available for the rehabilitation of handicapped persons. For this purpose, the Secretary may employ the services of consultants and may make grants to and contract with public or private agencies (including institutions of higher learning) to conduct such training and development.

(b) The Secretary shall coordinate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor in planning and carrying out personnel training in areas of mutual programmatic concern.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall establish such qualifications for personnel providing evaluation and rehabilitation services to veterans under this chapter and for employees performing the functions described in section 3106(f) of this title as the Secretary determines are necessary and appropriate to insure the quality of rehabilitation programs under this chapter. In establishing such qualifications, the Secretary shall take into account the qualifications established for comparable personnel under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. ch. 16).


References in Text

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. ch. 16), referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 93–112, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 355, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 16 (§701 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of this Act Effective Date Title 38—Veterans' Benefits

§3119. Rehabilitation research and special projects

(a) The Secretary shall carry out an ongoing program of activities for the purpose of advancing the knowledge, methods, techniques, and resources available for use in rehabilitation programs for veterans. For this purpose, the Secretary shall conduct and provide support for the development or conduct, or both the development and conduct, of—

(1) studies and research concerning the psychological, educational, employment, social, vocational, industrial, and economic aspects of the rehabilitation of disabled veterans, including new methods of rehabilitation; and

(2) projects which are designed to increase the resources and potential for accomplishing the rehabilitation of disabled veterans.

(b) For the purpose specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to make grants to or contract with public or nonprofit agencies, including institutions of higher learning.

(c) The Secretary shall cooperate with the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Director of the Institute of Handicapped Research in the Department of Education, the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment in the Department of Labor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding rehabilitation studies, research, and special projects of mutual programmatic concern.


AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102–83 renumbered section 1519 of this title as this section.


Effective Date

Section effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 802(a)(2) of Pub. L. 96–466, set out as a note under section 3100 of this title.

§3120. Program of independent living services and assistance

(a) The Secretary may, under contracts with entities described in subsection (f) of this section, or through facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, which possess a demonstrated capability to conduct programs of independent living services for severely handicapped persons, provide, under regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, programs of independent living services and assistance under this chapter, in various geographic regions of the United States, to veterans described in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) A program of independent living services and assistance may be made available under this section only to a veteran who has a serious employment handicap resulting in substantial part from a service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(B)(i)(I) of this title and with respect to whom it is determined under section 3106(d) or (e) of this title that the achievement of a vocational goal currently is not reasonably feasible.

(c) The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent feasible, include among those veterans who are provided with programs of independent living services and assistance under this section substantial numbers of veterans described in
subsection (b) of this section who are receiving long-term care in Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and nursing homes and in nursing homes with which the Secretary contracts for the provision of care to veterans.

(d) A program of independent living services and assistance for a veteran shall consist of such services described in section 3104(a) of this title as the Secretary determines necessary to enable such veteran to achieve maximum independence in daily living. Such veteran shall have the same rights with respect to an individualized written plan of services and assistance as are afforded veterans under section 3107 of this title.

(e)(1) Programs of independent living services and assistance shall be initiated for no more than 2,700 veterans in each fiscal year, and the first priority in the provision of such programs shall be afforded to veterans for whom the reasonable feasibility of achieving a vocational goal is precluded solely as a result of a service-connected disability.

(2) The limitation in paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case in which the Secretary determines that a veteran described in subsection (a) has been displaced as the result of, or has otherwise been adversely affected in the areas covered by, a natural or other disaster, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) Entities described in this subsection are (1) public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and (2) for-profit entities in cases in which the Secretary determines that services comparable in effectiveness to services available from such an entity are not available, or cannot be obtained cost-effectively from, public or nonprofit agencies or through facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.


AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 112–154 designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

2010—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111–275 substituted “2,700” for “2,500”.

2009—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 110–389, which directed amendment of subsection (e) by substituting “2,500 veterans” for “2,500 veterans”, was executed by making the substitution for “2,500 veterans” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.


1996—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104–275, §101(i)(1), substituted “serious employment handicap resulting in substantial part from a service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(A)” for “service-connected disability described in section 3102(1)(A)”.

Pub. L. 104–275, §101(f)(2)(D), substituted “3106(d) or (e)” for “3106(d)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104–275, §101(i)(2), struck out “(b)” after “section 310(a)”.


Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103–446, §1201(b)(11), which directed substitution of “section 3102(1)(A)” for “section 3012(1)(A)”, could not be executed because the words “section 3012(1)(A)” did not appear.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 102–83, §5(c)(1), substituted “1504(a)” for “3104(a)” and “3106(d)” for “1506(d)”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102–83, §5(c)(1), substituted “3104(a)” for “1504(a)” and “3107” for “1507”.


Pub. L. 101–237, §404(2)–(4), redesignated former par. (1) of subsec. (a) as entire subsection, substituted “The” for “During fiscal years 1982 through 1988, the”, “subsection (f)” for “paragraph (f) of this section” for “paragraph (f) of this subsection” and “subsection (b)” for “paragraph (b) of this section”, redesignated former pars. (2), (3), (4), (6), and (7) of subsec. (a) as subsecs. (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of this section, respectively, and struck out former par. (5) which read as follows: “Any contract for services initiated with respect to any veteran under this section before the end of fiscal year 1989 may be continued in effect after the end of such year for the purposes of providing services and assistance to such veteran in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101–237, §404(1), (3), (5), redesignated former subsec. (a)(2) as (b), struck out before period at end “and who is selected pursuant to criteria provided for in regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) of this subsection” and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Not later than February 1, 1989, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives statistical data regarding veterans’ participation in the program conducted under subsection (a) of this section during fiscal years 1987 and 1988 and any recommendations of the Administrator for administrative or legislative action or both regarding the program.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101–237, §423(b)(1), substituted “Secretary” and “Department of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator” and “Veterans Administration”, respectively, wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 101–237, §404(3), (6), redesignated former subsec. (a)(3) as (c) and substituted “subsection (b) of this section” for “paragraph (2) of this subsection”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 101–237, §423(b)(1)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.


Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101–237, §404(3), (7), redesignated former subsec. (a)(6) as (e) and substituted “in each fiscal year” for “in each of the fiscal years 1982 through 1989”.

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 101–237, §423(b)(1)(A), substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator”.

Pub. L. 101–237, §404(3), (8), redesignated former subsec. (a)(7) as (f) and substituted “in this subsection are (1) public or nonprofit agencies or organizations, and (2) private for-profit agencies or organizations”.

1988—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 100–689, §202(b)(1), substituted “entities described in paragraph (7) of this subsection” for “public or nonprofit private agencies or organizations”.

§ 3121. Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation

(a)(1) The Secretary shall appoint an advisory committee to be known as the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (hereinafter in this section referred to as the "Committee").

(2) The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from the general public and shall serve for terms to be determined by the Secretary not to exceed three years. Veterans with service-connected disabilities shall be appropriately represented in the membership of the Committee, and the Committee shall also include persons who have distinguished themselves in the public and private sectors in the fields of rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, and employment and training programs. The Secretary may designate one of the members of the Committee appointed under this paragraph to chair the Committee.

(c) The Committee shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the rehabilitation programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall submit the reports and recommendations to the Secretary as the Committee determines appropriate. The annual report shall include an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of veterans and a review of the programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs designed to meet such needs. The Secretary shall submit with each annual report submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 529 of this title a copy of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous annual report of the Secretary was submitted to the Congress pursuant to such section.

Amendments


(c) The Committee shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the rehabilitation programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and shall submit the reports and recommendations to the Secretary as the Committee determines appropriate. The annual report shall include an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of veterans and a review of the programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs designed to meet such needs. The Secretary shall submit with each annual report submitted to the Congress pursuant to section 529 of this title a copy of all reports and recommendations of the Committee submitted to the Secretary since the previous annual report of the Secretary was submitted to the Congress pursuant to such section.