

quirements, was renumbered section 1123A of act Aug. 14, 1935, by Pub. L. 104-193, title V, §504, Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2278, and was transferred to section 1320a-2a of this title.

§ 1320a-2. Effect of failure to carry out State plan

In an action brought to enforce a provision of this chapter, such provision is not to be deemed unenforceable because of its inclusion in a section of this chapter requiring a State plan or specifying the required contents of a State plan. This section is not intended to limit or expand the grounds for determining the availability of private actions to enforce State plan requirements other than by overturning any such grounds applied in *Suter v. Artist M.*, 112 S. Ct. 1360 (1992), but not applied in prior Supreme Court decisions respecting such enforceability; provided, however, that this section is not intended to alter the holding in *Suter v. Artist M.* that section 671(a)(15) of this title is not enforceable in a private right of action.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, §1123, as added Pub. L. 103-382, title V, §555(a), Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4057.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1320a-2, act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, §1123, as added Oct. 30, 1972, Pub. L. 92-603, title II, §241, 86 Stat. 1418; amended Dec. 5, 1980, Pub. L. 96-499, title IX, §911, 94 Stat. 2619; Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, title I, §126, 96 Stat. 366; Apr. 7, 1986, Pub. L. 99-272, title IX, §9303(b)(4), 100 Stat. 189, related to qualifications for health care personnel, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 100-360, title IV, §430(a), as added Pub. L. 100-485, title VI, §608(b), (g)(1), Oct. 13, 1988, 102 Stat. 2412, 2424, effective as if included in the enactment of Pub. L. 100-360.

Another section 1123 of act Aug. 14, 1935, was renumbered section 1123A, and is classified to section 1320a-2a of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 103-382, title V, §555(b), Oct. 20, 1994, 108 Stat. 4058, provided that: "The amendment made by subsection (a) [enacting this section] shall apply to actions pending on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 20, 1994] and to actions brought on or after such date of enactment."

§ 1320a-2a. Reviews of child and family services programs, and of foster care and adoption assistance programs, for conformity with State plan requirements

(a) In general

The Secretary, in consultation with the State agencies administering the State programs under parts B and E of subchapter IV of this chapter, shall promulgate regulations for the review of such programs to determine whether such programs are in substantial conformity with—

- (1) State plan requirements under such parts B and E,
- (2) implementing regulations promulgated by the Secretary, and
- (3) the relevant approved State plans.

(b) Elements of review system

The regulations referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall—

- (1) specify the timetable for conformity reviews of State programs, including—

(A) an initial review of each State program;

(B) a timely review of a State program following a review in which such program was found not to be in substantial conformity; and

(C) less frequent reviews of State programs which have been found to be in substantial conformity, but such regulations shall permit the Secretary to reinstate more frequent reviews based on information which indicates that a State program may not be in conformity;

(2) specify the requirements subject to review (which shall include determining whether the State program is in conformity with the requirement of section 671(a)(27) of this title), and the criteria to be used to measure conformity with such requirements and to determine whether there is a substantial failure to so conform;

(3) specify the method to be used to determine the amount of any Federal matching funds to be withheld (subject to paragraph (4)) due to the State program's failure to so conform, which ensures that—

(A) such funds will not be withheld with respect to a program, unless it is determined that the program fails substantially to so conform;

(B) such funds will not be withheld for a failure to so conform resulting from the State's reliance upon and correct use of formal written statements of Federal law or policy provided to the State by the Secretary; and

(C) the amount of such funds withheld is related to the extent of the failure to so conform; and

(4) require the Secretary, with respect to any State program found to have failed substantially to so conform—

(A) to afford the State an opportunity to adopt and implement a corrective action plan, approved by the Secretary, designed to end the failure to so conform;

(B) to make technical assistance available to the State to the extent feasible to enable the State to develop and implement such a corrective action plan;

(C) to suspend the withholding of any Federal matching funds under this section while such a corrective action plan is in effect; and

(D) to rescind any such withholding if the failure to so conform is ended by successful completion of such a corrective action plan.

(c) Provisions for administrative and judicial review

The regulations referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall—

(1) require the Secretary, not later than 10 days after a final determination that a program of the State is not in conformity, to notify the State of—

(A) the basis for the determination; and

(B) the amount of the Federal matching funds (if any) to be withheld from the State;

(2) afford the State an opportunity to appeal the determination to the Departmental Ap-