

operator of any eligible beneficiary under this chapter who is a coal industry retiree shall be considered to be the signatory operator, last signatory operator, or assigned operator with respect to any other individual who is an eligible beneficiary under this chapter by reason of a relationship to the retiree.

#### (7) Business

For purposes of this chapter, a person shall be considered to be in business if such person conducts or derives revenue from any business activity, whether or not in the coal industry.

#### (8) Successor in interest

##### (A) Safe harbor

The term “successor in interest” shall not include any person who—

- (i) is an unrelated person to an eligible seller described in subparagraph (C); and
- (ii) purchases for fair market value assets, or all of the stock, of a related person to such seller, in a bona fide, arm’s-length sale.

##### (B) Unrelated person

The term “unrelated person” means a purchaser who does not bear a relationship to the eligible seller described in section 267(b).

##### (C) Eligible seller

For purposes of this paragraph, the term “eligible seller” means an assigned operator described in section 9704(j)(2) or a related person to such assigned operator.

#### (d) Enactment date

For purposes of this chapter, the term “enactment date” means the date of the enactment of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 102-486, title XIX, §19143(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3037; amended Pub. L. 109-432, div. C, title II, §211(d), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3023; Pub. L. 115-141, div. U, title IV, §401(a)(343), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1200.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this chapter, referred to in subsec. (d), is the date of the enactment of Pub. L. 102-486, which was approved Oct. 24, 1992.

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 115-141 substituted “section 9712” for “section 9713A”.

2006—Subsec. (c)(8). Pub. L. 109-432 added par. (8).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-432, div. C, title II, §211(e), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3023, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 9704, 9711, and 9712 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 20, 2006], except that the amendment made by subsection (d) [amending this section] shall apply to transactions after the date of the enactment of this Act.”

#### FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF POLICY

Pub. L. 102-486, title XIX, §19142, Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3037, provided that:

“(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

“(1) the production, transportation, and use of coal substantially affects interstate and foreign commerce and the national public interest; and

“(2) in order to secure the stability of interstate commerce, it is necessary to modify the current pri-

vate health care benefit plan structure for retirees in the coal industry to identify persons most responsible for plan liabilities in order to stabilize plan funding and allow for the provision of health care benefits to such retirees.

“(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of this subtitle [subtitle C (§§19141-19143) of title XIX of Pub. L. 102-486, enacting this subtitle, amending sections 1231 and 1232 of Title 30, Mineral Lands and Mining, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1 of this title]—

“(1) to remedy problems with the provision and funding of health care benefits with respect to the beneficiaries of multiemployer benefit plans that provide health care benefits to retirees in the coal industry;

“(2) to allow for sufficient operating assets for such plans; and

“(3) to provide for the continuation of a privately financed self-sufficient program for the delivery of health care benefits to the beneficiaries of such plans.”

### Subchapter B—Combined Benefit Fund

#### Part

- I. Establishment and Benefits.
- II. Financing.
- III. Enforcement.
- IV. Other Provisions.

### PART I—ESTABLISHMENT AND BENEFITS

#### Sec.

- 9702. Establishment of the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund.
- 9703. Plan benefits.

### §9702. Establishment of the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund

#### (a) Establishment

##### (1) In general

As soon as practicable (but not later than 60 days) after the enactment date, the persons described in subsection (b) shall designate the individuals to serve as trustees. Such trustees shall create a new private plan to be known as the United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund.

##### (2) Merger of retiree benefit plans

As of February 1, 1993, the settlers of the 1950 UMWA Benefit Plan and the 1974 UMWA Benefit Plan shall cause such plans to be merged into the Combined Fund, and such merger shall not be treated as an employer withdrawal for purposes of any 1988 coal wage agreement.

##### (3) Treatment of plan

The Combined Fund shall be—

(A) a plan described in section 302(c)(5) of the Labor Management Relations Act, 1947 (29 U.S.C. 186(c)(5)),

(B) an employee welfare benefit plan within the meaning of section 3(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1002(1)), and

(C) a multiemployer plan within the meaning of section 3(37) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1002(37)).

##### (4) Tax treatment

For purposes of this title, the Combined Fund and any related trust shall be treated as an organization exempt from tax under section 501(a).