

or authorized absence, as applicable, for the period they are required to be away from the Department in answer to such subpoenas.

(g) Whenever a judgment or decree shall be rendered in an action brought under the provisions of this section, the court, as a part of its judgment or decree, shall determine and allow reasonable fees for the attorneys of the successful party or parties and apportion same if proper, said fees not to exceed 10 per centum of the amount recovered and to be paid by the Department out of the payments to be made under the judgment or decree at a rate not exceeding one-tenth of each of such payments until paid; except that, in a suit brought by or on behalf of an insured during the insured's lifetime for waiver of premiums on account of total disability, the court, as part of its judgment or decree, shall determine and allow a reasonable fee to be paid by the insured to the insured's attorney.

(h) The term "claim" as used in this section means any writing which uses words showing an intention to claim insurance benefits; and the term "disagreement" means a denial of the claim, after consideration on its merits, by the Secretary or any employee or organizational unit of the Department heretofore or hereafter designated therefor by the Secretary.

(i) The Attorney General of the United States is authorized to agree to a judgment to be rendered by the chief judge of the United States court having jurisdiction of the case, pursuant to compromise approved by the Attorney General upon the recommendation of the United States attorney charged with the defense, upon such terms and for sums within the amount claimed to be payable, in any suit brought under the provisions of this section, on a contract of yearly renewable term insurance, and the Secretary shall make payments in accordance with any such judgment. The Comptroller General of the United States shall allow credit in the accounts of disbursing officers for all payments of insurance made in accordance with any such judgment. All such judgments shall constitute final settlement of the claim and no appeal therefrom shall be authorized.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1165, § 784; Pub. L. 86-507, § 1(32), June 11, 1960, 74 Stat. 202; Pub. L. 97-295, § 4(32), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1307; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, § 701(46), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3294; renumbered § 1984 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§ 4(a)(2)(A)(iii)(VII), (VIII), (D)(ii), (3), (4), (b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403-406.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), renumbered section 784 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(2)(A)(iii)(VII), substituted "Secretary" for "Veterans' Administration" wherever appearing.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(2)(D)(ii), substituted "with the Secretary" for "in the Veterans' Administration".

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(2)(A)(iii)(VIII), substituted "Secretary" for "Veterans' Administration" before "shall".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration" in two places.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in two places.

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration".

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration" wherever appearing.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in two places.

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(a)(3), (4), substituted "Department" for "Veterans' Administration".

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator".

1986—Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 99-576 substituted "the insured's" for "his" in two places.

1982—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-295, § 4(32)(A), substituted "the claim. However, if" for "said claim: *Provided*, That in any case in which".

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 97-295, § 4(32)(B), substituted "district. However," for "district: *Provided*, That", and substituted "in this section" for "herein" after "as used".

1960—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 86-507 inserted "or by certified mail" after "registered mail".

#### § 1985. Decisions by the Secretary

Except in the event of suit as provided in section 1984 of this title, or other appropriate court proceedings, all decisions rendered by the Secretary under the provisions of this chapter shall be final and conclusive on all questions of law or fact, and no other official of the United States shall have jurisdiction to review any such decisions.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1167, § 785; renumbered § 1985 and amended Pub. L. 102-83, §§ 4(b)(1), (2)(E), 5(a), (c)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 404-406.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), renumbered section 785 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(c)(1), substituted "1984" for "784".

Pub. L. 102-83, § 4(b)(1), (2)(E), substituted "Secretary" for "Administrator" in section catchline and in text.

#### § 1986. Deposits in and disbursements from trust funds

All cash balances in the United States Government Life Insurance Fund and the National Service Life Insurance Fund on January 1, 1959, together with all moneys thereafter accruing to such funds, including premiums, appropriated moneys, the proceeds of any sales of investments which may be necessary to meet current expenditures, and interest on investments, shall be available for disbursement for meeting all expenditures and making investments authorized to be made from such funds.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1167, § 786; renumbered § 1986, Pub. L. 102-83, § 5(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 406.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-83 renumbered section 786 of this title as this section.

#### § 1987. Penalties

(a) Any person who shall knowingly make or cause to be made, or conspire, combine, aid, or assist in, agree to, arrange for, or in anywise procure the making or presentation of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement, voucher, or paper, or writing pur-