

Public Law 91-621

AN ACT

To clarify the status and benefits of commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

December 31, 1970  
[H. R. 212]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. Definitions listed in section 101 of title 10, United States Code, apply to this Act, except as noted below :

- (1) "active duty" means full-time duty in the active service of a uniformed service;
- (2) "Administration" means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- (3) "grade" means a step or degree, in a graduated scale of office or rank, that is established and designated as a grade by law or regulation;
- (4) "officer" means a commissioned officer;
- (5) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce;
- (6) "Secretary concerned" is defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code;
- (7) "uniformed services" is defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commissioned officers.  
70A Stat. 3. Definitions.

76 Stat. 451; 80 Stat. 1121.

SEC. 2. Each officer retired pursuant to any provision of law shall be placed on the retired list with the highest grade satisfactorily held by him while on active duty including active duty pursuant to recall, under permanent or temporary appointment, and he shall receive retired pay based on such highest grade: *Provided*, That his performance of duty in such highest grade has been satisfactory, as determined by the Secretary of the department or departments under whose jurisdiction the officer served, and, unless retired for disability, his length of service in such highest grade is no less than that required by the Secretary of officers retiring under permanent appointment in that grade.

Retirement.

SEC. 3. Active service of officers of the Administration shall be deemed to be active military service in the armed forces of the United States for the purposes of all rights, privileges, immunities, and benefits now or hereafter provided by—

- (1) laws administered by the Veterans' Administration;
- (2) laws administered by the Interstate Commerce Commission; and
- (3) the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940, as amended.

54 Stat. 1178. 50 USC app. 501. Secretary of Commerce, authority.

In the administration of these laws and regulations, with respect to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the authority vested in the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force and their respective departments shall be exercised by the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 4. (a) Commissioned officers, ships' officers, and members of crews of vessels of the Administration shall be permitted to purchase commissary and quartermaster supplies as far as available from the armed forces at the prices charged officers and enlisted men of those services.

Commissary privileges.

(b) The Secretary may purchase ration supplies for messes, stores, uniforms, accouterments, and related equipment for sale aboard ship and shore stations of the Administration to members of the uniformed services and to personnel assigned to such ships or shore stations. Sales shall be in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary, and proceeds therefrom shall, as far as is practicable, fully reimburse the appropriations charged without regard to fiscal year.

Widows, rights.

(c) Rights extended to members of the uniformed services in this section are extended to their widows and to such others as are designated by the Secretary concerned.

SEC. 5. (a) All statutes that applied to commissioned officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey on July 12, 1965, shall apply to officers of the Environmental Science Services Administration on that date and subsequent thereto, unless amended or repealed, and service as a commissioned officer in the Coast and Geodetic Survey shall constitute service as a commissioned officer in the Environmental Science Services Administration.

(b) All statutes that applied to commissioned officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey on July 12, 1965, and to commissioned officers of the Environmental Science Services Administration subsequent to that date shall apply to officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on October 3, 1970, and subsequent thereto, unless amended or repealed, and service as a commissioned officer in the Coast and Geodetic Survey or the Environmental Science Services Administration shall constitute service as a commissioned officer in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(c) The enactment of this Act does not increase or decrease the pay or allowances of any person.

(d) A reference to a law replaced by this Act, including a reference in a regulation, order, or other law, is deemed to refer to the corresponding provisions enacted by this Act.

(e) An order, rule, or regulation in effect under a law replaced by this Act continues in effect under the corresponding provisions enacted by this Act until repealed, amended, or superseded.

(f) An inference of a legislative construction is not to be drawn by reason of the location in the United States Code of a provision enacted by this Act or by reason of the caption or catchline thereof.

Separability.

(g) If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

72 Stat. 1106.

SEC. 6. (a) Title 38, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) Section 101(21)(C) of such title 38 is amended by inserting the words "the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its predecessor organization" after "officer of" in the first line;

(2) Section 101(25)(F) of such title 38 is amended by inserting "the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or its predecessor organization" after "concerning"; and

72 Stat. 1231.

(3) Section 3105 of such title 38 is amended by striking "Coast and Geodetic Survey" and substituting "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration".

Effective date.

(b) The effective date of an award by the Veterans' Administration of disability compensation or dependency and indemnity compensation arising from an injury or death occurring prior to enactment of this Act and based on a claim filed by an individual who first became

eligible for veterans' benefits by reason of the amendments made by the foregoing subsections shall be the date following the date of his discharge or release, or the first day of the month in which death occurred: *Provided*, That application therefor is filed within six months after the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 7. (a) Section 216 of title II of the National Housing Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

65 Stat. 315.  
12 USC 1715g.

“WAIVER OF OCCUPANCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEN

“SEC. 216. The Secretary is hereby authorized to insure any mortgage otherwise eligible for insurance under any of the provisions of this Act without regard to any requirement that the mortgagor be the occupant of the property at the time of insurance, where the Secretary is satisfied that the inability of the mortgagor to occupy the property is by reason of his entry on active duty in a uniformed service subsequent to the filing of an application for insurance and the mortgagor expresses an intent to occupy the property upon his release from active duty.”

(b) Section 222 of title II of the National Housing Act, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

68 Stat. 603;  
83 Stat. 384.  
12 USC 1715m.

“MORTGAGE INSURANCE FOR SERVICEMEN

“SEC. 222. (a) The purpose of this section is to aid in the provision of housing accommodations for servicemen in the armed forces of the United States Coast Guard and their families, and servicemen in the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and their families by supplementing the insurance of mortgages under section 203 of this title with a system of mortgage insurance specially designed to assist the financing required for the construction or purchase of dwellings by those persons. As used in this section, a ‘serviceman’ means a person to whom the Secretary of Defense (or any officer or employee designated by him), the Secretary of Transportation (or any officer or employee designated by him), or the Secretary of Commerce (or any officer or employee designated by him), as the case may be, has issued a certificate hereunder indicating that such person requires housing, is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States, in the United States Coast Guard, or in the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and has served on active duty for more than two years, but a certificate shall not be issued hereunder to any person ordered to active duty for training purposes only. The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Commerce, respectively, are authorized to prescribe rules and regulations governing the issuance of such certificates and may withhold issuance of more than one such certificate to a serviceman whenever in his discretion issuance is not justified due to circumstances resulting from military assignment, or, in the case of the United States Coast Guard or the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other assignment.

48 Stat. 1248.  
12 USC 1709.

“Serviceman.”

Rules and regulations.

“(b) To be eligible for insurance under this section a mortgage shall—

- “(1) meet the requirements of section 203(b), 203(i), 221(d)(2), or 234(c), except as such requirements are modified by this section;

12 USC 1715l,  
1715y.

"(2) involve a principal obligation (including such initial service charges, appraisal, inspection, and other fees as the Secretary shall approve) in an amount not to exceed \$33,000, except that in the case of a mortgage meeting the requirements of section 203(i) or section 221(d)(2) such principal obligation shall not exceed the maximum limits prescribed for such section;

"(3) have a principal obligation not in excess of the sum of (i) 97 per centum of \$15,000 of the appraised value of the property as of the date the mortgage is accepted for insurance, (ii) 90 per centum of such value in excess of \$15,000 but not in excess of \$25,000, and (iii) 85 per centum of such value in excess of \$25,000; and

"(4) be executed by a mortgagor who at the time of application for insurance is certified as a 'serviceman' and who at the time of insurance is the owner of the property and either occupies the property or certifies that his failure to do so is the result of his military assignment, or, in the case of the United States Coast Guard or the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other assignment.

"(c) The Secretary may prescribe the manner in which a mortgage may be accepted for insurance under this section. Premiums fixed by the Secretary under section 203 with respect to, or payable during, the period of ownership by a serviceman of the property involved shall not be payable by the mortgage but shall be paid not less frequently than once each year, upon request of the Secretary to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary of Commerce, as the case may be, from the respective appropriations available for pay and allowances of persons eligible for mortgage insurance under this section. As used herein, 'the period of ownership by a serviceman' means the period, for which premiums are fixed, prior to the date that the Secretary of Defense (or any officer or employee or other person designated by him), the Secretary of Transportation (or any officer or employee or other person designated by him), or the Secretary of Commerce (or any officer or employee or other person designated by him), as the case may be, furnishes the Secretary with a certification that such ownership (as defined by the Secretary), has terminated.

"(d) Any mortgagee under a mortgage insured under this section is entitled to the benefits of the insurance as provided in section 204(a) with respect to mortgages insured under section 203.

"(e) The provisions of subsections (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (j), and (k) of section 204 shall apply to mortgages insured under this section, except that as applied to those mortgages (1) all references to the Fund, or Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, shall refer to the General Insurance Fund, and (2) all references to section 203 shall refer to this section.

"(f) The Secretary is authorized to transfer to this section the insurance on any mortgage covering a single-family dwelling or a one-family unit in a condominium project insured under this Act, if the mortgage indebtedness thereof has been assumed by a serviceman who at the time of assumption is the owner of the property and either occupies the property or certifies that his failure to do so is the result of his military assignment, or, in the case of the United States Coast Guard or the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other assignment.

71 Stat. 295;  
83 Stat. 383.  
12 USC 1709.  
73 Stat. 659.  
12 USC 1715L.

"The period of ownership by a serviceman."

52 Stat. 12.  
12 USC 1710.

“(g) Where a serviceman dies while on active duty in the armed forces of the United States or in the United States Coast Guard or in the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, leaving a surviving widow as owner of the property, the period of ownership by the serviceman (within the meaning of subsection (c) of this section) shall extend for two years beyond the date of the serviceman’s death or until the date the widow disposes of the property, whichever date occurs first. The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary of Commerce, as the case may be, shall notify such widow promptly following the serviceman’s death of the additional costs to be borne by the mortgagor following termination of the two-year period.”

SEC. 8. All provisions of law inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

Repeal.

Approved December 31, 1970.

Public Law 91-622

JOINT RESOLUTION

Authorizing a grant to defray a portion of the cost of expanding the United Nations headquarters in the United States.

December 31, 1970  
[S. J. Res. 173]

Whereas the Congress authorized the United States to join with other governments in the founding of the United Nations;

Whereas the Congress unanimously, in H. Con. Res. 75 (79th Congress), invited the United Nations to establish its headquarters in the United States, which invitation was accepted by the United Nations;

59 Stat., pt. 2,  
p. 848a.

Whereas the United States has continued to serve as host to the United Nations;

Whereas the membership of the United Nations has increased substantially and the organization has outgrown its existing facilities;

Whereas the General Assembly of the United Nations in December 1969 authorized the construction, subject to suitable financing arrangements, of an additional headquarters building south of and adjacent to the present headquarters site on land to be made available without charge by the city of New York;

Whereas the total financial burden of expanding its headquarters in New York would severely strain the resources of the United Nations;

Whereas a special contribution by the United States as the host government would constitute a positive act of reaffirmation of faith of the American people in the future of the United Nations: Be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That there is hereby authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, a sum not to exceed \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a grant to be made at the discretion of the Secretary of State, to the United Nations to defray a portion of the cost of the expansion and improvement of its headquarters in the city of New York on such terms and conditions as the Secretary of State may determine. Such grant shall not be considered a contribution to the United Nations for purpose of any other applicable law limiting contributions.

United Nations  
headquarters.  
Expansion grant.

Approved December 31, 1970.