

Public Law 91-291

AN ACT

June 25, 1970
[S. 1479]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize a maximum of \$15,000 coverage under Servicemen's Group Life Insurance, to enlarge the classes eligible for such insurance, to improve the administration of the programs of life insurance provided for servicemen and veterans, and for other purposes.

Armed Forces.
Group life insurance, increase.
79 Stat. 880.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 765 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 765. Definitions

“For the purpose of this subchapter—

“(1) The term ‘active duty’ means—

“(A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces, other than active duty for training;

“(B) full-time duty (other than for training purposes) as a commissioned officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service; and

“(C) full-time duty as a commissioned officer of the Environmental Science Services Administration.

“(2) The term ‘active duty for training’ means—

“(A) full-time duty in the Armed Forces performed by Reserves for training purposes;

“(B) full-time duty for training purposes performed as a commissioned officer of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service;

“(C) full-time duty as a member, cadet, or midshipman of the Reserve Officers Training Corps while attending field training or practice cruises; and

“(D) in the case of members of the National Guard or Air National Guard of any State, full-time duty under sections 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of title 32, United States Code.

“(3) The term ‘inactive duty training’ means—

“(A) duty (other than full-time duty) prescribed or authorized for Reserves (including commissioned officers of the Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service) which duty is scheduled in advance by competent authority to begin at a specific time and place; and

“(B) in the case of a member of the National Guard or Air National Guard of any State, such term means duty (other than full-time duty) which is scheduled in advance by competent authority to begin at a specific time and place under sections 316, 502, 503, 504, or 505 of title 32, United States Code.

“(4) The terms ‘active duty for training’ and ‘inactive duty training’ do not include duty performed as a temporary member of the Coast Guard Reserve, and the term ‘inactive duty training’ does not include (i) work or study performed in connection with correspondence courses, or (ii) attendance at an educational institution in an inactive status.

“(5) The term ‘member’ means—

“(A) a person on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training in the uniformed services in a commissioned, warrant, or enlisted rank or grade; and

“(B) a member, cadet, or midshipman of the Reserve Officers Training Corps while attending field training or practice cruises.

“(6) The term ‘uniformed services’ means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, the commissioned corps of the

70A Stat. 605;
78 Stat. 999.

Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the Environmental Science Services Administration.”

SEC. 2. Section 767 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

79 Stat. 881.

“§ 767. Persons insured; amount

“(a) Any policy of insurance purchased by the Administrator under section 766 of this title shall automatically insure any member of the uniformed service on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority, against death in the amount of \$15,000 unless such member elects in writing (1) not to be insured under this subchapter, or (2) to be insured in the amount of \$10,000 or \$5,000. The insurance shall be effective the first day of active duty or active duty for training, or the beginning of a period of inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority, or from the date certified by the Administrator to the Secretary concerned as the date servicemen’s group life insurance under this chapter for the class or group concerned takes effect, whichever is the later date.

“(b) Any member (other than one who has elected not to be insured under this subchapter for the period or periods of duty involved)—

“(1) who, when authorized or required by competent authority, assumes an obligation to perform (for less than thirty-one days) active duty, or active duty for training, or inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority; and

“(2) who is rendered uninsurable at standard premium rates according to the good health standards approved by the Administrator, or dies within ninety days thereafter, from a disability, or aggravation of a preexisting disability, incurred by him while proceeding directly to or returning directly from such active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training as the case may be;

shall be deemed to have been on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, as the case may be, and to have been insured under this subchapter at the time such disability was incurred or aggravated, and if death occurs within ninety days thereafter as a result of such disability to have been insured at the time of death. In determining whether or not such individual was so authorized or required to perform such duty, and whether or not he was rendered uninsurable or died within ninety days thereafter from a disability so incurred or aggravated, there shall be taken into account the call or order to duty, the orders and authorizations of competent authority, the hour on which the member began to so proceed or to return, the hour on which he was scheduled to arrive for, or on which he ceased to perform such duty; the method of travel employed; his itinerary; the manner in which the travel was performed; and the immediate cause of disability or death. Whenever any claim is filed alleging that the claimant is entitled to benefits by reason of this subsection, the burden of proof shall be on the claimant.

“(c) If any member elects not to be insured under this subchapter or to be insured in the amount of \$10,000 or \$5,000, he may thereafter be insured under this subchapter or insured in the amount of \$15,000 or \$10,000 under this subchapter, as the case may be, upon written application, proof of good health, and compliance with such other terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Administrator.”

79 Stat. 881.

SEC. 3. Section 768 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 768. Duration and termination of coverage; conversion

“(a) Each policy purchased under this subchapter shall contain a provision, in terms approved by the Administrator, to the effect that any insurance thereunder on any member of the uniformed services, unless discontinued or reduced upon the written request of the insured, shall continue in effect while the member is on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority during the period thereof, and such insurance shall cease—

“(1) with respect to a member on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that does not specify a period of less than thirty-one days—

“(A) one hundred and twenty days after the separation or release from active duty or active duty for training, unless on the date of such separation or release the member is totally disabled, under criteria established by the Administrator, in which event the insurance shall cease one year after the date of separation or release from such active duty or active duty for training, or on the date the insured ceases to be totally disabled, whichever is the earlier date, but in no event prior to the expiration of one hundred and twenty days after such separation or release; or

“(B) at the end of the thirty-first day of a continuous period of (i) absence without leave, (ii) confinement by civil authorities under a sentence adjudged by a civilian court, or (iii) confinement by military authorities under a court-martial sentence involving total forfeiture of pay and allowances. Any insurance so terminated as the result of such an absence or confinement, together with any beneficiary designation in effect for such insurance at such termination thereof, shall be automatically revived as of the date the member is restored to active duty with pay or to active duty for training with pay.

“(2) with respect to a member on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that specifies a period of less than thirty-one days insurance under this subchapter shall cease at midnight, local time, on the last day of such duty, unless on such date the insured is suffering from a disability incurred or aggravated during such period which, within ninety days after such date, (i) results in his death, or (ii) renders him uninsurable at standard premium rates according to the good health standards approved by the Administrator, in which event the insurance shall continue in force to death, or for ninety days after such date, whichever is the earlier date.

“(3) with respect to a member on inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority insurance under this subchapter shall cease at the end of such scheduled training period, unless at such time the insured is suffering from a disability incurred, or aggravated during such period which, within ninety days after the date of such training, (i) results in his death, or (ii) renders him uninsurable at standard premium rates according to the good health standards approved by the Administrator

in which event the insurance shall continue in force to death, or for ninety days after the date such training terminated, whichever is the earlier date.

“(b) Each policy purchased under this subchapter shall contain a provision, in terms approved by the Administrator, for the conversion of Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance to an individual policy of life insurance—

Conversion provision.

“(1) with respect to a member on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that does not specify a period of less than thirty-one days, effective the one hundred and twenty-first day after separation or release from such duty, or at any time thereafter such insurance is in effect;

“(2) with respect to a member on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that specifies a period of less than thirty-one days, and a member insured during inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority there shall be no right of conversion unless the insurance is continued in force for ninety days after such duty terminates, as the result of a disability incurred or aggravated during such active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, in which event the insurance may be converted effective the day after the end of such ninety-day period.

“(c) An insured eligible to convert insurance under this subchapter upon request to the Office of Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance shall be furnished a list of life insurance companies participating in the program established under this subchapter. Upon written application for conversion of Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance made by an eligible insured under this subchapter to the participating company he selects and payment of the required premiums the insured shall be granted life insurance on a plan then currently written by such company which does not provide for the payment of any sum less than the face value thereof or for the payment of an additional amount as premiums if the insured engages in the military service of the United States. Such converted insurance shall be issued without a medical examination if application is made within one hundred and twenty days after separation or release from active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to duty that did not specify a period of less than thirty-one days. Medical examinations and evidence of qualifying health conditions may be required in any case where the former member alleges that his insurance is continued in force beyond the normal termination date by reason of a qualifying disability incurred or aggravated during active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training. In addition to the life insurance companies participating in the program established under this subchapter, the list furnished to an insured under this section, shall include additional life insurance companies (not so participating) which meet qualifying criteria, terms and conditions established by the Administrator and agree to sell insurance to former members in accordance with the provisions of this section.”

Participating insurance companies.
Written application for conversion.

SEC. 4. Section 769 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

Deductions.
79 Stat. 881.

“(a) (1) During any period in which a member, on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to such duty that does not specify a period of less than thirty-one days, is insured under a policy of insurance purchased by the Administrator, under section 766 of this title, there shall be deducted each month from his basic or other

pay until separation or release from such duty an amount determined by the Administrator (which shall be the same for all such members) as the share of the cost attributable to insuring such member under such policy, less any costs traceable to the extra hazard of such duty in the uniformed service.

“(2) During any fiscal year, or portion thereof, that a member is on active duty or active duty for training under a call or order to such duty that specifies a period of less than thirty-one days, or is authorized or required to perform inactive duty training scheduled in advance by competent authority, and is insured under a policy of insurance purchased by the Administrator, under section 766 of this title, the Secretary concerned shall collect from him (by deduction from pay or otherwise) an amount determined by the Administrator (which shall be the same for all such members) as the share of the cost attributable to insuring such member under such policy, less any costs traceable to the extra hazard of such duty in the uniformed service.

“(3) Any amount not deducted from the basic or other pay of a member insured under this subchapter, or collected from him by the Secretary concerned, if not otherwise paid, shall be deducted from the proceeds of any insurance thereafter payable. The initial monthly amount under subsection (1) hereof, or fiscal year amount under subsection (2) hereof, determined by the Administrator to be charged under this section for insurance under this subchapter may be continued from year to year, except that the Administrator may re-determine such monthly or fiscal year amounts from time to time in accordance with experience. No refunds will be made to any member of any amount properly deducted from his basic or other pay, or collected from him by the Secretary concerned, to cover the insurance granted under this subchapter.

“(b) For each month for which any member is so insured, there shall be contributed from the appropriation made for active duty pay of the uniformed service concerned an amount determined by the Administrator and certified to the Secretary concerned to be the cost of such insurance which is traceable to the extra hazard of duty in the uniformed services. Effective January 1, 1970, such cost shall be determined by the Administrator on the basis of the excess mortality incurred by members and former members of the uniformed services insured under this subchapter above what their mortality would have been under peacetime conditions as such mortality is determined by the Administrator using such methods and data as he shall determine to be reasonable and practicable. The Administrator is authorized to make such adjustments regarding contributions from pay appropriations as may be indicated from actual experience.”

(2) by inserting after “pay of members” in the first sentence of subsection (d) (1) the following: “, or collected from them by the Secretary concerned.”

SEC. 5. Section 770 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding the following new subsections thereto:

“(e) Until and unless otherwise changed, a beneficiary designation and settlement option filed by a member with his uniformed service under prior provisions of law will be effective with respect to the increased insurance authorized under this amendatory Act and the insurance shall be settled in the same proportionate amount as the portion designated for such beneficiary or beneficiaries bore to the amount of insurance heretofore in effect.

79 Stat. 880.

Beneficiaries.
79 Stat. 883.

“(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, payment of matured Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance benefits may be made directly to a minor widow or widower on his or her own behalf, and payment in such case shall be a complete acquittance to the insurer.

Payments to
minor widow.

“(g) Payments of benefits due or to become due under Servicemen’s Group Life Insurance made to, or on account of, a beneficiary shall be exempt from taxation, shall be exempt from the claims of creditors, and shall not be liable to attachment, levy, or seizure by or under any legal or equitable process whatever, either before or after receipt by the beneficiary. The preceding sentence shall not apply to (1) collection of amounts not deducted from the member’s pay, or collected from him by the Secretary concerned under section 769(a) of this title, (2) levy under subchapter D of chapter 64 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (relating to the seizure of property for collection of taxes), and (3) the taxation of any property purchased in part or wholly out of such payments.”

Benefits exempt
from taxation, etc.

Ante, p. 329.

68A Stat. 783;
80 Stat. 1135.
26 USC 6331-
6344.

79 Stat. 885.

SEC. 6. Section 774 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after “the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare,” the following: “the Secretary of Transportation.”

SEC. 7. The analysis of subchapter III of chapter 19 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking therefrom

“768. Termination of coverage; conversion”

and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“768. Duration and termination of coverage; conversion”.

SEC. 8. The third sentence of section 705 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out “lapse occurred not earlier than two months before the expiration of the term period” and inserting in lieu thereof “insured makes application for reinstatement and renewal of his term policy within five years after the date of lapse”.

National Service
Life Insurance.
72 Stat. 1148.

SEC. 9. Section 707 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(a)” before the word “Until” and adding a new subsection (b) as follows:

Dividends.
Request for cash
payment.
72 Stat. 1149.

“(b) No claim by an insured for payment in cash of a special dividend declared prior to January 1, 1952, shall be processed by the Veterans’ Administration unless such claim was received within six years after such dividend was declared. Whenever any claim for payment of a special dividend, the processing of which is barred by this subsection, is received in the Veterans’ Administration, it shall be returned to the claimant, with a copy of this subsection, and such action shall be a complete response without further communication.”

SEC. 10. Section 717 of title 38, United States Code, is amended (a) by substituting a period for the comma after the word “beneficiary” in the last sentence of subsection (c) and striking the remainder of the sentence, and (b) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

Matured insur-
ance proceeds.
Method of pay-
ment.
72 Stat. 1152.

“(e) Under such regulations as the Administrator may promulgate, the cash surrender value of any policy of insurance or the proceeds of an endowment contract which matures by reason of completion of the endowment period may be paid to the insured under option (2) or (4) of this section. All settlements under option (4), however, shall be calculated on the basis of The Annuity Table for 1949. If the option selected requires payment of monthly installments of less than \$10, the amount payable shall be paid in such maximum number of monthly installments as are a multiple of twelve as will provide a monthly installment of not less than \$10.”

SEC. 11. Section 745 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

U.S. Govern-
ment Life Insur-
ance.

“§ 745. Renewal

“At the expiration of any term period any insurance policy issued on the five-year level premium term plan which has not been exchanged or converted to a permanent plan of insurance and which is not lapsed shall be renewed as level premium term insurance without application for a successive five-year period at the premium rate for the attained age without medical examination. However, renewal shall be effected in cases where the policy is lapsed only if the insured makes application for reinstatement and renewal of his term policy within five years after the date of lapse, and reinstatement in such cases shall be under the terms and conditions prescribed by the Administrator.”

Optional settlement.
72 Stat. 1161.

SEC. 12. Section 752 of title 38, United States Code, is amended (1) by adding “(a)” before the words “The Administrator”, and (2) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(b) Under such regulations as the Administrator may promulgate, the cash surrender value of any policy of insurance or the proceeds of an endowment contract which matures by reason of completion of the endowment period may be paid to the insured (1) in equal monthly installments of from thirty-six to two hundred and forty in number, in multiples of twelve; or (2) as a refund life income in monthly installments payable for such periods certain as may be required in order that the sum of the installments certain, including a last installment of such reduced amount as may be necessary, shall equal the cash value of the contract, less any indebtedness, with such payments continuing throughout the lifetime of the insured. However, all settlements under option (2) above shall be calculated on the basis of The Annuity Table for 1949. If the option selected requires payment of monthly installments of less than \$10, the amount payable shall be paid in such maximum number of monthly installments as are a multiple of twelve as will provide a monthly installment of not less than \$10.”

Payments, restrictions.
72 Stat. 1132.

SEC. 13. (a) The first sentence of section 417(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(1)” immediately after “unless”, and by striking out the period at the end of such sentence and inserting in lieu thereof a comma and the following: “or (2) the total amount paid to the widow, children, or parents of such veteran under any such policy is equal to or exceeds the face value of the policy and such amount paid when added to any amounts paid as death compensation is equal to or less than the total amount which would have been payable in dependency and indemnity compensation following the death of such veteran if such widow, children, or parents had been eligible for such compensation upon the death of such veteran. Any person receiving death compensation at the time he becomes eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation pursuant to clause (2) of the preceding sentence shall continue to receive such death compensation unless he makes application to the Administrator to be paid dependency and indemnity compensation. An election by such person to receive dependency and indemnity compensation shall be final.”

(b) The last sentence of section 417(a) of such title is amended by striking out “preceding sentence” and inserting in lieu thereof “first sentence”.

Prohibition.

(c) No dependency and indemnity compensation shall be payable to any person by virtue of the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section for any person prior to the effective date of this Act.

Effective dates.

SEC. 14. (a) The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as of the date of enactment, except that sections 10 and 12 shall take effect as of the first day of the first calendar month which begins more than six calendar months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) The provisions of section 765 (7), (8), and (9) of title 38, United States Code, as added by the first section of this Act shall apply only to servicemen's group life insurance in effect on the life of an insured member who dies on and after the date of enactment of this Act.

Approved June 25, 1970.

Public Law 91-292

AN ACT

June 25, 1970
[H. R. 14810]

To amend section 2(3) and section 8c(6) (I) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and subsequent legislation, so as to authorize production research under marketing agreement and order programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as reenacted and amended by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and subsequent legislation (7 U.S.C. 601; 48 Stat. 31), is further amended as follows:

Agricultural
Adjustment Act,
amendments.

7 USC 674 note.

(1) Section 2(3) of the Act is further amended by inserting the words "such production research, marketing research, and development projects provided in section 8c(6) (I)," immediately after the words "establish and maintain".

61 Stat. 707;
79 Stat. 1270.
7 USC 602.

(2) Subsection (I) of section 8c(6) is further amended by (a) inserting the words "production research," immediately after the phrase "Establishing or providing for the establishment of"; (b) inserting the words "or efficient production" after the word "consumption"; and (c) striking the period at the end of subsection (I) and adding a second proviso reading ": *Provided further,* That the inclusion in a Federal marketing order of provisions for research shall not be deemed to preclude, preempt or supersede research provisions in any State program covering the same commodity."

68 Stat. 906;
76 Stat. 632;
79 Stat. 1270.
7 USC 608c.

Post, p. 1357.

Approved June 25, 1970.

Public Law 91-293

AN ACT

June 25, 1970
[S. 2940]

To amend the Act of June 28, 1948, as amended, relating to the acquisition of property for the Independence National Historical Park.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the first sentence of section 6 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the establishment of the Independence National Historical Park, and for other purposes", approved June 28, 1948 (62 Stat. 1061, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 407r), is further amended by striking out "\$7,950,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$11,200,000".

Independence
National Historical
Park.

72 Stat. 862.

Approved June 25, 1970.

Public Law 91-294

JOINT RESOLUTION

June 29, 1970
[H. J. Res. 1264]

Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1971, and for other purposes.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums

Continuing ap-
propriations, 1971.