

tion] shall take effect on January 1, 1965; except that subsection (b) of section 641 [now 1741] of title 38, United States Code, as in effect immediately before such date, shall remain in effect with respect to any amounts retained or collected by any State home before such date."

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR NURSING HOME CARE

Section 3(b) of Pub. L. 88-450 provided that: "No payment shall be made to any State home solely by reason of the amendment made by this section [amending this section] on account of nursing home care furnished any veteran except where such care is furnished the veteran by the State home for the first time after the effective date of this section [Jan. 1, 1965]."

§ 1742. Inspections of such homes; restrictions on beneficiaries

(a) The Secretary may inspect any State home at such times as the Secretary deems necessary. No payment or grant may be made to any home under this subchapter unless such home is determined by the Secretary to meet such standards as the Secretary shall prescribe, which standards with respect to nursing home care shall be no less stringent than those prescribed pursuant to section 1720(b) of this title.

(b) The Secretary may ascertain the number of persons on account of whom payments may be made under this subchapter on account of any State home, but shall have no authority over the management or control of any State home.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1146, §642; Pub. L. 94-581, title I, §107(a), title II, §210(a)(16), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2847, 2863; renumbered §1742 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1742 was renumbered section 3542 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, §5(a), renumbered section 642 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, §5(c)(1), substituted "1720(b)" for "620(b)".

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

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

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-581 substituted "as the Administrator deems necessary" for "as he deems necessary" in existing provisions and inserted provision that no payment or grant may be made to any home under this subchapter unless such home is determined by the Administrator to meet such standards as the Administrator shall prescribe, which standards with respect to nursing home care shall be no less stringent than those prescribed pursuant to section 620(b) 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.

§ 1743. Applications

Payments on account of any veteran cared for in a State home shall be made under this subchapter only from the date the Secretary receives a request for determination of such veteran's eligibility; however, if such request is received by the Secretary within ten days after

care of such veteran begins, payments shall be made on account of such veteran from the date care began.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1147, §643; Pub. L. 97-251, §7, Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 716; renumbered §1743 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 1743 was renumbered section 3543 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 643 of this title as this section and substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in two places.

1982—Pub. L. 97-251 struck out "of any war" after "Payments on account of any veteran".

§ 1744. Hiring and retention of nurses: payments to assist States

(a) PAYMENT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall make payments to States under this section for the purpose of assisting State homes in the hiring and retention of nurses and the reduction of nursing shortages at State homes.

(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—Payments to a State for a fiscal year under this section shall, subject to submission of an application, be made to any State that during that fiscal year—

(1) receives per diem payments under this subchapter for that fiscal year; and

(2) has in effect an employee incentive scholarship program or other employee incentive program at a State home designed to promote the hiring and retention of nursing staff and to reduce nursing shortages at that home.

(c) USE OF FUNDS RECEIVED.—A State may use an amount received under this section only to provide funds for a program described in subsection (b)(2). Any program shall meet such criteria as the Secretary may prescribe. In prescribing such criteria, the Secretary shall take into consideration the need for flexibility and innovation.

(d) LIMITATIONS ON AMOUNT OF PAYMENT.—(1) A payment under this section may not be used to provide more than 50 percent of the costs for a fiscal year of the employee incentive scholarship or other employee incentive program for which the payment is made.

(2) The amount of the payment to a State under this section for any fiscal year is, for each State home in that State with a program described in subsection (b)(2), the amount equal to 2 percent of the amount of payments estimated to be made to that State, for that State home, under section 1741 of this title for that fiscal year.

(e) APPLICATIONS.—A payment under this section for any fiscal year with respect to any State home may only be made based upon an application submitted by the State seeking the payment with respect to that State home. Any such application shall describe the nursing shortage at the State home and the employee incentive scholarship program or other employee incentive program described in subsection (c) for which the payment is sought.

(f) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Payments under this section shall be made from funds available for other payments under this subchapter.

(g) DISBURSEMENT.—Payments under this section to a State home shall be made as part of the disbursement of payments under section 1741 of this title with respect to that State home.

(h) USE OF CERTAIN RECEIPTS.—The Secretary shall require as a condition of any payment under this section that, in any case in which the State home receives a refund payment made by an employee in breach of the terms of an agreement for employee assistance that used funds provided under this section, the payment shall be returned to the State home's incentive program account and credited as a non-Federal funding source.

(i) ANNUAL REPORT FROM PAYMENT RECIPIENTS.—Any State home receiving a payment under this section for any fiscal year, shall, as a condition of the payment, be required to agree to provide to the Secretary a report setting forth in detail the use of funds received through the payment, including a descriptive analysis of how effective the incentive program has been on nurse staffing in the State home during that fiscal year. The report for any fiscal year shall be provided to the Secretary within 60 days of the close of the fiscal year and shall be subject to audit by the Secretary. Eligibility for a payment under this section for any later fiscal year is contingent upon the receipt by the Secretary of the annual report under this subsection for the previous fiscal year in accordance with this subsection.

(j) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section. The regulations shall include the establishment of criteria for the award of payments under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 108-422, title II, §201(a)(1), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2380.)

IMPLEMENTATION

Pub. L. 108-422, title II, §201(b), Nov. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 2382, provided that: "The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall implement section 1744 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), as expeditiously as possible. The Secretary shall establish such interim procedures as necessary so as to ensure that payments are made to eligible States under that section commencing not later than June 1, 2005, notwithstanding that regulations under subsection (j) of that section may not have become final."

§ 1745. Nursing home care and medications for veterans with service-connected disabilities

(a)(1) The Secretary shall pay each State home for nursing home care at the rate determined under paragraph (2), in any case in which such care is provided to any veteran as follows:

(A) Any veteran in need of such care for a service-connected disability.

(B) Any veteran who—

(i) has a service-connected disability rated at 70 percent or more; and

(ii) is in need of such care.

(2) The rate determined under this paragraph with respect to a State home is the lesser of—

(A) the applicable or prevailing rate payable in the geographic area in which the State

home is located, as determined by the Secretary, for nursing home care furnished in a non-Department nursing home (as that term is defined in section 1720(e)(2) of this title); or

(B) a rate not to exceed the daily cost of care, as determined by the Secretary, following a report to the Secretary by the director of the State home.

(3) Payment by the Secretary under paragraph (1) to a State home for nursing home care provided to a veteran described in that paragraph constitutes payment in full to the State home for such care furnished to that veteran.

(b) The Secretary shall furnish such drugs and medicines as may be ordered on prescription of a duly licensed physician as specific therapy in the treatment of illness or injury to any veteran as follows:

(1) Any veteran who—

(A) is not being provided nursing home care for which payment is payable under subsection (a); and

(B) is in need of such drugs and medicines for a service-connected disability.

(2) Any veteran who—

(A) has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more;

(B) is not being provided nursing home care for which payment is payable under subsection (a); and

(C) is in need of such drugs and medicines.

(c) Any State home that requests payment or reimbursement for services provided to a veteran under this section shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary considers necessary to identify each individual veteran eligible for payment under such section.

(Added and amended Pub. L. 109-461, title II, §211(a)(1), (2), (b)(1), Dec. 22, 2006, 120 Stat. 3418, 3419.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-461, §211(a)(2), added subsec. (b).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-461, §211(b)(1), added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section and amendment by section 211(a)(2) of Pub. L. 109-461 effective 90 days after Dec. 22, 2006, see section 211(a)(5) of Pub. L. 109-461, set out as an Effective Date of 2006 Amendment note under section 1710 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER VI—SICKLE CELL ANEMIA

§ 1751. Screening, counseling, and medical treatment

The Secretary is authorized to carry out a comprehensive program of providing sickle cell anemia screening, counseling, treatment, and information under the provisions of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 93-82, title I, §109(a), Aug. 2, 1973, 87 Stat. 186, §651; renumbered §1751 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 651 of this title as this section and substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".