

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-288, May 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 143, as amended. Title IV of the Act is classified generally to subchapter IV (§5170 et seq.) of chapter 68 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5121 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to any amounts made available to carry out subchapter II (§12721 et seq.) of chapter 130 of this title after Apr. 11, 1994, and any amounts made available to carry out that subchapter before that date that remain uncommitted on that date, with Secretary to issue any regulations necessary to carry out this section not later than end of 45-day period beginning on that date, see section 209 of Pub. L. 103-233, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 5301 of this title.

CHAPTER 70—MANUFACTURED HOME CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY STANDARDS

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§ 5401. Findings and purposes

(a) Findings

Congress finds that—

- (1) manufactured housing plays a vital role in meeting the housing needs of the Nation; and
- (2) manufactured homes provide a significant resource for affordable homeownership

and rental housing accessible to all Americans.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this chapter are—

- (1) to protect the quality, durability, safety, and affordability of manufactured homes;
- (2) to facilitate the availability of affordable manufactured homes and to increase homeownership for all Americans;
- (3) to provide for the establishment of practical, uniform, and, to the extent possible, performance-based Federal construction standards for manufactured homes;
- (4) to encourage innovative and cost-effective construction techniques for manufactured homes;
- (5) to protect residents of manufactured homes with respect to personal injuries and the amount of insurance costs and property damages in manufactured housing, consistent with the other purposes of this section;
- (6) to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes and related regulations for the enforcement of such standards;
- (7) to ensure uniform and effective enforcement of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes; and
- (8) to ensure that the public interest in, and need for, affordable manufactured housing is duly considered in all determinations relating to the Federal standards and their enforcement.

(Pub. L. 93-383, title VI, §602, Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 700; Pub. L. 96-399, title III, §308(c)(4), Oct. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1641; Pub. L. 97-35, title III, §339B(c), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 417; Pub. L. 106-569, title VI, §602, Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 2997.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-569 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Congress declares that the purposes of this chapter are to reduce the number of personal injuries and deaths and the amount of insurance costs and property damage resulting from manufactured home accidents and to improve the quality and durability of manufactured homes. Therefore, the Congress determines that it is necessary to establish Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes and to authorize manufactured home safety research and development.”

1980—Pub. L. 96-399 substituted “manufactured home” for “mobile home” wherever appearing.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-569, title VI, §612, Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 3012, provided that: “The amendments made by this title [see Short Title of 2000 Amendment note below] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2000], except that the amendments shall have no effect on any order or interpretative bulletin that is issued under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.) and published as a proposed rule pursuant to section 553 of title 5, United States Code, on or before that date of the enactment.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 93-383, title VI, §627, formerly §628, Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 714, renumbered §627, Pub. L. 106-569, title

VI, §611(2), Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 3012, provided that: "The provisions of this title [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as a note under this section] shall take effect upon the expiration of 180 days following the date of enactment of this title [Aug. 22, 1974]."

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-569, title VI, §601(a), Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 2997, provided that: "This title [amending this section and sections 5402 to 5404, 5406, 5407, 5409, 5412 to 5415, 5419, 5422, and 5426 of this title, repealing section 5425 of this title, and enacting and amending provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the 'Manufactured Housing Improvement Act of 2000'."

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 93-383, title VI, §601, Aug. 22, 1974, 88 Stat. 700, as amended by Pub. L. 96-399, title III, §308(c)(5), Oct. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1641, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter and provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the 'National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974'."

SAVINGS PROVISIONS

Pub. L. 106-569, title VI, §613, Dec. 27, 2000, 114 Stat. 3012, provided that:

"(a) STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS.—The Federal manufactured home construction and safety standards (as such term is defined in section 603 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 [42 U.S.C. 5402]) and all regulations pertaining thereto in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2000] shall apply until the effective date of a standard or regulation modifying or superseding the existing standard or regulation that is promulgated under subsection (a) or (b) of section 604 of the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, as amended by this title [42 U.S.C. 5403(a), (b)].

"(b) CONTRACTS.—Any contract awarded pursuant to a Request for Proposal issued before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 27, 2000] shall remain in effect until the earlier of—

- "(1) the expiration of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act; or
- "(2) the expiration of the contract term."

§ 5402. Definitions

As used in this chapter, the term—

(1) "manufactured home construction" means all activities relating to the assembly and manufacture of a manufactured home including but not limited to those relating to durability, quality, and safety;

(2) "retailer" means any person engaged in the sale, leasing, or distribution of new manufactured homes primarily to persons who in good faith purchase or lease a manufactured home for purposes other than resale;

(3) "defect" includes any defect in the performance, construction, components, or material of a manufactured home that renders the home or any part thereof not fit for the ordinary use for which it was intended;

(4) "distributor" means any person engaged in the sale and distribution of manufactured homes for resale;

(5) "manufacturer" means any person engaged in manufacturing or assembling manufactured homes, including any person engaged in importing manufactured homes for resale;

(6) "manufactured home" means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or

more in width or forty body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is three hundred twenty or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air-conditioning, and electrical systems contained therein; except that such term shall include any structure which meets all the requirements of this paragraph except the size requirements and with respect to which the manufacturer voluntarily files a certification required by the Secretary and complies with the standards established under this chapter; and except that such term shall not include any self-propelled recreational vehicle;

(7) "Federal manufactured home construction and safety standard" means a reasonable standard for the construction, design, and performance of a manufactured home which meets the needs of the public including the need for quality, durability, and safety;

(8) "manufactured home safety" means the performance of a manufactured home in such a manner that the public is protected against any unreasonable risk of the occurrence of accidents due to the design or construction of such manufactured home, or any unreasonable risk of death or injury to the user or to the public if such accidents do occur;

(9) "imminent safety hazard" means an imminent and unreasonable risk of death or severe personal injury;

(10) "purchaser" means the first person purchasing a manufactured home in good faith for purposes other than resale;

(11) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(12) "State" includes each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, and American Samoa;

(13) "United States district courts" means the Federal district courts of the United States and the United States courts of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Canal Zone, and American Samoa;

(14) "administering organization" means the recognized, voluntary, private sector, consensus standards body with specific experience in developing model residential building codes and standards involving all disciplines regarding construction and safety that administers the consensus standards through a development process;

(15) "consensus committee" means the committee established under section 5403(a)(3) of this title;

(16) "consensus standards development process" means the process by which additions, revisions, and interpretations to the Federal manufactured home construction and safety standards and enforcement regulations shall be developed and recommended to the Secretary by the consensus committee;

(17) "primary inspection agency" means a State agency or private organization that has been approved by the Secretary to act as a design approval primary inspection agency or a