

(2) If such tort case remained pending as of December 28, 2001, and such individual does not dismiss such tort case before December 31, 2003, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

**(b) Effect of tort cases filed between enactment of original law and enactment of 2001 amendments**

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), if an otherwise eligible individual filed a tort case specified in subsection (d) during the period beginning on October 30, 2000, and ending on December 28, 2001, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

(2) If such individual dismisses such tort case on or before the last permissible date specified in paragraph (3), such individual shall be eligible for such compensation or benefits.

(3) The last permissible date referred to in paragraph (2) is the later of the following dates:

(A) April 30, 2003.

(B) The date that is 30 months after the date the individual first becomes aware that an illness covered by part B of a covered employee may be connected to the exposure of the covered employee in the performance of duty under section 7384n of this title.

**(c) Effect of tort cases filed after enactment of 2001 amendments**

(1) If an otherwise eligible individual files a tort case specified in subsection (d) after December 28, 2001, such individual shall not be eligible for such compensation or benefits if a final court decision is entered against such individual in such tort case.

(2) If such a final court decision is not entered, such individual shall nonetheless not be eligible for such compensation or benefits, except as follows: If such individual dismisses such tort case on or before the last permissible date specified in paragraph (3), such individual shall be eligible for such compensation and benefits.

(3) The last permissible date referred to in paragraph (2) is the later of the following dates:

(A) April 30, 2003.

(B) The date that is 30 months after the date the individual first becomes aware that an illness covered by part B of a covered employee may be connected to the exposure of the covered employee in the performance of duty under section 7384n of this title.

**(d) Covered tort cases**

A tort case specified in this subsection is a tort case alleging a claim referred to in section 7385b of this title against a beryllium vendor or atomic weapons employer.

**(e) Workers' compensation**

This section does not apply to an administrative or judicial proceeding under a State or Federal workers' compensation law.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3645], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-510; Pub. L. 107-107, div. C, title XXXI, §3151(a)(5), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1374.)

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsecs. (a) to (d). Pub. L. 107-107 amended headings and text of subsecs. (a) to (d) generally, sub-

stituting present provisions for provisions relating to election to file suit in subsec. (a), applicable time limits in subsec. (b), dismissal of claims in subsec. (c), and dismissal of pending suit in subsec. (d).

**§ 7385e. Certification of treatment of payments under other laws**

Compensation or benefits provided to an individual under this subchapter—

(1) shall be treated for purposes of the internal revenue laws of the United States as damages for human suffering; and

(2) shall not be included as income or resources for purposes of determining eligibility to receive benefits described in section 3803(c)(2)(C) of title 31 or the amount of such benefits.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3646], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-510; Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(e), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “this subchapter” for “part B”.

**§ 7385f. Claims not assignable or transferable; choice of remedies**

**(a) Claims not assignable or transferable**

No claim cognizable under this subchapter shall be assignable or transferable.

**(b) Choice of remedies**

No individual may receive more than one payment of compensation under part B.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3647], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-511; Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(f), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.)

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “this subchapter” for “part B”.

**§ 7385g. Attorney fees**

**(a) General rule**

Notwithstanding any contract, the representative of an individual may not receive, for services rendered in connection with the claim of an individual for payment of lump-sum compensation under part B, more than that percentage specified in subsection (b) of a payment made under part B on such claim.

**(b) Applicable percentage limitations**

The percentage referred to in subsection (a) is—

(1) 2 percent for the filing of an initial claim for payment of lump-sum compensation; and

(2) 10 percent with respect to objections to a recommended decision denying payment of lump-sum compensation.

**(c) Inapplicability to other services**

This section shall not apply with respect to services rendered that are not in connection with such a claim for payment of lump-sum compensation.

**(d) Penalty**

Any such representative who violates this section shall be fined not more than \$5,000.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3648], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-511; Pub. L. 107-107, div. C, title XXXI, §3151(a)(6), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1375.)

## AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-107, §3151(a)(6)(A), inserted “for payment of lump-sum compensation” after “the claim of an individual”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 107-107, §3151(a)(6)(B), inserted “for payment of lump-sum compensation” after “initial claim”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 107-107, §3151(a)(6)(C), substituted “with respect to objections to a recommended decision denying payment of lump-sum compensation” for “with respect to any claim with respect to which a representative has made a contract for services before October 30, 2000”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 107-107, §3151(a)(6)(D), (E), added subsec. (c) and redesignated former subsec. (c) as (d).

### § 7385h. Certain claims not affected by awards of damages

A payment under this subchapter shall not be considered as any form of compensation or reimbursement for a loss for purposes of imposing liability on any individual receiving such payment, on the basis of such receipt, to repay any insurance carrier for insurance payments, or to repay any person on account of worker's compensation payments; and a payment under this subchapter shall not affect any claim against an insurance carrier with respect to insurance or against any person with respect to worker's compensation.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3649], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-511; Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(g), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.)

## AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “this subchapter” for “part B” in two places.

### § 7385i. Forfeiture of benefits by convicted felons

#### (a) Forfeiture of compensation

Any individual convicted of a violation of section 1920 of title 18, or any other Federal or State criminal statute relating to fraud in the application for or receipt of any benefit under this subchapter or under any other Federal or State workers' compensation law, shall forfeit (as of the date of such conviction) any entitlement to any compensation or benefit under this subchapter such individual would otherwise be awarded for any injury, illness or death covered by this subchapter for which the time of injury was on or before the date of the conviction.

#### (b) Information

Notwithstanding section 552a of title 5, or any other Federal or State law, an agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State shall make available to the President, upon written request from the President and if the President requires the information to carry out this section, the names and Social Security account numbers of individuals confined, for conviction of a felony, in a jail, prison, or other penal institution or correctional facility under the jurisdiction of that agency.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3650], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-511; Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3162(h), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2186.)

## AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-375 substituted “this subchapter” for “part B” wherever appearing.

### § 7385j. Coordination with other Federal radiation compensation laws

Except in accordance with section 7384u of this title, an individual may not receive compensation or benefits under the compensation program for cancer and also receive compensation under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) or section 1112(c) of title 38.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3651], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-512.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 101-426, Oct. 15, 1990, 104 Stat. 920, as amended, which is set out as a note under section 2210 of this title.

### § 7385j-1. Social Security earnings information

Notwithstanding the provision of section 552a of title 5 or any other provision of Federal or State law, the Social Security Administration shall make available to the Secretary of Labor, upon written request, the Social Security earnings information of living or deceased employees who may have sustained an illness that is the subject of a claim under this subchapter, which the Secretary of Labor may require to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [div. C, title XXXVI, §3652], as added Pub. L. 108-375, div. C, title XXXI, §3163(b), Oct. 28, 2004, 118 Stat. 2187.)

### § 7385j-2. Recovery and waiver of overpayments

#### (a) In general

When an overpayment has been made to an individual under this subchapter because of an error of fact or law, recovery 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 recovery is completed, recovery shall be made by decreasing later benefits payable under this subchapter with respect to the individual's death.

#### (b) Waiver

Recovery by the United States under this section 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) Liability

A certifying or disbursing official is not liable for an amount certified or paid by him when recovery of the amount is waived under subsection (b) of this section, or when recovery under subsection (a) of this section is not completed before the death of all individuals against whose benefits deductions are authorized.