

plification of which the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development and Agriculture and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs mutually agree would contribute to a reduction in the paperwork and regulatory burden of such programs.

(2) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, consistent with provisions of law governing their respective programs, provide by regulation for the elimination of forms which solicit information which is already available from other available sources through indexing or other means of identifying such forms.

(3) Each agency referred to in subsection (b) may employ riders, addenda, or similar forms of modification agreements to adapt such uniform forms to its respective programs and policies, consistent with the goals of minimizing the use and extent of such modification agreements and maximizing the suitability of such forms for the use of all participants, public and private.

**(c) Coordination and reports by Director of Office of Management and Budget**

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall coordinate and monitor the development and implementation by Federal departments and agencies of the efforts required by subsection (b) and shall report to the Congress on such development and implementation and with respect to any provisions of law which unnecessarily prevent such departments and agencies from carrying out the provisions of this section as part of each report required under Public Law 93-556. Such report shall include an estimate of the reduction of the level of paperwork burden hours of the affected agencies as allocated by the Office of Management and Budget.

(Pub. L. 95-557, title IX, §905, Oct. 31, 1978, 92 Stat. 2126; Pub. L. 96-153, title III, §328, Dec. 21, 1979, 93 Stat. 1121; Pub. L. 98-479, title II, §204(n)(4), Oct. 17, 1984, 98 Stat. 2234; Pub. L. 102-54, §13(q)(10), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 281.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(E), is Pub. L. 93-533, Dec. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 1724, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 27 (§2601 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2601 of Title 12 and Tables.

Public Law 93-556, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 93-556, Dec. 27, 1974, 88 Stat. 1789, which is set out as a note under section 3501 of Title 44, Public Printing and Documents.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act which comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 102-54 substituted “Secretary of Veterans Affairs” for “Administrator of Veterans Affairs” wherever appearing.

1984—Subsec. (b)(1)(E). Pub. L. 98-479 inserted “of 1974” after “Act”.

1979—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-153 reenacted subsec. (a) without change.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-153 substituted, in provision preceding par. (1)(A), “Not later than October 1, 1980,

the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of Veterans Affairs shall, consistent with provisions of law governing the conduct of housing programs,” for “Insofar as it is practicable and to the extent that such action would result in a reduction in paperwork and regulatory burden, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Veterans Administration shall”, inserted reference to Secretary of Agriculture in par. (1)(F), added par. (2), redesignated former par. (2) as (3), and struck out former par. (3), which authorized the President to require the Farmers Home Administration and Administrator of the Farmers Home Administration to comply with the requirements of this section if such compliance would contribute to a reduction in the paperwork and regulatory burden of housing and housing finance programs administered by that agency.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-153 inserted provision requiring the reports to include an estimate of the reduction of the level of paperwork burden hours of the affected agencies as allocated by the Office of Management and Budget.

**§3542. Public notice and comment regarding demonstration programs not expressly authorized in law**

(a) No demonstration program not expressly authorized in law may be commenced by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development until (1) a description of such demonstration program is published in the Federal Register, which description may be included in a notice of funding availability; and (2) there expires a period of sixty calendar days following the date of such publication, during which period the Secretary shall fully consider any public comments submitted with respect to such demonstration program.

(b) Nothing in this section may be considered to authorize the conducting of any demonstration program by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(Pub. L. 98-181, title I [title IV, §470], Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1237.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1984, and not as part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act which comprises this chapter.

**§3543. Preventing fraud and abuse in Department of Housing and Urban Development programs**

**(a) Disclosure of social security account number**

As a condition of initial or continuing eligibility for participation in any program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development involving loans, grants, interest or rental assistance of any kind, or mortgage or loan insurance, and to ensure that the level of benefits provided under such programs is proper, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may require that an applicant or participant (including members of the household of an applicant or participant) disclose his or her social security account number or employer identification number to the Secretary.

**(b) Definitions**

For purposes of this section, the terms “applicant” and “participant” shall have such mean-

ings as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development by regulation shall prescribe. Such terms shall not include persons whose involvement is only in their official capacity, such as State or local government officials or officers of lending institutions.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title I, §165, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1864.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, and not as part of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 3544. Preventing fraud and abuse in housing and urban development programs**

**(a) Definitions**

As used in this section:

**(1) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

**(2) Applicant; participant**

The terms “applicant” and “participant” shall have such meanings as the Secretary by regulation shall prescribe, except that such terms shall include members of an applicant’s or participant’s household, and such terms shall not include persons whose involvement is only in their official capacity, such as State or local government officials and officers of lending institutions.

**(3) Public housing agency**

The term “public housing agency” means any agency described in section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6)].

**(4) Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development**

The term “program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development” includes Indian housing programs assisted under title II<sup>1</sup> of the United States Housing Act of 1937.

**(b) Applicant and participant consent**

As a condition of initial or continuing eligibility for participation in any program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development involving initial and periodic review of an applicant’s or participant’s income, and to assure that the level of benefits provided under the program is correct, the Secretary may require that an applicant or participant—

(1) sign a consent form approved by the Secretary authorizing the Secretary, the public housing agency, or the owner responsible for determining eligibility for or level of benefits to request current or previous employers to verify salary and wage information pertinent to the applicant’s or participant’s eligibility or level of benefits;

(2) sign a consent form approved by the Secretary authorizing the Secretary or the public housing agency responsible for determining eligibility or level of benefits to request a State agency charged with the administration

of the State unemployment law to release wage information with respect to such applicant or participant or information regarding whether such applicant or participant is receiving, has received, or has made application for, unemployment compensation, and the amount of any such compensation being received (or to be received) by such applicant or participant;

(3) sign a consent form approved by the Secretary authorizing the Secretary to request the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of the Treasury to release information pursuant to section 6103(l)(7)(D)(ix) of title 26 with respect to such applicant or participant for the sole purpose of the Secretary verifying income information pertinent to the applicant’s or participant’s eligibility or level of benefits; and

(4) only in the case of an applicant or participant that is a member of a family described in section 3(f)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(f)(2)), sign an agreement under which the applicant or participant agrees to provide to the appropriate public housing agency, or the owner responsible for determining the participant’s eligibility or level of benefits, the information required under section 3(f)(1) of such Act [42 U.S.C. 1437a(f)(1)] for the sole purpose of verifying income information pertinent to the applicant’s or participant’s eligibility or level of benefits, and comply with such agreement.

Except as provided in this subsection, this consent form shall not be used to request taxpayer return information protected by section 6103 of title 26.

**(c) Access to records**

**(1) Omitted**

**(2) Applicant and participant protections**

(A) In order to protect applicants for, and recipients of, benefits under the programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development from the improper use of information obtained pursuant to the requirements of section 503(i) of this title from the State agency charged with the administration of the State unemployment compensation law, pursuant to section 3(d)(1) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 [42 U.S.C. 1437a(d)(1)] from the applicant or participant, or pursuant to section 6103(l)(7)(D)(ix) of title 26 from the Commissioner of Social Security or the Secretary of the Treasury, officers and employees of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and (in the case of information obtained pursuant to such section 503(i) or 3(d)(1) [42 U.S.C. 1437a(d)(1)]) representatives of public housing agencies may only use such information—

(i) to verify an applicant’s or participant’s eligibility for or level of benefits; or

(ii) in the case of an owner or public housing agency responsible for determining eligibility for or level of benefits, to inform such owner or public housing agency that an applicant’s or participant’s eligibility for or level of benefits is uncertain and to request such owner or public housing agency to ver-

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