

REPORT TO CONGRESS

Pub. L. 105-311, §7(b), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2953, required the Office of Personnel Management to submit, not later than 3 years after Oct. 30, 1998, a report to Congress on additional optional insurance provided under subsec. (c)(5) of this section.

§ 8714c. Optional life insurance on family members

(a) Under the conditions, directives, and terms specified in sections 8709 through 8712 of this title, the Office of Personnel Management, without regard to section 6101(b) to (d) of title 41, may purchase a policy which shall make available to each employee insured under section 8702 of this title amounts of optional life insurance (without accidental death and dismemberment insurance) on the employee's family members.

(b)(1) The optional life insurance on family members provided under this section shall be made available to each eligible employee who has elected coverage under this section, under conditions the Office shall prescribe, in multiples, at the employee's election, of 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 times—

(A) \$5,000 for a spouse; and

(B) \$2,500 for each child described under section 8701(d).

(2) An employee may reduce or stop coverage elected pursuant to this section at any time.

(c)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the optional life insurance on family members shall stop at the earlier of the employee's death, the employee's separation from the service, or 12 months after discontinuance of pay, subject to a provision for temporary extension of life insurance coverage and for conversion to individual policies of life insurance under conditions approved by the Office.

(2) In the case of any employee who retires on an immediate annuity or who becomes entitled to receive compensation under subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title because of disease or injury to the employee and who has had in force insurance under this section for no less than—

(A) the 5 years of service immediately preceding the date of retirement or entitlement to compensation, or

(B) the full period or periods of service during which the insurance was available to the employee, if fewer than 5 years,

optional life insurance on family members may be continued under the same conditions as provided in section 8714b(c)(2) through (4).

(d)(1) During each period in which the optional life insurance on family members is in force the full cost thereof shall be withheld from the employee's pay. During each period in which an employee continues optional life insurance on family members after retirement or while in receipt of compensation under subchapter I of chapter 81 of this title because of disease or injury to the employee, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the full cost shall be withheld from the annuity or compensation, except that, beginning at the end of the calendar month in which the former employee becomes 65 years of age, the optional life insurance on family members shall be without cost to the employee. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the full

cost shall be continued after the calendar month in which the former employee becomes 65 years of age if, and for so long as, an election under this section corresponding to that described in section 8714b(c)(3)(B) remains in effect with respect to such former employee. Amounts so withheld shall be deposited, used, and invested as provided in section 8714 of this title and shall be reported and accounted for together with amounts withheld under section 8714a(d) of this title.

(2) If an agency fails to withhold the proper cost of optional life insurance on family members from an individual's salary, compensation, or retirement annuity, the collection of amounts properly due may be waived by the agency if, in the judgment of the agency, the individual is without fault and recovery would be against equity and good conscience. However, if the agency so waives the collection of any unpaid amount, the agency shall submit an amount equal to the uncollected amount to the Office for deposit to the Employees' Life Insurance Fund.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an employee who is subject to withholdings under this subsection and whose pay, annuity, or compensation is insufficient to cover such withholdings may nevertheless continue optional life insurance on family members if the employee arranges to pay currently into the Employees' Life Insurance Fund, through the agency or retirement system that administers pay, annuity, or compensation, an amount equal to the withholdings that would otherwise be required under this subsection.

(e) The cost of the optional life insurance on family members shall be determined from time to time by the Office on the basis of the employee's age relative to such age groups as the Office establishes under section 8714a(e) of this title.

(f) The amount of optional life insurance which is in force under this section on a family member of an employee or former employee on the date of the death of the family member shall be paid, on the establishment of a valid claim by the employee, to such employee or, in the event of the death of the employee before payment can be made, to the person or persons entitled to the group life insurance in force on the employee under section 8705 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 96-427, §8(a), Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1836; amended Pub. L. 98-353, title II, §206, as amended by Pub. L. 99-336, §7(1), June 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 639; Pub. L. 99-335, title II, §207(k)(5), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 598; Pub. L. 99-336, §7(1), June 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 639; Pub. L. 105-311, §§6(4), 8, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2951, 2953; Pub. L. 111-350, §5(a)(14), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3842.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2011—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-350 substituted “section 6101(b) to (d) of title 41” for “section 5 of title 41”.

1998—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-311, §8(a), amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: “The optional life insurance on family members provided under this section shall be made available to each eligible employee who elects coverage under this section, under conditions the Office shall

prescribe, in the amount of \$5,000 for a spouse and \$2,500 for each child described in section 8701(d). The employee may stop coverage elected under this section at any time.”

Subsec. (c)(2). Pub. L. 105-311, §8(b)(1), substituted “section 8714b(c)(2) through (4)” for “section 8714b(c)(2) of this title”.

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 105-311, §8(b)(2), inserted before last sentence “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, the full cost shall be continued after the calendar month in which the former employee becomes 65 years of age if, and for so long as, an election under this section corresponding to that described in section 8714b(c)(3)(B) remains in effect with respect to such former employee.”

Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 105-311, §6(4), added par. (3).

1986—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 99-336 amended Pub. L. 98-353, §206, generally. See 1984 Amendment note below.

Pub. L. 99-335 amended par. (1) generally, effective Jan. 1, 1977. Prior to such effective date, par. (1) read as follows: “Optional life insurance on family members shall stop at the earlier of the employee’s death, the employee’s separation from the service, 12 months after discontinuance of pay, or the employee’s entry on active duty or active duty for training, as provided in sections 8706(a) and 8706(c) of this title, subject to provision for a 31-day temporary extension of insurance coverage and for conversion to individual policies under conditions approved by the Office. Justices and judges of the United States described in section 8701(a)(5)(ii) and (iii) of this chapter are deemed to continue in active employment for purposes of this chapter.”

1984—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 98-353, §206, as amended generally by Pub. L. 99-336, inserted sentence which deemed justices and judges described in section 8701(a)(5)(ii) and (iii) of this chapter to continue in active employment for purposes of this chapter.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 6(4) of Pub. L. 105-311 effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after Oct. 30, 1998, and amendment by section 8 of Pub. L. 105-311 effective on the first day of the first pay period which begins on or after the 180th day following Oct. 30, 1998, or on any earlier date that the Office of Personnel Management may prescribe, see section 11(d), (f) of Pub. L. 105-311, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-335 effective Jan. 1, 1987, see section 702(a) of Pub. L. 99-335, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8401 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-353, §206, as amended generally by Pub. L. 99-336, §7(1), applicable to any justice or judge who retires under 28 U.S.C. 371(a) or (b) or 372(a) on or after January 1, 1982, see section 207 of Pub. L. 98-353, as amended generally by Pub. L. 99-336, §7(2), set out as a note under section 8706 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on first day of first pay period which begins on or after 180th day following Oct. 10, 1980, or on any earlier date that Office may prescribe which is at least 60 days after Oct. 10, 1980, and shall have no effect in case of an employee who died, was finally separated, or retired before effective date, see section 10(d) of Pub. L. 96-427 set out as an Effective Date of 1980 Amendment note under section 8701 of this title.

§ 8714d. Option to receive “living benefits”

(a) For the purpose of this section, an individual shall be considered to be “terminally ill”

if such individual has a medical prognosis that such individual’s life expectancy is 9 months or less.

(b) The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations under which any individual covered by group life insurance under section 8704(a) may, if such individual is terminally ill, elect to receive a lump-sum payment equal to—

(1) the full amount of insurance under section 8704(a) (or portion thereof designated for this purpose under subsection (d)(4)) which would otherwise be payable under this chapter (on the establishment of a valid claim)—

(A) computed based on a date determined under regulations of the Office (but not later than 30 days after the date on which the individual’s application for benefits under this section is approved or deemed approved under subsection (d)(3)); and

(B) assuming continued coverage under this chapter at that time;

reduced by

(2) an amount necessary to assure that there is no increase in the actuarial value of the benefit paid (as determined under regulations of the Office).

(c)(1) If a lump-sum payment is taken under this section—

(A) no insurance under the provisions of section 8704(a) or (b) shall be payable based on the death or any loss of the individual involved, unless the lump-sum payment represents only a portion of the total benefits which could have been taken, in which case benefits under those provisions shall remain in effect, except that the basic insurance amount on which they are based—

(i) shall be reduced by the percentage which the designated portion comprised relative to the total benefits which could have been taken (rounding the result to the nearest multiple of \$1,000 or, if midway between multiples of \$1,000, to the next higher multiple of \$1,000); and

(ii) shall not be subject to further adjustment; and

(B) deductions and withholdings under section 8707, and contributions under section 8708, shall be terminated with respect to such individual (or reduced in a manner consistent with the percentage reduction in the individual’s basic insurance amount, if applicable), effective with respect to any amounts which would otherwise become due on or after the date of payment under this section.

(2) An individual who takes a lump-sum payment under this section (whether full or partial) remains eligible for optional benefits under sections 8714a-8714c (subject to payment of the full cost of those benefits in accordance with applicable provisions of the section or sections involved, to the same extent as if no election under this section had been made).

(d)(1) The Office’s regulations shall include provisions regarding the form and manner in which an application under this section shall be made and the procedures in accordance with which any such application shall be considered.