

(Added Pub. L. 97-253, title IV, § 403(a)(1), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 802, § 3023; renumbered § 5123, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; amended Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 306(a) of the Veterans' and Survivors' Pension Improvement Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-588), referred to in text, is section 306(a) of Pub. L. 95-588, title III, Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2508, which is set out as a note under section 1521 of this title.

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 5201 to 5228 were renumbered sections 8501 to 8528 of this title, respectively.

## AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 3023 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “1521, 1541, or 1542” for “521, 541, or 542”.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 403(b) of Pub. L. 97-253, as amended by Pub. L. 98-21, title I, § 111(e), Apr. 20, 1983, 97 Stat. 73; Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title VI, § 2662(j), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1160, provided that:

“(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) [enacting this section] shall apply with respect to amounts payable for periods beginning after May 31, 1983.

“(2) In the cases of individuals to whom pension is payable under sections 521, 541, and 542 [now 1521, 1541, and 1542] of title 38, United States Code, the amendment made by subsection (a)(1) shall take effect on the first day after May 31, 1983, that an increase is made in maximum annual rates of pension pursuant to section 3112 [now 5312] of title 38, United States Code.”

#### § 5124. Acceptance of claimant's statement as proof of relationship

(a) For purposes of benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary may accept the written statement of a claimant as proof of the existence of any relationship specified in subsection (b) for the purpose of acting on such individual's claim for benefits.

(b) Subsection (a) applies to proof of the existence of any of the following relationships between a claimant and another person:

- (1) Marriage.
- (2) Dissolution of a marriage.
- (3) Birth of a child.
- (4) Death of any family member.

(c) The Secretary may require the submission of documentation in support of the claimant's statement if—

- (1) the claimant does not reside within a State;
- (2) the statement on its face raises a question as to its validity;
- (3) there is conflicting information of record; or
- (4) there is reasonable indication, in the statement or otherwise, of fraud or misrepresentation.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, § 301(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4657.)

#### § 5125. Acceptance of reports of private physician examinations

For purposes of establishing any claim for benefits under chapter 11 or 15 of this title, a re-

port of a medical examination administered by a private physician that is provided by a claimant in support of a claim for benefits under that chapter may be accepted without a requirement for confirmation by an examination by a physician employed by the Veterans Health Administration if the report is sufficiently complete to be adequate for the purpose of adjudicating such claim.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, § 301(b), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4658.)

#### § 5126. Benefits not to be denied based on lack of mailing address

Benefits under laws administered by the Secretary may not be denied a claimant on the basis that the claimant does not have a mailing address.

(Added Pub. L. 106-475, § 3(b), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2098.)

### CHAPTER 53—SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec.	
5301.	Nonassignability and exempt status of benefits.
5302.	Waiver of recovery of claims by the United States.
5302A.	Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone.
5303.	Certain bars to benefits.
5303A.	Minimum active-duty service requirement.
5304.	Prohibition against duplication of benefits.
5305.	Waiver of retired pay.
5306.	Renouncement of right to benefits.
5307.	Apportionment of benefits.
5308.	Withholding benefits of persons in territory of the enemy.
5309.	Payment of certain withheld benefits.
5310.	Payment of benefits for month of death.
5311.	Prohibition of certain benefit payments.
5312.	Annual adjustment of certain benefit rates.
5313.	Limitation on payment of compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation to persons incarcerated for conviction of a felony.
5313A.	Limitation on payment of clothing allowance to incarcerated veterans.
5313B.	Prohibition on providing certain benefits with respect to persons who are fugitive felons.
5314.	Indebtedness offsets.
5315.	Interest and administrative cost charges on delinquent payments of certain amounts due the United States.
5316.	Authority to sue to collect certain debts.
5317.	Use of income information from other agencies: notice and verification.
5317A.	Use of income information from other agencies: independent verification required before termination or reduction of certain benefits and services.
5318.	Review of Social Security Administration death information.
5319.	Limitations on access to financial records.

## AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-252, title I, § 1303(a)(2), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2327, added item 5302A.

2007—Pub. L. 110-157, title III, § 301(b)(2), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 1836, added item 5317A.

2003—Pub. L. 108-183, title VII, § 708(c)(4)(B)(ii), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2675, substituted “Social Security Ad-