

**§ 2617. Authority of Bureau****(a) Issuance of regulations; exemptions**

The Bureau is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations, to make such interpretations, and to grant such reasonable exemptions for classes of transactions, as may be necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

**(b) Liability for acts done in good faith in conformity with rule, regulation, or interpretation**

No provision of this chapter or the laws of any State imposing any liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any rule, regulation, or interpretation thereof by the Bureau or the Attorney General, notwithstanding that after such act or omission has occurred, such rule, regulation, or interpretation is amended, rescinded, or determined by judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason.

**(c) Investigations; hearings; failure to obey order; contempt**

(1) The Secretary<sup>1</sup> may investigate any facts, conditions, practices, or matters that may be deemed necessary or proper to aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, in prescribing of rules and regulations thereunder, or in securing information to serve as a basis for recommending further legislation concerning real estate settlement practices. To aid in the investigations, the Bureau is authorized to hold such hearings, administer such oaths, and require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and production of such documents as the Bureau deems advisable.

(2) Any district court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which an inquiry is carried on may, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena of the Bureau issued under this section, issue an order requiring compliance therewith; and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

**(d) Delay of effectiveness of recent final regulation relating to payments to employees****(1) In general**

The amendment to part 3500 of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations contained in the final regulation prescribed by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register on June 7, 1996, which will, as of the effective date of such amendment—

(A) eliminate the exemption for payments by an employer to employees of such employer for referral activities which is currently codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of such title 24; and

(B) replace such exemption with a more limited exemption in new clauses (vii), (viii), and (ix) of section 3500.14 of such title 24,

shall not take effect before July 31, 1997.

**(2) Continuation of prior rule**

The regulation codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, relating to employer-em-

ployee payments, as in effect on May 1, 1996, shall remain in effect until the date the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) takes effect in accordance with such paragraph.

**(3) Public notice of effective date**

The Secretary shall provide public notice of the date on which the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) will take effect in accordance with such paragraph not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days before such effective date.

(Pub. L. 93-533, §19, as added Pub. L. 94-205, §10, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1159; amended Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title IV, §461(e)], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1232; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, §2103(f), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-401; Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1098(11), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2104.)

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-203, §1098(11)(A), substituted “Bureau” for “Secretary” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111-203, §1098(11)(B), substituted “Bureau” for “Secretary”.

Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 111-203, §1098(11)(C), substituted “the Bureau” for “the Secretary” wherever appearing.

1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-208 added subsec. (d).

1983—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-181 added subsec. (c).

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-181 effective Jan. 1, 1984, see section 461(f) of Pub. L. 98-181, set out as a note under section 2602 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 2, 1976, see section 12 of Pub. L. 94-205, set out as an Effective Date of 1976 Amendment note under section 2602 of this title.

**CHAPTER 28—EMERGENCY MORTGAGE RELIEF**

Sec.	
2701.	Congressional findings and declaration of purpose.
2702.	Mortgages eligible for assistance.
2703.	Manner of assistance and repayment.
2704.	Insurance for emergency mortgage loans and advances.
2705.	Emergency mortgage relief payments.
2706.	Emergency Homeowners' Relief Fund.
2707.	Authority of Secretary.
2708.	Expiration date.
2709, 2710.	Repealed.
2711.	Nonapplicability of other laws.
2712.	Repealed.

**§ 2701. Congressional findings and declaration of purpose**

(a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Nation is in a severe recession and that the sharp downturn in economic activity has driven large numbers of workers into unemployment and has reduced the incomes of many others;

(2) as a result of these adverse economic conditions the capacity of many homeowners to

<sup>1</sup> Probably should be “The Bureau”.