safety associations; the Secretary is authorized to recognize the Joseph A. Holmes Safety Association as a principal safety association and, notwithstanding any other provision of law, may provide funds and, with or without reimbursement, personnel, including service of Mine Safety and Health Administration officials as officers in local chapters or in the national organization; and any funds available to the Department of Labor may be used, with the approval of the Secretary, to provide for the costs of mine rescue and survival operations in the event of a major disaster.

(Pub. L. 111–117, div. D, title I, Dec. 16, 2009, 123 Stat. 3235.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the appropriation act cited as the credit to this section, and not as part of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 which comprises this chapter.

SIMILAR PROVISIONS

Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

Pub. L. 111–8, div. F, title I, Mar. 11, 2009, 123 Stat. 759.

Pub. L. 110–161, div. G, title I, Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2164.

Pub. L. 109–149, title I, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2841.

Pub. L. 108–447, div. F, title I, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3120.

Pub. L. 108–199, div. E, title I, Jan. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 233.

Pub. L. 108–7, div. G, title I, Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 305.

Pub. L. 107–116, title I, Jan. 10, 2002, 115 Stat. 2183.

Pub. L. 106–554, § 1(a)(1) [title I], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A–9.

Pub. L. 106–113, div. B, § 1000(a)(4) [title I], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1535, 1501A–223.

Pub. L. 105–277, div. A, § 101(f) [title I], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681–337, 2681–344.

Pub. L. 105–78, title I, Nov. 13, 1997, 111 Stat. 1475.

Pub. L. 104–208, div. A, title I, § 101(e) [title I], Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–233, 3009–240.

Pub. L. 104–134, title I, § 101(d) [title I], Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321–211, 1321–218; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 104–140, § 1(a), May 2, 1996, 110 Stat. 1327.

Pub. L. 103–333, title I, Sept. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 2545.

Pub. L. 103–112, title I, Oct. 21, 1993, 107 Stat. 1088.

Pub. L. 102–394, title I, Oct. 6, 1992, 106 Stat. 1797.

Pub. L. 102–170, title I, Nov. 26, 1991, 105 Stat. 1112.

Pub. L. 101–517, title I, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2195.

Pub. L. 101–166, title I, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1164.

Pub. L. 100–436, title I, Sept. 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 1686.

Pub. L. 100–202, § 101(h) [title I], Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1329–256, 1329–262.

Pub. L. 99–500, § 101(i) [H.R. 5233, title I], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783–287, and Pub. L. 99–591, § 101(i) [H.R. 5233, title I], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341–287.

Pub. L. 99–178, title I, Dec. 12, 1985, 99 Stat. 1107.

Pub. L. 98–619, title I, Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3310.

Pub. L. 98–139, title I, Oct. 31, 1983, 97 Stat. 876.

Pub. L. 97–377, title I, § 101(e)(1) [title I], Dec. 21, 1982, 96 Stat. 1878, 1883.

Pub. L. 97–92, § 101(a) [H.R. 4560, title I], Dec. 15, 1981, 95 Stat. 1183.

Pub. L. 96–536, § 101(a) [incorporating H.R. 4389, title I, for FY 1980], Dec. 16, 1980, 94 Stat. 3166.

Pub. L. 96–123, § 101(g) [H.R. 4389, title I], Nov. 20, 1979, 93 Stat. 925.

Pub. L. 95–480, title I, Oct. 18, 1978, 92 Stat. 1570.

Pub. L. 95–355, title I, Sept. 8, 1978, 92 Stat. 529.

§ 963. Technical Study Panel

(a) Establishment

There is established a Technical Study Panel (referred to in this section as the ''Panel'') which shall provide independent scientific and engineering review and recommendations with respect to the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

(b) Membership

The Panel shall be composed of—

(1) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Associate Director of the Office of Mine Safety;

(2) two individuals to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Mine Safety and Health; and

(3) two individuals, one to be appointed jointly by the majority leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives and one to be appointed jointly by the minority leader of the Senate and House of Representatives, each to be appointed prior to the sine die adjournment of the second session of the 109th Congress.

(c) Qualifications

Four of the six individuals appointed to the Panel under subsection (b) shall possess a masters or doctoral level degree in mining engineering or another scientific field demonstrably related to the subject of the report. No individual appointed to the Panel shall be an employee of any coal or other mine, or of any labor organization, or of any State or Federal agency primarily responsible for regulating the mining industry.

(d) Report

(1) In general

Not later than 1 year after the date on which all members of the Panel are appointed under subsection (b), the Panel shall prepare and submit to the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives a report concerning the utilization of belt air and the composition and fire retardant properties of belt materials in underground coal mining.

(2) Response by Secretary

Not later than 180 days after the receipt of the report under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Labor shall provide a response to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives containing a description of the actions, if any, that the Secretary intends to take based upon the report, including proposing regulatory changes, and the reasons for such actions.

(e) Compensation

Members appointed to the Panel, while carrying out the duties of the Panel shall be entitled to receive compensation, per diem in lieu of subsistence, and travel expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as that prescribed under section 210(c) of title 42.

(Pub. L. 91–173, title V, § 514, as added Pub. L. 109–236, § 11, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 501.)

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Education and the Workforce of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Education and Labor of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

§ 964. Scholarships

(a) Establishment

The Secretary of Education (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), in consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall establish a program to provide scholarships to eligible individuals to increase the skilled workforce for both private sector coal mine operators and mine safety inspectors and other regulatory personnel for the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(b) Fundamental skills scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in 2-year associate's degree programs at community colleges or other colleges and universities that focus on providing the fundamental skills and training that is of immediate use to a beginning coal miner.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) shall include basic math, basic health and safety, business principles, management and supervisory skills, skills related to electric circuitry, skills related to heavy equipment operations, and skills related to communications.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

(A) have a high school diploma or a GED;

(B) have at least 2 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;

(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and

(D) demonstrate an interest in working in the field of mining and performing an internship with the Mine Safety and Health Administration or the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Office of Mine Safety.

(c) Mine safety inspector scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarship to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor's degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to become mine safety inspectors.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

(A) have a high school diploma or a GED;

(B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in mining or mining-related activities;

(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information; and

(D) agree to be employed for a period of at least 5 years at the Mine Safety and Health Administration or, to repay, on a pro-rated basis, the funds received under this program, plus interest, at a rate established by the Secretary upon the issuance of the scholarship.

(d) Advanced research scholarships

(1) In general

Under the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may award scholarships to fully or partially pay the tuition costs of eligible individuals enrolled in undergraduate bachelor's degree, masters degree, and Ph.D. degree programs at accredited colleges or universities that provide the skills needed to augment and advance research in mine safety and to broaden, improve, and expand the universe of candidates for mine safety inspector and other regulatory positions in the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

(2) Skills

The skills described in paragraph (1) include skills developed through programs leading to a degree in mining engineering, civil engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering, environmental engineering, industrial hygiene, occupational health and safety, geology, chemistry, or other fields of study related to mine safety and health work.

(3) Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this subsection an individual shall—

(A) have a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited 4-year institution;

(B) have at least 5 years experience in full-time employment in underground mining or mining-related activities; and

(C) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 91–173, title V, § 515, as added Pub. L. 109–236, § 12, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 502.)

§ 965. Brookwood-Sago Mine Safety Grants

(a) In general

The Secretary of Labor shall establish a program to award competitive grants for education