

Secretary may establish and carry out a peer support counseling program, under which veterans shall be permitted to volunteer as peer counselors—

- (A) to assist other veterans with issues related to mental health and readjustment; and
- (B) to conduct outreach to veterans and the families of veterans.

(2) In carrying out the peer support counseling program under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide adequate training for peer counselors.

(k) OTHER COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may provide for other actions to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans that the Secretary considers appropriate.

(Added Pub. L. 110-110, §3(a)(1), Nov. 5, 2007, 121 Stat. 1031.)

CODIFICATION

Section 3(a)(1) of Pub. L. 110-110, which directed that this section be added at the end of this chapter, was executed by adding this section at the end of this subchapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

SENSE OF CONGRESS

Pub. L. 110-110, §2, Nov. 5, 2007, 121 Stat. 1031, provided that: "It is the sense of Congress that—

"(1) suicide among veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as 'PTSD') is a serious problem; and

"(2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should take into consideration the special needs of veterans suffering from PTSD and the special needs of elderly veterans who are at high risk for depression and experience high rates of suicide in developing and implementing the comprehensive program under this Act [enacting this section and provisions set out as a note under section 101 of this title]."

SUBCHAPTER III—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS RELATING TO HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME CARE AND MEDICAL TREATMENT OF VETERANS

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §202(i), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2856, inserted "AND NURSING HOME" in subchapter heading.

§ 1721. Power to make rules and regulations

Rules and regulations prescribed under section 501(a) of this title shall include rules and regulations to promote good conduct on the part of persons who are receiving hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care and medical services in Department facilities. The Secretary may prescribe in rules and regulations under such section limitations in connection with the furnishing of such care and services during a period of national emergency (other than a period of war or an emergency described in section 8111A of this title).

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1143, §621; Pub. L. 94-581, title II, §§202(j), 210(a)(8), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2856, 2863; Pub. L. 100-322, title I, §133, May 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 507; Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(d)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239; renumbered §1721 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§2(c)(1), 4(a)(3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 402, 404-406.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1721 was renumbered section 3521 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 621 of this title as this section.

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

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

Pub. L. 102-83, §2(c)(1), substituted "501(a)" for "210(c)(1)".

Pub. L. 102-40 substituted "8111A" for "5011A".

1988—Pub. L. 100-322 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: "The Administrator shall prescribe—

"(1) such rules and procedure governing the furnishing of hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care as the Administrator may deem proper and necessary;

"(2) limitations in connection with the furnishing of hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care; and

"(3) such rules and regulations as the Administrator deems necessary in order to promote good conduct on the part of persons who are receiving hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care in Veterans' Administration facilities."

1976—Cl. (1). Pub. L. 94-581, §§202(j), 210(a)(8), substituted "hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care as the Administrator may deem" for "hospital and domiciliary care as he may deem".

Cl. (2). Pub. L. 94-581, §202(j), substituted "hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary care" for "hospital and domiciliary care".

Cl. (3). Pub. L. 94-581, §§202(j), 210(a)(8), substituted "as the Administrator deems" for "as he deems" and "hospital, nursing home, or domiciliary care" for "hospital or domiciliary care".

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.

§ 1722. Determination of inability to defray necessary expenses; income thresholds

(a) For the purposes of section 1710(a)(2)(G) of this title, a veteran shall be considered to be unable to defray the expenses of necessary care if—

(1) the veteran is eligible to receive medical assistance under a State plan approved under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

(2) the veteran is in receipt of pension under section 1521 of this title; or

(3) the veteran's attributable income is not greater than the amount set forth in subsection (b).

(b)(1) For purposes of subsection (a)(3), the income threshold for the calendar year beginning on January 1, 1990, is—

(A) \$17,240 in the case of a veteran with no dependents; and

(B) \$20,688 in the case of a veteran with one dependent, plus \$1,150 for each additional dependent.

(2) For a calendar year beginning after December 31, 1990, the amounts in effect for purposes of this subsection shall be the amounts in effect for the preceding calendar year as adjusted under subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Effective on January 1 of each year, the amounts in effect under subsection (b) of this section shall be increased by the percentage by