise the Secretary on matters regarding the administration of this section and to coordinate these functions with other research and education programs in the Department of Medicine and Surgery. The Assistant Under Secretary for Health charged with administration of the Department of Medicine and Surgery medical research program shall be an ex officio member of this Subcommittee.

(b) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the Subcommittee, is authorized to make grants to medical schools, hospitals, and research centers to assist such medical schools,

hospitals, and research centers in planning and carrying out agreements authorized by section 8154 of this title. Such grants may be used for the employment of personnel, the construction of facilities, the purchasing of equipment when necessary to implement such programs, and for such other purposes as will facilitate the administration of this section.

(c)(1) There is hereby authorized to be appropriated an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 1976; \$1,700,000 for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending September 30, 1976; \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1977; \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1978; and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1979 and for each of the three succeeding fiscal years, for the purpose of developing and carrying out medical information programs under this section on a pilot program basis and for the grants authority in subsection (b) of this section. Pilot programs authorized by this subsection shall be carried out at Department hospitals in geographically dispersed areas of the United States.

(2) Funds authorized under this section shall not be available to pay the cost of hospital, medical, or other care of patients except to the extent that such cost is determined by the Secretary to be incident to research, training, or demonstration activities carried out under this section.

(d) The Secretary, after consultation with the Subcommittee shall prescribe regulations covering the terms and conditions for making grants under this section.

(e) Each recipient of a grant under this section shall keep such records as the Secretary may prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition by such recipient of the proceeds of such grant, the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such grant is made or used, and the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such records as will facilitate an effective audit.

(f) The Secretary and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access, for the purpose of audit and examination, to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipient of any grant under this section which are pertinent to any such grant.

(Added Pub. L. 89-785, title II, § 203, Nov. 7, 1966, 80 Stat. 1375, § 5055; amended Pub. L. 92-69, Aug. 6, 1971, 85 Stat. 178; Pub. L. 94-424, § 1(2), Sept. 28, 1976, 90 Stat. 1332; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §§ 206(e), 210(e)(13), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2859, 2865; Pub. L. 96-151, title I, § 102(b), Dec. 20, 1979, 93 Stat. 1092; renumbered § 8155 and amended Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 402(b)(1), (d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238, 239; Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405; Pub. L. 102-405, title III, § 302(c)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1984; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, § 1201(d)(19), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4684.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-446 substituted “section 7312” for “section 4112”.

1992—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-405 substituted “Under Secretary for Health” for “Chief Medical Director”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, § 402(b)(1), renumbered section 5055 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in two places.

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

Pub. L. 102-40, § 402(d)(1), substituted “8154” for “5054”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted “Department” for “Veterans’ Administration”.

Subsecs. (c)(2), (d) to (f). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

1979—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 96-151 inserted authorization for the three succeeding fiscal years after fiscal year 1979.

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581 substituted “advise the Administrator” for “advise him” and “Assistant Chief Medical Director charged with administration of the Department of Medicine and Surgery medical research program” for “Assistant Chief Medical Director for Research and Education in Medicine”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 94-424 substituted provisions authorizing appropriations of \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 1976; \$1,700,000 for the period beginning July 1, 1976, and ending Sept. 30, 1976; \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1977; \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1978; and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 1979 for provisions authorizing appropriations of \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year 1968 through 1971, and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year 1972 through 1975.

1971—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 92-69 substituted provisions authorizing appropriations of amounts up to \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year 1968 through 1971, and such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year 1972 through 1975, for provisions authorizing appropriations of amounts up to \$3,000,000 for each of the first four fiscal years following fiscal year in which this subchapter was enacted.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### CHANGE OF NAME

Reference to Veterans Health Services and Research Administration (or to Department of Medicine and Surgery of the Veterans’ Administration) deemed to refer to Veterans Health Administration pursuant to section 2 of Pub. L. 102-40, set out as a Renaming of Veterans Health Services and Research Administration note under section 301 of this title.

Reference to Department of Medicine and Surgery deemed to refer to Veterans Health Services and Research Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, pursuant to section 10 of Pub. L. 100-527, set out as a Department of Veterans Affairs Act note under section 301 of this title.

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

##### TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS

Advisory councils in existence on Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period following Jan. 5, 1973, unless, in the case of a committee established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such council is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a council established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. Advisory councils established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a council established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such council is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a council established by the Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See sections 1001(2) and 1013 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 8156. Coordination with health services development activities carried out under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974**

The Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate programs carried out under this subchapter and programs carried out under part F of title XVI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300t et seq.).

(Added Pub. L. 89-785, title II, §203, Nov. 7, 1966, 80 Stat. 1375, §5056; amended Pub. L. 94-581, title I, §115(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2853; Pub. L. 97-295, §4(93), (95)(A), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1313; renumbered §8156, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404, 405.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974, referred to in section catchline, is Pub. L. 93-641, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2225, which is classified generally to subchapters XIII (§300k et seq.) and XIV (§300o et seq.) of chapter 6A of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1975 Amendment note set out under section 201 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Public Health Service Act, referred to in text, is act July 1, 1944, ch. 373, 58 Stat. 682. Part F of title XVI of the Public Health Service Act was added by act Jan. 4, 1975, Pub. L. 93-641, §4, 88 Stat. 2273, and was redesignated as Part D by Pub. L. 96-79, title II, §202(a), Oct. 4, 1979, 93 Stat. 632. Part D of that Act is classified generally to Part D (§300t) of subchapter XIV of chapter 6A of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 201 of Title 42 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 5056 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted "The Secretary" for "The Administrator".

1982—Pub. L. 97-295, §4(95)(A), substituted "Health and Human Services" for "Health, Education, and Welfare".

Pub. L. 97-295, §4(93), inserted "(42 U.S.C. 300t et seq.)" after "part F of title XVI of the Public Health Service Act".

1976—Pub. L. 94-581 substituted "health services development activities carried out under the National Health Planning and Resources Development Act of 1974" for "programs carried out under the Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments of 1965" in section catchline and "part F of title XVI" for "title IX" in text.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-581 effective Oct. 21, 1976, see section 211 of Pub. L. 94-581, set out as a note under section 111 of this title.

**§ 8157. Joint title to medical equipment**

(a) Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary may enter into agreements with institutions described in section 8153(a) of this title for the joint acquisition of medical equipment.

(b)(1) The Secretary may not pay more than one-half of the purchase price of equipment ac-

quired through an agreement under subsection (a).

(2) Any equipment to be procured under such an agreement shall be procured by the Secretary. Title to such equipment shall be held jointly by the United States and the institution.

(3) Before equipment acquired under such an agreement may be used, the parties to the agreement shall arrange by contract under section 8153 of this title for the exchange or use of the equipment.

(4) The Secretary may not contract for the acquisition of medical equipment to be purchased jointly under an agreement under subsection (a) until the institution which enters into the agreement provides to the Secretary its share of the purchase price of the medical equipment.

(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may transfer the interest of the Department in equipment acquired through an agreement under subsection (a) to the institution which holds joint title to the equipment if the Secretary determines that the transfer would be justified by compelling clinical considerations or the economic interest of the Department. Any such transfer may only be made upon agreement by the institution to pay to the Department the amount equal to one-half of the depreciated purchase price of the equipment. Any such payment when received shall be credited to the applicable Department medical appropriation.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may acquire the interest of an institution in equipment acquired under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that the acquisition would be justified by compelling clinical considerations or the economic interests of the Department. The Secretary may not pay more than one-half the depreciated purchase price of that equipment.

(Added Pub. L. 102-405, title I, §103(a)(1), Oct. 9, 1992, 106 Stat. 1973.)

**§ 8158. Deposit in escrow**

(a) To facilitate the procurement of medical equipment pursuant to section 8157 of this title, the Secretary may enter into escrow agreements with institutions described in section 8153(a) of this title. Any such agreement shall provide that—

(1) the institutions shall pay to the Secretary the funds necessary to make a payment under section 8157(b)(4) of this title;

(2) the Secretary, as escrow agent, shall administer those funds in an escrow account; and

(3) the Secretary shall disburse the escrowed funds to pay for such equipment upon its delivery or in accordance with the contract to procure the equipment and shall disburse all accrued interest or other earnings on the escrowed funds to the institution.

(b) As escrow agent for funds placed in escrow pursuant to an agreement under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) invest the escrowed funds in obligations of the Federal Government or obligations which are insured or guaranteed by the Federal Government;

(2) retain in the escrow account interest or other earnings on such investments;