

§ 1201. Authorization of appropriations

For the purpose of enabling each State to furnish financial assistance, as far as practicable under the conditions in such State, to needy individuals who are blind, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year a sum sufficient to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. The sums made available under this section shall be used for making payments to States which have submitted, and had approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, State plans for aid to the blind.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title X, §1001, 49 Stat. 645; Aug. 28, 1950, ch. 809, title III, pt. 6, §361(b), 64 Stat. 558; 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 1, §§5, 8, eff. Apr. 11, 1953, 18 F.R. 2053, 67 Stat. 631; Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 836, title III, §313(a), 70 Stat. 849; Pub. L. 87-543, title I, §104(c)(3), July 25, 1962, 76 Stat. 186; Pub. L. 96-88, title V, §509(b), Oct. 17, 1979, 93 Stat. 695; Pub. L. 97-35, title XXI, §2184(c)(1), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 817.)

REPEAL OF SECTION

Pub. L. 92-603, title III, §303(a), (b), Oct. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 1484, provided that this section is repealed effective Jan. 1, 1974, except with respect to Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

AMENDMENTS

1981—Pub. L. 97-35 struck out “and of encouraging each State, as far as practicable under such conditions, to furnish rehabilitation and other services to help such individuals attain or retain capability for self-support and self-care” after “who are blind”.

1962—Pub. L. 87-543 inserted “to furnish rehabilitation and other services” before “to help such individuals” and “or retain capability for” after “attain”.

1956—Act Aug. 1, 1956, restated purpose to include assistance to individuals to attain self-support or self-care.

1950—Act Aug. 28, 1950, substituted “Federal Security Administrator” for “Social Security Board”.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of Federal Security Administrator transferred to Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and all agencies of Federal Security Agency transferred to Department of Health, Education, and Welfare by section 5 of Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1953, set out as a note under section 3501 of this title. Federal Security Agency and office of Administrator abolished by section 8 of Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1953. Secretary and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare redesignated Secretary and Department of Health and Human Services by section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88 which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

§ 1202. State plans for aid to blind

(a) A State plan for aid to the blind must (1) except to the extent permitted by the Secretary with respect to services, provide that it shall be in effect in all political subdivisions of the State, and, if administered by them, be mandatory upon them; (2) provide for financial participation by the State; (3) either provide for the establishment or designation of a single State agency to administer the plan, or provide for the establishment or designation of a single State agency to supervise the administration of the plan; (4) provide (A) for granting an opportunity for a fair hearing before the State agency to any individual whose claim for aid to the blind is de-

nied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness, and (B) that if the State plan is administered in each of the political subdivisions of the State by a local agency and such local agency provides a hearing at which evidence may be presented prior to a hearing before the State agency, such local agency may put into effect immediately upon issuance its decision upon the matter considered at such hearing; (5) provide (A) such methods of administration (including after January 1, 1940, methods relating to the establishment and maintenance of personnel standards on a merit basis, except that the Secretary shall exercise no authority with respect to the selection, tenure of office, and compensation of any individual employed in accordance with such methods) as are found by the Secretary to be necessary for the proper and efficient operation of the plan, and (B) for the training and effective use of paid subprofessional staff, with particular emphasis on the full-time or part-time employment of recipients and other persons of low-income, as community service aides, in the administration of the plan and for the use of nonpaid or partially paid volunteers in a social service volunteer program in providing services to applicants and recipients and in assisting any advisory committees established by the State agency; (6) provide that the State agency will make such reports, in such form and containing such information, as the Secretary may from time to time require, and comply with such provisions as the Secretary may from time to time find necessary to assure the correctness and verification of such reports; and¹ (7) provide that no aid will be furnished any individual under the plan with respect to any period with respect to which he is receiving old-age assistance under the State plan approved under section 302 of this title or assistance under a State program funded under part A of subchapter IV of this chapter; (8) provide that the State agency shall, in determining need, take into consideration any other income and resources of the individual claiming aid to the blind, as well as any expenses reasonably attributable to the earning of any such income, except that, in making such determination, the State agency (A) shall disregard the first \$85 per month of earned income, plus one-half of earned income in excess of \$85 per month, (B) shall, for a period not in excess of twelve months, and may, for a period not in excess of thirty-six months, disregard such additional amounts of other income and resources, in the case of an individual who has a plan for achieving self-support approved by the State agency, as may be necessary for the fulfillment of such plan, and (C) may, before disregarding the amounts referred to in clauses (A) and (B), disregard not more than \$7.50 of any income; (9) provide safeguards which permit the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants or recipients only (A) to public officials who require such information in connection with their official duties, or (B) to other persons for purposes directly connected with the administration of the State plan; (10) provide that, in determining whether an individual is blind, there shall be an exam-

¹ So in original. The word “and” probably should not appear.

ination by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by an optometrist, whichever the individual may select; (11) effective July 1, 1951, provide that all individuals wishing to make application for aid to the blind shall have opportunity to do so, and that aid to the blind shall be furnished with reasonable promptness to all eligible individuals; (12) effective July 1, 1953, provide, if the plan includes payments to individuals in private or public institutions, for the establishment or designation of a State authority or authorities which shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining standards for such institutions; (13) provide a description of the services (if any) which the State agency makes available (using whatever internal organizational arrangement it finds appropriate for this purpose) to applicants for and recipients of aid to the blind to help them attain self-support or self-care, including a description of the steps taken to assure, in the provision of such services, maximum utilization of other agencies providing similar or related services; and (14) provide that information is requested and exchanged for purposes of income and eligibility verification in accordance with a State system which meets the requirements of section 1320b-7 of this title.

(b) The Secretary shall approve any plan which fulfills the conditions specified in subsection (a) of this section, except that he shall not approve any plan which imposes, as a condition of eligibility for aid to the blind under the plan—

(1) Any residence requirement which excludes any resident of the State who has resided therein five years during the nine years immediately preceding the application for aid and has resided therein continuously for one year immediately preceding the application; or

(2) Any citizenship requirement which excludes any citizen of the United States.

At the option of the State, the plan may provide that manuals and other policy issuances will be furnished to persons without charge for the reasonable cost of such materials, but such provision shall not be required by the Secretary as a condition for the approval of such plan under this subchapter. In the case of any State (other than Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) which did not have on January 1, 1949, a State plan for aid to the blind approved under this subchapter, the Secretary shall approve a plan of such State for aid to the blind for purposes of this subchapter, even though it does not meet the requirements of clause (8) of subsection (a) of this section, if it meets all other requirements of this subchapter for an approved plan for aid to the blind; but payments under section 1203 of this title shall be made, in the case of any such plan, only with respect to expenditures thereunder which would be included as expenditures for the purposes of section 1203 of this title under a plan approved under this section without regard to the provisions of this sentence.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title X, §1002, 49 Stat. 645; Aug. 10, 1939, ch. 666, title VII, §701, 53 Stat. 1397; Aug. 28, 1950, ch. 809, title III, pt. 4, §341(a)-(e), pt. 6, §361(c), (d), 64 Stat. 553, 558; 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 1, §§5, 8, eff. Apr. 11, 1953, 18 F.R. 2053,

67 Stat. 631; Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 836, title III, §313(b), 70 Stat. 849; Pub. L. 86-778, title VII, §710, Sept. 13, 1960, 74 Stat. 997; Pub. L. 87-543, title I, §§104(a)(3)(H), 106(a)(2), 136(a), 154, July 25, 1962, 76 Stat. 185, 188, 197, 206; Pub. L. 88-650, §5(a), Oct. 13, 1964, 78 Stat. 1078; Pub. L. 89-97, title IV, §403(c), July 30, 1965, 79 Stat. 418; Pub. L. 90-248, title II, §§210(a)(3), 213(a)(2), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 895, 898; Pub. L. 92-603, title IV, §§405(b), 406(b), 407(b), 410(b), 413(b), Oct. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 1488, 1489, 1491, 1492; Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title VI, §2651(f), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1149; Pub. L. 104-193, title I, §108(f), Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2168.)

REPEAL OF SECTION

Pub. L. 92-603, title III, §303(a), (b), Oct. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 1484, provided that this section is repealed effective Jan. 1, 1974, except with respect to Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 104-193 substituted “assistance under a State program funded under part A of subchapter IV of this chapter” for “aid to families with dependent children under the State plan approved under section 602 of this title”.

1984—Subsec. (a)(14). Pub. L. 98-369 added cl. (14).

1972—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 92-603, §410(b), inserted “except to the extent permitted by the Secretary with respect to services,” before “provide”.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 92-603, §407(b), designated existing provisions as subcl. (A) and added subcl. (B).

Subsec. (a)(9). Pub. L. 92-603, §413(b), substituted provisions permitting the use or disclosure of information concerning applicants or recipients to public officials requiring such information in connection with their official duties and to other persons for purposes directly connected with the administration of the State plan, for provisions restricting the use or disclosure of such information to purposes directly connected with the administration of aid to the blind.

Subsec. (a)(13). Pub. L. 92-603, §405(b), inserted provision relating to the use of whatever internal organizational arrangement found appropriate.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 92-603, §406(b), inserted provision relating to the furnishing of manuals and other policy issuances to persons without charge and at the option of the State.

1968—Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 90-248, §210(a)(3), designated existing provisions as subcl. (A) and added subcl. (B).

Subsec. (a)(8)(C). Pub. L. 90-248, §213(a)(2), increased from \$5 to \$7.50 limitation on amount of any income which the State may disregard in making its determination of need.

1965—Subsec. (a)(8)(C). Pub. L. 89-97 added subcl. (C).

1964—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 88-650 permitted the State agency, for a period not in excess of thirty-six months to disregard such additional amounts of other income and resources.

1962—Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 87-543, §104(a)(3)(H), substituted “aid to families with dependent children” for “aid to dependent children”.

Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 87-543, §§106(a)(2), 154, inserted “, as well as any expenses reasonably attributable to the earning of any such income”, and amended the exception provision by striking out “either (i) the first \$50 per month of earned income, or” after “disregard”, redesignating subcl. (ii) as (A) and adding subcl. (B).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 87-543, §136(a), provided for approval of certain plans of States, without an approved plan on Jan. 1, 1949, meeting all but income and resources requirements, and payment of certain expenditures under such plans.

1960—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 86-778, §710(b), struck out provision that required the State agency to disregard,

alternatively, the first \$50 per month of earned income in considering claimant's income and resources in determining need.

Pub. L. 86-778, §710(a), inserted provision that required the State agency to disregard, alternatively, the first \$85 per month of earned income plus one-half of earned income in excess of \$85 per month in considering claimant's income and resources in determining need.

1956—Subsec. (a)(13). Act Aug. 1, 1956, added cl. (13).

1950—Subsec. (a)(4). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(a), substituted "provide for granting an opportunity for a fair hearing before the State agency to any individual whose claim for aid to the blind is denied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness" for "provide for granting to any individual, whose claim for aid is denied, an opportunity for a fair hearing before such State agency".

Subsec. (a)(7). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(b), inserted "or aid to dependent children under the State plan approved under section 302 of this title".

Subsec. (a)(8). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(c)(2), (d), amended cl. (8) generally, effective July 1, 1952, and struck out "and" preceding cl. (9).

Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(c)(1), amended cl. (8) generally for period beginning Oct. 1, 1950, and ending June 30, 1952.

Subsec. (a)(9). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(d), substituted comma for period at end.

Subsec. (a)(10). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(e), amended cl. (10) generally. Prior to amendment, cl. (10) read as follows: "provide that, in determining whether an individual is blind, there shall be an examination by a physician skilled in diseases of the eye or by an optometrist;"

Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(d), added cl. (10).

Subsec. (a)(11), (12). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §341(d), added cls. (11) and (12).

Subsec. (b). Act Aug. 28, 1950, §361(c), (d), substituted "Administrator" for "Board" and "he" for "it".

1939—Subsec. (a)(5). Act Aug. 10, 1939, §701(a), inserted "(including after January 1, 1940, methods relating to the establishment and maintenance of personnel standards on a merit basis, except that the Board shall exercise no authority with respect)" after "methods of administration" and "proper" before "and efficient operation of the plan".

Subsec. (a)(8), (9). Act Aug. 10, 1939, §701(b), added cls. (8) and (9).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-193 effective July 1, 1997, with transition rules relating to State options to accelerate such date, rules relating to claims, actions, and proceedings commenced before such date, rules relating to closing out of accounts for terminated or substantially modified programs and continuance in office of Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and provisions relating to termination of entitlement under AFDC program, see section 116 of Pub. L. 104-193, as amended, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-369 effective Apr. 1, 1985, except as otherwise provided, see section 2651(l)(2) of Pub. L. 98-369, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1320b-7 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 210(a)(3) of Pub. L. 90-248 effective July 1, 1969, or, if earlier (with respect to a State's plan approved under this subchapter) on the date as of which the modification of the State plan to comply with such amendment is approved, see section 210(b) of Pub. L. 90-248, set out as a note under section 302 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1965 AMENDMENT

Section 403(c) of Pub. L. 89-97 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1965.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 106(a)(2) of Pub. L. 87-543 effective July 1, 1963, see section 202(a) of Pub. L. 87-543, set out as a note under section 302 of this title.

Section 154 of Pub. L. 87-543 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective July 1, 1963.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1960 AMENDMENT

Section 710(a) of Pub. L. 86-778 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning with first day of calendar quarter which begins after Sept. 13, 1960, and ending with close of June 30, 1962.

Section 710(b) of Pub. L. 86-778 provided that the amendment made by that section is effective July 1, 1962.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1956 AMENDMENT

Amendment by act Aug. 1, 1956, effective July 1, 1957, see section 314 [315] of act Aug. 1, 1956, set out as a note under section 302 of this title.

EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES OF 1950 AMENDMENT

Section 341(c)(1) of act Aug. 28, 1950, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective for the period beginning Oct. 1, 1950, and ending June 30, 1952.

Section 341(c)(2) of act Aug. 28, 1950, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective July 1, 1952.

Section 341(e) of act Aug. 28, 1950, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective July 1, 1952.

Section 341(f) of act Aug. 28, 1950, provided that: "The amendments made by subsections (b) and (d) [amending this section] shall take effect October 1, 1950; and the amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect July 1, 1951."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1939 AMENDMENT

Section 701(b) of act Aug. 10, 1939, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective July 1, 1941.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions, powers, and duties of Secretary under subsec. (a)(5)(A) of this section, insofar as relates to the prescription of personnel standards on a merit basis, transferred to Office of Personnel Management, see section 4728(a)(3)(D) of this title.

Functions of Federal Security Administrator transferred to Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and agencies of Federal Security Agency transferred to Department of Health, Education, and Welfare by section 5 of Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1953, set out as a note under section 3501 of this title. Federal Security Agency and office of Administrator abolished by section 8 of Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1953. Secretary and Department of Health, Education, and Welfare redesignated Secretary and Department of Health and Human Services by section 509(b) of Pub. L. 96-88 which is classified to section 3508(b) of Title 20, Education.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO STATE DISBURSEMENT RECORDS

Public access to State records of disbursements of funds and payments under this subchapter, see note set out under section 302 of this title.

§ 1202a. Repealed. Pub. L. 87-543, title I, § 136(b), July 25, 1962, 76 Stat. 197

Section, act Aug. 28, 1950, ch. 809, title III, pt. 4, §344(a), 64 Stat. 554, provided, in the case of any State without a plan for aid to the blind approved on Jan. 1, 1949, for approval of the plan of such a State conforming to all requirements except those relating to determination of need and consideration of resources but conditioned payments to the State meeting the expected requirement.