

- (2) the statement on its face raises a question as to its validity;
- (3) there is conflicting information of record; or
- (4) there is reasonable indication, in the statement or otherwise, of fraud or misrepresentation.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, §301(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4657.)

§ 5125. Acceptance of reports of private physician examinations

For purposes of establishing any claim for benefits under chapter 11 or 15 of this title, a report of a medical examination administered by a private physician that is provided by a claimant in support of a claim for benefits under that chapter may be accepted without a requirement for confirmation by an examination by a physician employed by the Veterans Health Administration if the report is sufficiently complete to be adequate for the purpose of adjudicating such claim.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, §301(b), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4658.)

§ 5126. Benefits not to be denied based on lack of mailing address

Benefits under laws administered by the Secretary may not be denied a claimant on the basis that the claimant does not have a mailing address.

(Added Pub. L. 106-475, §3(b), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2098.)

CHAPTER 53—SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO BENEFITS

Sec.	
5301.	Nonassignability and exempt status of benefits.
5302.	Waiver of recovery of claims by the United States.
5302A.	Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone.
5303.	Certain bars to benefits.
5303A.	Minimum active-duty service requirement.
5303B.	Character of service determinations.
5304.	Prohibition against duplication of benefits.
5305.	Waiver of retired pay.
5306.	Renunciation of right to benefits.
5307.	Apportionment of benefits.
5308.	Withholding benefits of persons in territory of the enemy.
5309.	Payment of certain withheld benefits.
5310.	Payment of benefits for month of death.
5311.	Prohibition of certain benefit payments.
5312.	Annual adjustment of certain benefit rates.
5313.	Limitation on payment of compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation to persons incarcerated for conviction of a felony.
5313A.	Limitation on payment of clothing allowance to incarcerated veterans.
5313B.	Prohibition on providing certain benefits with respect to persons who are fugitive felons.
5314.	Indebtedness offsets.
5315.	Interest and administrative cost charges on delinquent payments of certain amounts due the United States.

Sec.	
5316.	Authority to sue to collect certain debts.
5317.	Use of income information from other agencies: notice and verification.
5317A.	Use of income information from other agencies: independent verification required before termination or reduction of certain benefits and services.
5318.	Review of Social Security Administration death information.
5319.	Limitations on access to financial records.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-141, div. J, title II, §259(b), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 829, added item 5303B.

2008—Pub. L. 110-252, title I, §1303(a)(2), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2327, added item 5302A.

2007—Pub. L. 110-157, title III, §301(b)(2), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 1836, added item 5317A.

2003—Pub. L. 108-183, title VII, §708(c)(4)(B)(ii), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2675, substituted "Social Security Administration" for "Department of Health and Human Services" in item 5318.

2001—Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §505(a)(2), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 996, added item 5313B.

1996—Pub. L. 104-275, title V, §502(b), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3341, added item 5313A.

1992—Pub. L. 102-568, title VI, §603(b)(2), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4343, added item 5319.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(c)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, renumbered items 3101 to 3118 as 5301 to 5318, respectively.

1990—Pub. L. 101-508, title VIII, §§8051(b)(2), 8053(b)(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-351, 1388-353, added items 3117 and 3118.

1981—Pub. L. 97-66, title VI, §604(a)(2), Oct. 17, 1981, 95 Stat. 1036, added item 3103A.

1980—Pub. L. 96-466, title VI, §605(a)(2), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2211, added items 3114, 3115, and 3116.

Pub. L. 96-385, title V, §504(b), Oct. 7, 1980, 94 Stat. 1535, added item 3113.

1978—Pub. L. 95-588, title III, §305(b), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2508, added item 3112.

1972—Pub. L. 92-328, title II, §203, June 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 397, substituted "claims by the United States" for "overpayments" in item 3102.

1970—Pub. L. 91-376, §8(c), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 790, added item 3111.

1962—Pub. L. 87-825, §4(b), Oct. 15, 1962, 76 Stat. 950, added item 3110.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE RELATING TO DEBT COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 115-407, title V, §504(a)-(c), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5378, provided that:

"(a) DEBT NOTIFICATION LETTER FORMATS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with veterans service organizations to develop a standard format for any letter provided to an individual who the Secretary determines is indebted to the United States by virtue of such individual's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary. Such letter shall be written in plain language and shall include a notice of the debt and a clear explanation of—

"(1) why the individual is indebted to the United States by virtue of such person's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary; and

"(2) the options available to the individual.

"(b) DELIVERY OF DEBT NOTICES BY STANDARD MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MEANS.—The Secretary shall develop a method by which individuals may elect to receive notice of debt by electronic means and shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the letter developed under subsection (a) is delivered—

"(1) by both standard mail and by electronic means to intended recipients who have made such an election; and

"(2) only by standard mail to intended recipients who have not made such an election.