

centers for independent living, and other providers of services (including job coaches);

(3) conduct special projects and demonstrations;

(4) collect, prepare, publish, and disseminate special educational or informational materials, including reports of the projects for which funds are provided under this chapter; and

(5) provide monitoring and conduct evaluations.

**(b) Utilization of services and facilities; information task forces**

(1) In carrying out the duties under this chapter, the Commissioner may utilize the services and facilities of any agency of the Federal Government and of any other public or nonprofit agency or organization, in accordance with agreements between the Commissioner and the head thereof, and may pay therefor, in advance or by way of reimbursement, as may be provided in the agreement.

(2) In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the Commissioner shall appoint such task forces as may be necessary to collect and disseminate information in order to improve the ability of the Commissioner to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

**(c) Rules and regulations**

The Commissioner may promulgate such regulations as are considered appropriate to carry out the Commissioner's duties under this chapter.

**(d) Regulations for implementation of order of selection for vocational rehabilitation services**

The Secretary shall promulgate regulations regarding the requirements for the implementation of an order of selection for vocational rehabilitation services under section 721(a)(5)(A) of this title if such services cannot be provided to all eligible individuals with disabilities who apply for such services.

**(e) Regulations to implement amendments**

Not later than 180 days after August 7, 1998, the Secretary shall receive public comment and promulgate regulations to implement the amendments made by the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998.

**(f) Limitation on regulations**

In promulgating regulations to carry out this chapter, the Secretary shall promulgate only regulations that are necessary to administer and ensure compliance with the specific requirements of this chapter.

**(g) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

(Pub. L. 93-112, § 12, formerly § 10, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1111; renumbered § 12, Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, § 101(f) [title VIII, § 402(a)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-412.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, referred to in subsec. (e), is title IV of Pub. L. 105-220, Aug. 7,

1998, 112 Stat. 1092. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 711 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

A prior section 709, Pub. L. 93-112, § 10, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 363; Pub. L. 95-602, title I, § 122(a)(9), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2985; Pub. L. 100-630, title II, § 201(d), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3304; Pub. L. 102-569, title I, § 104, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4361, related to nonduplication prohibition, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1093. See section 707 of this title.

A prior section 12 of Pub. L. 93-112 was renumbered section 14 and is classified to section 711 of this title.

Another prior section 12 of Pub. L. 93-112 was classified to section 711 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

**§ 710. Reports**

**(a) Annual reports required**

Not later than one hundred and eighty days after the close of each fiscal year, the Commissioner shall prepare and submit to the President and to the Congress a full and complete report on the activities carried out under this chapter, including the activities and staffing of the information clearinghouse under section 712 of this title.

**(b) Collection of information**

The Commissioner shall collect information to determine whether the purposes of this chapter are being met and to assess the performance of programs carried out under this chapter. The Commissioner shall take whatever action is necessary to assure that the identity of each individual for which information is supplied under this section is kept confidential, except as otherwise required by law (including regulation).

**(c) Information to be included in reports**

In preparing the report, the Commissioner shall annually collect and include in the report information based on the information submitted by States in accordance with section 721(a)(10) of this title, including information on administrative costs as required by section 721(a)(10)(D) of this title. The Commissioner shall, to the maximum extent appropriate, include in the report all information that is required to be submitted in the reports described in section 2871(d) of this title and that pertains to the employment of individuals with disabilities.

(Pub. L. 93-112, § 13, formerly § 11, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1111; renumbered § 13, Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, § 101(f) [title VIII, § 402(a)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-412.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 712 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

A prior section 710, Pub. L. 93-112, § 11, as added Pub. L. 95-602, title I, § 121, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2984, related to application of other laws, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, § 403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1093. See section 708 of this title.

A prior section 13 of Pub. L. 93-112 was renumbered section 15 and is classified to section 712 of this title.

Another prior section 13 of Pub. L. 93-112 was classified to section 712 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

## EXCHANGE OF DATA

Pub. L. 102-569, title I, §137, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4397, provided that: "The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the purpose of exchanging data of mutual importance, regarding clients of State vocational rehabilitation agencies, that are contained in databases maintained by the Rehabilitation Services Administration, as required under section 13 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 ([former] 29 U.S.C. 712), and the Social Security Administration, from its Summary Earnings and Records and Master Beneficiary Records. For purposes of the exchange, the Social Security data shall not be considered tax information and, as appropriate, the confidentiality of all client information shall be maintained by both agencies."

**§ 711. Evaluation****(a) Statement of purpose; standards; persons eligible to conduct evaluations**

For the purpose of improving program management and effectiveness, the Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall evaluate all the programs authorized by this chapter, their general effectiveness in relation to their cost, their impact on related programs, and their structure and mechanisms for delivery of services, using appropriate methodology and evaluative research designs. The Secretary shall establish and use standards for the evaluations required by this subsection. Such an evaluation shall be conducted by a person not immediately involved in the administration of the program evaluated.

**(b) Opinions of program and project participants**

In carrying out evaluations under this section, the Secretary shall obtain the opinions of program and project participants about the strengths and weaknesses of the programs and projects.

**(c) Data as property of United States**

The Secretary shall take the necessary action to assure that all studies, evaluations, proposals, and data produced or developed with Federal funds under this chapter shall become the property of the United States.

**(d) Information from other departments and agencies**

Such information as the Secretary may determine to be necessary for purposes of the evaluations conducted under this section shall be made available upon request of the Secretary, by the departments and agencies of the executive branch.

**(e) Longitudinal study**

(1) To assess the linkages between vocational rehabilitation services and economic and non-economic outcomes, the Secretary shall continue to conduct a longitudinal study of a national sample of applicants for the services.

(2) The study shall address factors related to attrition and completion of the program through which the services are provided and factors within and outside the program affecting results. Appropriate comparisons shall be used to contrast the experiences of similar persons who do not obtain the services.

(3) The study shall be planned to cover the period beginning on the application of individuals

with disabilities for the services, through the eligibility determination and provision of services for the individuals, and a further period of not less than 2 years after the termination of services.

**(f) Information on exemplary practices**

(1) The Commissioner shall identify and disseminate information on exemplary practices concerning vocational rehabilitation.

(2) To facilitate compliance with paragraph (1), the Commissioner shall conduct studies and analyses that identify exemplary practices concerning vocational rehabilitation, including studies in areas relating to providing informed choice in the rehabilitation process, promoting consumer satisfaction, promoting job placement and retention, providing supported employment, providing services to particular disability populations, financing personal assistance services, providing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, entering into cooperative agreements, establishing standards and certification for community rehabilitation programs, converting from nonintegrated to integrated employment, and providing caseload management.

**(g) Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary.

(Pub. L. 93-112, §14, formerly §12, as added Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, §403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1110; renumbered §14, Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(f) [title VIII, §402(a)(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-337, 2681-412.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 713 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

A prior section 711, Pub. L. 93-112, §12, as added Pub. L. 95-602, title I, §122(a)(10), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2985; amended Pub. L. 99-506, title I, §104, title X, §1001(a)(4), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1811, 1841; Pub. L. 100-630, title II, §201(e), Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3304; Pub. L. 102-569, title I, §105, Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4361, related to administration of this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220, title IV, §403, Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1093. See section 709 of this title.

A prior section 14 of Pub. L. 93-112 was renumbered section 16 and is classified to section 713 of this title.

Another prior section 14 of Pub. L. 93-112 was classified to section 713 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-220.

**§ 712. Information clearinghouse****(a) Establishment; information and resources for individuals with disabilities**

The Secretary shall establish a central clearinghouse for information and resource availability for individuals with disabilities which shall provide information and data regarding—

(1) the location, provision, and availability of services and programs for individuals with disabilities, including such information and data provided by State workforce investment boards regarding such services and programs authorized under title I of such Act;<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.