

dures applicable under regulations prescribed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

(Added Pub. L. 105-114, title I, §101(a)(1), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2278; amended Pub. L. 105-368, title IV, §403(d)(2), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3339; Pub. L. 108-170, title IV, §405(a), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2063.)

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (e)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-170 substituted “45 days” for “30 days”.

1998—Subsec. (e)(2)(E). Pub. L. 105-368 substituted “Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs” for “Director of the National Cemetery System”.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 101(c) of Pub. L. 105-114 provided that: “Section 516 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Nov. 21, 1997]. Subsection (e) of that section shall take effect with respect to the first quarter of calendar year 1998.”

REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY SYSTEM

Section 101(b) of Pub. L. 105-114 provided that:

“(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress reports on the implementation and operation of the equal employment opportunity system within the Department of Veterans Affairs. The first such report shall be submitted not later than April 1, 1998, and subsequent reports shall be submitted not later than January 1, 1999, and January 1, 2000.

“(2) The first report under paragraph (1) shall set forth the actions taken by the Secretary to implement section 516 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and other actions taken by the Secretary in relation to the equal employment opportunity system within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(3) The subsequent reports under paragraph (1) shall set forth, for each equal employment opportunity field office of the Department and for the Department as a whole, the following:

“(A) Any information to supplement the information submitted in the report under paragraph (2) that the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) The number of requests for counseling relating to employment discrimination received during the one-year period ending on the date of the report concerned.

“(C) The number of employment discrimination complaints received during such period.

“(D) The status of each complaint described in subparagraph (C), including whether or not the complaint was resolved and, if resolved, whether the employee concerned sought review of the resolution by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or by Federal court.

“(E) The number of employment discrimination complaints that were settled during such period, including—

“(i) the type of such complaints; and

“(ii) the terms of settlement (including any settlement amount) of each such complaint.”

ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT RESOLUTION SYSTEM

Section 103 of Pub. L. 105-114 provided that:

“(a) AGREEMENT FOR ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with a qualified private entity under which agreement the entity shall carry out the assessment described in subsection (b) and the review described in subsection (c).

“(2) The Secretary shall include in the agreement provisions necessary to ensure that the entity carries

out its responsibilities under the agreement (including the exercise of its judgments concerning the assessment and review) in a manner free of influence from any source, including the officials and employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(3) The Secretary may not enter into the agreement until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary notifies the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives of the entity with which the Secretary proposes to enter into the agreement.

“(b) INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SYSTEM.—(1) Under the agreement under subsection (a), the entity shall conduct an assessment of the employment discrimination complaint resolution system administered within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the extent to which the system meets the objectives set forth in section 516(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 101. The assessment shall include a comprehensive description of the system as of the time of the assessment.

“(2) Under the agreement, the entity shall submit the assessment to the committees referred to in subsection (a)(3) and to the Secretary not later than June 1, 1998.

“(c) REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEM.—(1) Under the agreement under subsection (a), the entity shall monitor and review the administration by the Secretary of the employment discrimination complaint resolution system administered within the Department.

“(2) Under the agreement, the entity shall submit to the committees referred to in subsection (a)(3) and to the Secretary a report on the results of the review under paragraph (1) not later than June 1, 1999. The report shall include an assessment of the administration of the system, including the extent to which the system meets the objectives referred to in subsection (b)(1), and the effectiveness of the following:

“(A) Programs to train and maintain a cadre of individuals who are competent to investigate claims relating to employment discrimination.

“(B) Programs to train and maintain a cadre of individuals who are competent to provide counseling to individuals who submit such claims.

“(C) Programs to provide education and training to Department employees regarding their rights and obligations under the equal employment opportunity laws.

“(D) Programs to oversee the administration of the system.

“(E) Programs to evaluate the effectiveness of the system in meeting its objectives.

“(F) Other programs, procedures, or activities of the Department relating to the equal employment opportunity laws, including any alternative dispute resolution procedures and informal dispute resolution and settlement procedures.

“(G) Any disciplinary measures imposed by the Secretary on employees determined to have violated the equal employment opportunity laws in preventing or deterring violations of such laws by other employees of the Department.”

SUBCHAPTER II—SPECIFIED FUNCTIONS

§ 521. Assistance to certain rehabilitation activities

(a) The Secretary may assist any organization named in or approved under section 5902 of this title in providing recreational activities which would further the rehabilitation of disabled veterans. Such assistance may be provided only if—

(1) the activities are available to disabled veterans on a national basis; and

(2) a significant percentage of the individuals participating in the activities are eligible for rehabilitative services under chapter 17 of this title.

(b) The Secretary may accept from any appropriate source contributions of funds and of other assistance to support the Secretary's provision of assistance for such activities.

(c)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may authorize the use, for purposes approved by the Secretary in connection with the activity involved, of the seal and other official symbols of the Department and the name "Department of Veterans Affairs" by—

(A) any organization which provides an activity described in subsection (a) with assistance from the Secretary; and

(B) any individual or entity from which the Secretary accepts a significant contribution under subsection (b) or an offer of such a contribution.

(2) The use of such seal or name of any official symbol of the Department in an advertisement may be authorized by the Secretary under this subsection only if—

(A) the Secretary has approved the advertisement; and

(B) the advertisement contains a clear statement that no product, project, or commercial line of endeavor referred to in the advertisement is endorsed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 390.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 521 was renumbered section 1521 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 216 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 522. Studies of rehabilitation of disabled persons

(a) The Secretary may conduct studies and investigations, and prepare reports, relative to the rehabilitation of disabled persons, the relative abilities, aptitudes, and capacities of the several groups of the variously handicapped, and how their potentialities can best be developed and their services best used in gainful and suitable employment including the rehabilitation programs of foreign nations.

(b) In carrying out this section, the Secretary (1) may cooperate with such public and private agencies as the Secretary considers advisable; and (2) may employ consultants who shall receive a reasonable per diem, as prescribed by the Secretary, for each day actually employed, plus necessary travel and other expenses.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 390.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 522 was renumbered section 1522 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 217 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 523. Coordination and promotion of other programs affecting veterans and their dependents

(a) The Secretary shall seek to achieve (1) the maximum feasible effectiveness, coordination,

and interrelationship of services among all programs and activities affecting veterans and their dependents carried out by and under all other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the executive branch, and (2) the maximum feasible coordination of such programs with programs carried out under this title. The Secretary shall actively promote the effective implementation, enforcement, and application of all provisions of law and regulations providing for special consideration, emphasis, or preference for veterans.

(b) The Secretary shall seek to achieve the effective coordination of the provision, under laws administered by the Department, of benefits and services (and information about such benefits and services) with appropriate programs (and information about such programs) conducted by State and local governmental agencies and by private entities at the State and local level. In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall place special emphasis on veterans who are 65 years of age or older.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 390.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 523 and 524 were renumbered sections 1523 and 1524 of this title, respectively.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 220 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 525. Publication of laws relating to veterans

(a) The Secretary may compile and publish all Federal laws relating to veterans' relief, including laws administered by the Department as well as by other agencies of the Government. Such compilation and publication shall be in such form as the Secretary considers advisable for the purpose of making currently available in convenient form for the use of the Department and full-time representatives of the several service organizations an annotated, indexed, and cross-referenced statement of the laws providing veterans' relief.

(b) The Secretary may maintain such compilation on a current basis either by the publication, from time to time, of supplementary documents or by complete revision of the compilation.

(c) The distribution of the compilation to the representatives of the several service organizations shall be as determined by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 391.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 525 was renumbered section 1525 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 215 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

§ 527. Evaluation and data collection

(a) The Secretary, pursuant to general standards which the Secretary shall prescribe in regulations, shall measure and evaluate on a continuing basis the effect of all programs authorized under this title, in order to determine their effectiveness in achieving stated goals in general, and in achieving such goals in relation to