

tion fund established under section 7384e of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3685], as added Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3161, Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2185.)

§ 7385s-15. Office of Ombudsman

(a) Establishment

There is established in the Department of Labor an office to be known as the “Office of the Ombudsman” (in this section referred to as the “Office”).

(b) Head

The head of the Office shall be the Ombudsman. The individual serving as Ombudsman shall be either of the following:

(1) An officer or employee of the Department of Labor designated by the Secretary for purposes of this section from among officers and employees of the Department who have experience and expertise necessary to carry out the duties of the Office specified in subsection (c) of this section.

(2) An individual employed by the Secretary from the private sector from among individuals in the private sector who have experience and expertise necessary to carry out the duties of the Office specified in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Duties

The duties of the Office shall be as follows:

(1) To provide information on the benefits available under this part and part B and on the requirements and procedures applicable to the provision of such benefits.

(2) To make recommendations to the Secretary regarding the location of centers (to be known as “resource centers”) for the acceptance and development of claims for benefits under this part and part B.

(3) To carry out such other duties with respect to this part and part B as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of this section.

(d) Independent Office

The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to ensure the independence of the Office within the Department of Labor, including independence from other officers and employees of the Department engaged in activities relating to the administration of the provisions of this part and part B.

(e) Annual report

(1) Not later than February 15 each year, the Ombudsman shall submit to Congress a report on activities under this part and part B.

(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall set forth the following:

(A) The number and types of complaints, grievances, and requests for assistance received by the Ombudsman under this part and part B during the preceding year.

(B) An assessment of the most common difficulties encountered by claimants and potential claimants under this part and part B during the preceding year.

(3) The first report under paragraph (1) shall be the report submitted in 2006.

(f) Outreach

The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall each undertake outreach to advise the public of the existence and duties of the Office.

(g) National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Ombudsman

In carrying out the duties of the Ombudsman under this section, the Ombudsman shall work with the individual employed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to serve as an ombudsman to individuals making claims under part B.

(h) Sunset

Effective October 28, 2012, this section shall have no further force or effect.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3686], as added Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3161, Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2185; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXI, §3116, Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 578; Pub. L. 111-84, div. C, title XXXI, §3142(a), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2715.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsecs. (c) to (e). Pub. L. 111-84, §3142(a)(1)–(3), inserted “and part B” after “this part” wherever appearing.

Subsecs. (g), (h). Pub. L. 111-84, §3142(a)(4), (5), added subsec. (g) and redesignated former subsec. (g) as (h).

2008—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 110-181 substituted “October 28, 2012” for “on the date that is 3 years after October 28, 2004”.

CONSTRUCTION

Pub. L. 111-84, div. C, title XXXI, §3142(b), Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2716, provided that: “Except as specifically provided in subsection (g) of section 3686 of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 7385s-15(g)], as amended by subsection (a) of this section, nothing in the amendments made by such subsection (a) shall be construed to alter or affect the duties and functions of the individual employed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to serve as an ombudsman to individuals making claims under subtitle B of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384f et seq.).”

SUBCHAPTER XVII—[Repealed]

AMENDMENTS

2003—Pub. L. 108-136, div. C, title XXXI, §3141(m)(1), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1787, struck out heading for subchapter XVII “Department of Energy National Security Authorizations General Provisions”.

§§ 7386 to 7386k. Transferred

CODIFICATION

Sections 7386 to 7386k, Pub. L. 107-314, div. C, title XXXVI, §§3620-3631, Dec. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 2756-2762, were renumbered sections 4701 to 4712, respectively, of Pub. L. 107-314, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, by Pub. L. 108-136, div. C, title XXXI, §3141(j)(2)(A)–(C), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1781, and are classified to sections 2741 to 2752, respectively, of Title 50, War and National Defense.

Section 7386 related to definitions for purposes of former sections 7386 to 7386k of this title.

Section 7386a related to reprogramming of amounts appropriated pursuant to a Department of Energy national security authorization.

Section 7386b related to minor construction projects.

Section 7386c related to limits on construction projects.