

SEC. 538. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 2015. Payment of expenses to obtain professional credentials

“(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, may pay for—

“(1) expenses for members of the armed forces to obtain professional credentials, including expenses for professional accreditation, State-imposed and professional licenses, and professional certification; and

“(2) examinations to obtain such credentials.

“(b) **LIMITATION.**—The authority under subsection (a) may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials that are a prerequisite for appointment in the armed forces.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2015. Payment of expenses to obtain professional credentials.”.