

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title VI, §602(c)-(f), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1772, as amended by Pub. L. 105-261, div. A, title VI, §604(b), Oct. 17, 1998, 112 Stat. 2038; Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A, title X, §1087(e)(1)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-293, which provided that a basic allowance for subsistence was to be paid to members of the uniformed services according to the conditions and at the rates provided in this note and not under the authority of this section during the period beginning on Jan. 1, 1998, and ending on the first day of the month immediately following the first month for which the monthly equivalent of the rate of basic allowance for subsistence payable to enlisted members of the uniformed services determined under this note was equal to or exceeded by the amount that would otherwise have been the monthly rate of basic allowance for subsistence under subsec. (b)(1) of this section, was repealed by Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A, title VI, §603(c)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-145, effective Oct. 1, 2001.

INCREASE IN BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR SUBSISTENCE

Pub. L. 96-343, §7, Sept. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1128, provided that: "Effective September 1, 1980, the rates of basic allowance for subsistence authorized by section 402 of title 37, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 8, 1980] (as prescribed by the President under section 1009 of such title), are increased by 10 percent."

REGULATIONS RELATING TO SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

Regulations relating to basic allowance for subsistence, see Ex. Ord. No. 11157, June 22, 1964, 29 F.R. 7973, set out as a note under section 301 of this title.

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10119

Ex. Ord. No. 10119, Mar. 30, 1950, 15 F.R. 1767, as amended by 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 1, §§5, 8, Apr. 11, 1953, 18 F.R. 2053; Ex. Ord. No. 10605, Apr. 22, 1955, 20 F.R. 2747, which related to regulations governing basic allowance for subsistence, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 11157, June 22, 1964, 29 F.R. 7973, set out as a note under section 301 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 402a, 420, 1003, 1009, 1012 of this title; title 10 sections 708, 6912; title 14 section 372; title 32 section 107.

§ 402a. Supplemental subsistence allowance for low-income members with dependents

(a) SUPPLEMENTAL ALLOWANCE REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall increase the basic allowance for subsistence to which a member of the armed forces described in subsection (b) is otherwise entitled under section 402 of this title by an amount (in this section referred to as the "supplemental subsistence allowance") designed to remove the member's household from eligibility for benefits under the food stamp program.

(2) The supplemental subsistence allowance may not exceed \$500 per month. In establishing the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance to be paid an eligible member under this paragraph, the Secretary shall take into consideration the amount of the basic allowance for housing that the member receives under section 403 of this title or would otherwise receive under such section, in the case of a member who is not entitled to that allowance as a result of assignment to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service.

(3) In the case of a member described in subsection (b) who establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary concerned that the allotment of the member's household under the food stamp program, calculated in the absence of the supplemental subsistence allowance, would exceed the amount established by the Secretary concerned under paragraph (2), the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance for the member shall be equal to the lesser of the following:

- (A) The value of that allotment.
- (B) \$500.

(b) MEMBERS ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCE.—(1) Subject to subsection (d), a member of the armed forces with dependents is entitled to receive the supplemental subsistence allowance if the Secretary concerned determines that the member's income, together with the income of the rest of the member's household (if any), is within the highest income standard of eligibility, as then in effect under section 5(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(c)) and without regard to paragraph (1) of such section, for participation in the food stamp program.

(2) In determining whether a member meets the eligibility criteria under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) shall not take into consideration the amount of the supplemental subsistence allowance payable under this section; but

(B) shall take into consideration the amount of the basic allowance for housing that the member receives under section 403 of this title or would otherwise receive under such section, in the case of a member who is not entitled to that allowance as a result of assignment to quarters of the United States or a housing facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed service.

(c) APPLICATION FOR ALLOWANCE.—To request the supplemental subsistence allowance, a member shall submit an application to the Secretary concerned in such form and containing such information as the Secretary concerned may prescribe. A member applying for the supplemental subsistence allowance shall furnish such evidence regarding the member's satisfaction of the eligibility criteria under subsection (b) as the Secretary concerned may require.

(d) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—The entitlement of a member to receive the supplemental subsistence allowance terminates upon the occurrence of any of the following events, even though the member continues to meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b):

(1) Payment of the supplemental subsistence allowance for 12 consecutive months.

(2) Promotion of the member to a higher grade.

(3) Transfer of the member in a permanent change of station.

(e) REAPPLICATION.—Upon the termination of the effective period of the supplemental subsistence allowance for a member, or in anticipation of the imminent termination of the allowance, a member may reapply for the allowance under subsection (c), and the Secretary concerned shall approve the application and resume pay-

ment of the allowance to the member, if the member continues to meet, or once again meets, the eligibility criteria described in subsection (b).

(f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 1 of each year after 2001, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report specifying the number of members of the armed forces who received, at any time during the preceding year, the supplemental subsistence allowance. In preparing the report, the Secretary of Defense shall consult with the Secretary of Transportation. No report is required under this subsection after March 1, 2006.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Defense; and
(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy.

(2) The terms “allotment” and “household” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

(3) The term “food stamp program” means the program established pursuant to section 4 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2013).

(h) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No supplemental subsistence allowance may be provided under this section after September 30, 2006.

(Added Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title VI, § 604(a)(1)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-145; amended Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title VI, § 604(d), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1134; Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, § 1704(c), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2314.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (g)(1)(B). Pub. L. 107-296 substituted “of Homeland Security” for “of Transportation”.

2001—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 107-107 inserted “with dependents” after “a member of the armed forces”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title VI, § 604(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-147, provided that: “Section 402a of title 37, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the first day of the first month that begins not less than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 2000].”

§ 403. Basic allowance for housing

(a) GENERAL ENTITLEMENT.—(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, a member of a uniformed service who is entitled to basic pay is entitled to a basic allowance for housing at the monthly rates prescribed under this section or another provision of law with regard to the applicable component of the basic allowance for housing. The amount of the basic allowance for housing for a member will vary according to the pay grade in which the member is assigned or distributed for basic pay purposes, the dependency status of the member, and the geographic

location of the member. The basic allowance for housing may be paid in advance.

(2) A member of a uniformed service with dependents is not entitled to a basic allowance for housing as a member with dependents unless the member makes a certification to the Secretary concerned indicating the status of each dependent of the member. The certification shall be made in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(b) BASIC ALLOWANCE FOR HOUSING INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe the rates of the basic allowance for housing that are applicable for the various military housing areas in the United States. The rates for an area shall be based on the costs of adequate housing determined for the area under paragraph (2).

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall determine the costs of adequate housing in a military housing area in the United States for all members of the uniformed services entitled to a basic allowance for housing in that area. The Secretary shall base the determination upon the costs of adequate housing for civilians with comparable income levels in the same area. After June 30, 2001, the Secretary may not differentiate between members with dependents in pay grades E-1 through E-4 in determining what constitutes adequate housing for members.

(3) The total amount that may be paid for a fiscal year for the basic allowance for housing under this subsection may not be less than the product of—

(A) the total amount authorized to be paid for such allowance for the preceding fiscal year; and

(B) a fraction—

(i) the numerator of which is the index of the national average monthly cost of housing for June of the preceding fiscal year; and

(ii) the denominator of which is the index of the national average monthly cost of housing for June of the second preceding fiscal year.

(4) An adjustment in the rates of the basic allowance for housing under this subsection as a result of the Secretary’s redetermination of housing costs in an area shall take effect on the same date as the effective date of the next increase in basic pay under section 1009 of this title or other provision of law.

(5) On and after July 1, 2001, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a single monthly rate for members of the uniformed services with dependents in pay grades E-1 through E-4 in the same military housing area. The rate shall be consistent with the rates paid to members in pay grades other than pay grades E-1 through E-4 and shall be based on the following:

(A) The average cost of a two-bedroom apartment in that military housing area.

(B) One-half of the difference between the average cost of a two-bedroom townhouse in that area and the amount determined in subparagraph (A).

(6) So long as a member of a uniformed service retains uninterrupted eligibility to receive a basic allowance for housing within an area of