

§ 8124. Findings and award; hearings

(a) The Secretary of Labor shall determine and make a finding of facts and make an award for or against payment of compensation under this subchapter after—

(1) considering the claim presented by the beneficiary and the report furnished by the immediate superior; and

(2) completing such investigation as he considers necessary.

(b)(1) Before review under section 8128(a) of this title, a claimant for compensation not satisfied with a decision of the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section is entitled, on request made within 30 days after the date of the issuance of the decision, to a hearing on his claim before a representative of the Secretary. At the hearing, the claimant is entitled to present evidence in further support of his claim. Within 30 days after the hearing ends, the Secretary shall notify the claimant in writing of his further decision and any modifications of the award he may make and of the basis of his decision.

(2) In conducting the hearing, the representative of the Secretary is not bound by common law or statutory rules of evidence, by technical or formal rules of procedure, or by section 554 of this title except as provided by this subchapter, but may conduct the hearing in such manner as to best ascertain the rights of the claimant. For this purpose, he shall receive such relevant evidence as the claimant adduces and such other evidence as he determines necessary or useful in evaluating the claim.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 545; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(58), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 210.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES
1966 ACT

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 786, Sept. 7, 1916, ch. 458, §36, 39 Stat. 749.

The last sentence of former section 786 is omitted as surplusage because it is covered by section 8147.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

1967 ACT

Table with 3 columns: Section of title 5, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 8124(b), 5 App.: 786(b), July 4, 1966, Pub. L. 89-488, §11(b), 80 Stat. 255.

In subsection (b)(1), the words "section 8128(a) of this title" are substituted for "section 37" to reflect the codification of section 37 in title 5, United States Code. The words "a claimant * * * is entitled * * * to a hearing" are substituted for "any claimant * * * shall * * * be afforded an opportunity for a hearing". The words "under subsection (a) of this section" are substituted for "under this section" for clarity. In the second sentence, the words "is entitled to present evidence" are substituted for "shall be afforded an opportunity to present evidence".

In subsection (b)(2), the words "section 554 of this title * * * this subchapter" are substituted for "section

5 of the Administrative Procedure Act * * * this Act" to reflect the codification of the cited section and act in title 5. In the second sentence, the words "shall, in addition, receive" are omitted as unnecessary.

PERSONNEL NOT AFFECTED BY 1967 INCREASE

Increases authorized under amendment by section 1(58) of Pub. L. 90-83 not applicable to specified personnel, see section 7 of Pub. L. 90-83, set out as a note under section 8103 of this title.

§ 8125. Misbehavior at proceedings

If an individual—

(1) disobeys or resists a lawful order or process in proceedings under this subchapter before the Secretary of Labor or his representative; or

(2) misbehaves during a hearing or so near the place of hearing as to obstruct it;

the Secretary or his representative shall certify the facts to the district court having jurisdiction in the place where he is sitting. The court, in a summary manner, shall hear the evidence as to the acts complained of and if the evidence warrants, punish the individual in the same manner and to the same extent as for a contempt committed before the court, or commit the individual on the same conditions as if the forbidden act had occurred with reference to the process of or in the presence of the court.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 545.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 773(c), Oct. 14, 1949, ch. 691, §205(c)(2), 63 Stat. 865.

The words "the district court of the United States for the District of Columbia" are omitted as included in "district court". The words "under this subchapter" are added for clarity since this section which was formerly a subsection referred to the subsection preceding it which identified the proceedings.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

§ 8126. Subpenas; oaths; examination of witnesses

The Secretary of Labor, on any matter within his jurisdiction under this subchapter, may—

(1) issue subpoenas for and compel the attendance of witnesses within a radius of 100 miles;

(2) administer oaths;

(3) examine witnesses; and

(4) require the production of books, papers, documents, and other evidence.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 545.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 780, Sept. 7, 1916, ch. 458, §29, 39 Stat. 748. Row 2: Oct. 14, 1949, ch. 691, §205(c)(2), 63 Stat. 864.

The words "under this subchapter" are added to preserve the original grant of power in the Act of Sept. 7, 1916.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

§ 8127. Representation; attorneys' fees

(a) A claimant may authorize an individual to represent him in any proceeding under this subchapter before the Secretary of Labor.

(b) A claim for legal or other services furnished in respect to a case, claim, or award for compensation under this subchapter is valid only if approved by the Secretary.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 545.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 773(b) (less last sentence). Oct. 14, 1949, ch. 691, §208 "Sec. 23(b) (less last sentence)", 63 Stat. 865.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

§ 8128. Review of award

(a) The Secretary of Labor may review an award for or against payment of compensation at any time on his own motion or on application. The Secretary, in accordance with the facts found on review, may—

- (1) end, decrease, or increase the compensation previously awarded; or
(2) award compensation previously refused or discontinued.

(b) The action of the Secretary or his designee in allowing or denying a payment under this subchapter is—

- (1) final and conclusive for all purposes and with respect to all questions of law and fact; and
(2) not subject to review by another official of the United States or by a court by mandamus or otherwise.

Credit shall be allowed in the accounts of a certifying or disbursing official for payments in accordance with that action.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 545.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row (a): 5 U.S.C. 787. Sept. 7, 1916, ch. 458, §37, 39 Stat. 749. June 5, 1924, ch. 261, §1, 43 Stat. 389. Row (b): 5 U.S.C. 793 (penultimate sentence of 5th par.). July 28, 1945, ch. 328, §4 (penultimate sentence), 59 Stat. 504.

In subsection (a), the words "If the original claim for compensation has been made within the time specified in section 770 of this title" are omitted as surplusage. The words "an award for or against payment of compensation" are coextensive with and, for clarity and consistency with section 8124, substituted for "the

award". The second sentence of former section 787 is omitted as included in the penultimate sentence of former section 793, which is carried into subsection (b). The last sentence of former section 787 is omitted as executed.

In subsection (b), the word "official" is substituted for "officer" because of the definition of "officer" in section 2104 which excludes a member of a uniformed service.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface of the report.

§ 8129. Recovery of overpayments

(a) When an overpayment has been made to an individual under this subchapter because of an error of fact or law, adjustment shall be made under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor by decreasing later payments to which the individual is entitled. If the individual dies before the adjustment is completed, adjustment shall be made by decreasing later benefits payable under this subchapter with respect to the individual's death.

(b) Adjustment or recovery by the United States may not be made when incorrect payment has been made to an individual who is without fault and when adjustment or recovery would defeat the purpose of this subchapter or would be against equity and good conscience.

(c) A certifying or disbursing official is not liable for an amount certified or paid by him when—

- (1) adjustment or recovery of the amount is waived under subsection (b) of this section; or
(2) adjustment under subsection (a) of this section is not completed before the death of all individuals against whose benefits deductions are authorized.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 546.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 788. Sept. 7, 1916, ch. 458, §38, 39 Stat. 749. Oct. 14, 1949, ch. 691, §206, 63 Stat. 864.

In subsection (a), the words "Subject to the provisions of sections 786 and 787 of this title" and "if any" are omitted as surplusage.

In subsection (c), the word "official" is substituted for "officer" as the definition of "officer" in section 2104 excludes a member of a uniformed service.

Administration of this subchapter was transferred to the Secretary of Labor by section 1 of 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 19, 64 Stat. 1271 (see section 8145).

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

§ 8130. Assignment of claim

An assignment of a claim for compensation under this subchapter is void. Compensation and claims for compensation are exempt from claims of creditors.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 546.)