

“(a) EVALUATION.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an evaluation of the Residential Energy Assistance Challenge program described in section 2607B of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8626b).

“(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 27, 1998], the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report containing—

“(1) the findings resulting from the evaluation described in subsection (a); and

“(2) the State evaluations described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of such section 2607B.”

§ 8627. Withholding of funds

(a) Improper utilization of funds; response to complaints respecting improprieties

(1) The Secretary shall, after adequate notice and an opportunity for a hearing conducted within the affected State, withhold funds from any State which does not utilize its allotment substantially in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter and the assurances such State provided under section 8624 of this title.

(2) The Secretary shall respond in writing in no more than 60 days to matters raised in complaints of a substantial or serious nature that a State has failed to use funds in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter or the assurances provided by the State under section 8624 of this title. For purposes of this paragraph, a violation of any one of the assurances contained in section 8624(b) of this title that constitutes a disregard of such assurance shall be considered a serious complaint.

(b) Investigations; conduct, etc.

(1) The Secretary shall conduct in several States in each fiscal year investigations of the use of funds received by the States under this subchapter in order to evaluate compliance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(2) Whenever the Secretary determines that there is a pattern of complaints from any State in any fiscal year, the Secretary shall conduct an investigation of the use of funds received under this subchapter by such State in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(3) The Comptroller General of the United States may conduct an investigation of the use of funds received under this subchapter by a State in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(c) Inspection of books, documents, etc.

Pursuant to an investigation conducted under subsection (b) of this section, a State shall make appropriate books, documents, papers, and records available to the Secretary or the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for examination, copying, or mechanical reproduction on or off the premises of the appropriate entity upon a reasonable request therefor.

(d) Request for information not readily available

In conducting any investigation under subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary may not request any information not readily available to such State or require that any information be compiled, collected, or transmitted in any new form not already available.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title XXVI, §2608, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 901; Pub. L. 98-558, title VI, §608, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2893; Pub. L. 101-501, title VII, §708, Nov. 3, 1990, 104 Stat. 1261.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 101-501 substituted “in writing in no more than 60 days to matters raised in” for “in an expeditious and speedy manner to”.

1984—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 98-558 substituted “the Secretary” for “he” before “shall conduct”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-501 effective Oct. 1, 1990, see section 1001(a) of Pub. L. 101-501, set out as a note under section 8621 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-558 effective Oct. 30, 1984, see section 609(a) of Pub. L. 98-558 set out as a note under section 8621 of this title.

§ 8628. Limitation on use of grants for construction

Grants made under this subchapter may not be used by the State, or by any other person with which the State makes arrangements to carry out the purposes of this subchapter, for the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction, or permanent improvement (other than low-cost residential weatherization or other energy-related home repairs) of any building or other facility.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title XXVI, §2609, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 902.)

§ 8628a. Technical assistance, training, and compliance reviews

(a) Of the amounts appropriated under section 8621(b) of this title for any fiscal year, not more than \$300,000 of such amounts may be reserved by the Secretary—

(1) to—

(A) make grants to State and public agencies and private nonprofit organizations; or

(B) enter into contracts or jointly financed cooperative arrangements or interagency agreements with States and public agencies (including Federal agencies) and private nonprofit organizations;

to provide for training and technical assistance related to the purposes of this subchapter, including collection and dissemination of information about programs and projects assisted under this subchapter, and ongoing matters of regional or national significance that the Secretary finds would assist in the more effective provision of services under this subchapter; or

(2) to conduct onsite compliance reviews of programs supported under this subchapter.

(b) No provision of this section shall be construed to prevent the Secretary from making a grant pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to one or more private nonprofit organizations that apply jointly with a business concern to receive such grant.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title XXVI, §2609A, as added Pub. L. 99-425, title V, §505(a), Sept. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 975; amended Pub. L. 103-252, title III, §311(a)(3),