

Commissioner shall notify the Secretary of the final determination and the reasons therefor, and the Secretary shall then notify the entities described in section 1320a-7a(h) of this title of such final determination." for "the provisions of section 1320a-7a(h) of this title shall apply."

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), substituted "Commissioner of Social Security" for "Secretary" wherever appearing.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(iv), inserted "based on a recommendation under subsection (a)" after "section 1320a-7 of this title".

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 103-296, §206(e)(1), added subsec. (l).

Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), (v), in subsec. (l) as added by Pub. L. 103-296, §206(e)(1), substituted "Social Security Administration" for "Department of Health and Human Services" and "Commissioner of Social Security" for "Secretary".

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-203, title I, §111(b), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 507, provided that: "The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall apply with respect to violations committed after the date of the enactment of this Act [Mar. 2, 2004]."

Pub. L. 108-203, title II, §201(d), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 508, provided that: "The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1320a-8a of this title] shall apply with respect to violations committed after the date on which the Commissioner of Social Security implements the centralized computer file described in section 202 [set out as a note under section 902 of this title]." [The centralized computer file was implemented Nov. 27, 2006, see 72 F.R. 27424.]

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 108(b)(10)(A) of Pub. L. 103-296 effective Mar. 31, 1995, see section 110(a) of Pub. L. 103-296, set out as a note under section 401 of this title.

Pub. L. 103-296, title II, §206(e)(2), Aug. 15, 1994, 108 Stat. 1515, provided that: "The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1994."

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to conduct occurring on or after Oct. 1, 1994, see section 206(b)(3) of Pub. L. 103-296, set out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under section 1320a-7 of this title.

#### STUDY ON POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING

Pub. L. 106-169, title II, §210, Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat. 1842, provided that:

"(a) **STUDY.**—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 14, 1999], the Commissioner of Social Security, in consultation with the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration and the Attorney General, shall conduct a study of possible measures to improve—

"(1) prevention of fraud on the part of individuals entitled to disability benefits under section 223 of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 423] or benefits under section 202 of such Act [42 U.S.C. 402] based on the beneficiary's disability, individuals eligible for supplemental security income benefits under title XVI of such Act [42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.], and applicants for any such benefits; and

"(2) timely processing of reported income changes by individuals receiving such benefits.

"(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 14, 1999], the Commissioner shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a written report that contains the results of the Commissioner's study under subsection (a). The report shall contain such recommendations for legislative and administrative changes as the Commissioner considers appropriate."

### § 1320a-8a. Administrative procedure for imposing penalties for false or misleading statements

#### (a) In general

Any person who—

(1) makes, or causes to be made, a statement or representation of a material fact, for use in determining any initial or continuing right to or the amount of monthly insurance benefits under subchapter II or benefits or payments under subchapter XVI that the person knows or should know is false or misleading,

(2) makes such a statement or representation for such use with knowing disregard for the truth, or

(3) omits from a statement or representation for such use, or otherwise withholds disclosure of, a fact which the person knows or should know is material to the determination of any initial or continuing right to or the amount of monthly insurance benefits under subchapter II or benefits or payments under subchapter XVI, if the person knows, or should know, that the statement or representation with such omission is false or misleading or that the withholding of such disclosure is misleading,

shall be subject to, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law, a penalty described in subsection (b) to be imposed by the Commissioner of Social Security.

#### (b) Penalty

The penalty described in this subsection is—

(1) nonpayment of benefits under subchapter II that would otherwise be payable to the person; and

(2) ineligibility for cash benefits under subchapter XVI,

for each month that begins during the applicable period described in subsection (c).

#### (c) Duration of penalty

The duration of the applicable period, with respect to a determination by the Commissioner under subsection (a) that a person has engaged in conduct described in subsection (a), shall be—

(1) six consecutive months, in the case of the first such determination with respect to the person;

(2) twelve consecutive months, in the case of the second such determination with respect to the person; and

(3) twenty-four consecutive months, in the case of the third or subsequent such determination with respect to the person.

#### (d) Effect on other assistance

A person subject to a period of nonpayment of benefits under subchapter II or ineligibility for subchapter XVI benefits by reason of this section nevertheless shall be considered to be eligible for and receiving such benefits, to the extent that the person would be receiving or eligible for such benefits but for the imposition of the penalty, for purposes of—

(1) determination of the eligibility of the person for benefits under subchapters XVIII and XIX; and

(2) determination of the eligibility or amount of benefits payable under subchapter II or XVI to another person.

**(e) Definition**

In this section, the term “benefits under subchapter VIII or XVI” includes State supplementary payments made by the Commissioner pursuant to an agreement under section 1010a or 1382e(a) of this title or section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66, as the case may be.

**(f) Consultations**

The Commissioner of Social Security shall consult with the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration regarding initiating actions under this section.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, §1129A, as added Pub. L. 106-169, title II, §207(a), Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat. 1837; amended Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title V, §518(b)(2)], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-74; Pub. L. 108-203, title II, §201(a)(2), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 508.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66, referred to in subsec. (e), is section 212(b) of Pub. L. 93-66, title II, July 9, 1973, 87 Stat. 155, as amended, which is set out as a note under section 1382 of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-203 substantially rewrote text of subsec. (a). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Any person who makes, or causes to be made, a statement or representation of a material fact for use in determining any initial or continuing right to or the amount of—

“(1) monthly insurance benefits under subchapter II of this chapter; or

“(2) benefits or payments under subchapter XVI of this chapter,

that the person knows or should know is false or misleading or knows or should know omits a material fact or who makes such a statement with knowing disregard for the truth shall be subject to, in addition to any other penalties that may be prescribed by law, a penalty described in subsection (b) to be imposed by the Commissioner of Social Security.”

2000—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title V, §518(b)(2)(B), (D)], inserted “1010a or” after “agreement under section” and “, as the case may be” before period at end.

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title V, §518(b)(2)(C)], which directed the amendment of subsec. (e) by inserting “1010A or” before “1382(e)(a)”, could not be executed because “1382(e)(a)” does not appear in text.

Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(1) [title V, §518(b)(2)(A)], which directed the amendment of subsec. (e) by inserting “VIII or” after “benefits under”, was executed by making the insertion after “benefits under subchapter” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-203 applicable with respect to violations committed after Nov. 27, 2006, see section 201(d) of Pub. L. 108-203, set out as a note under section 1320a-8 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to statements and representations made on or after Dec. 14, 1999, see section 207(e) of Pub. L. 106-169, set out as an Effective Date of 1999 Amendment note under section 402 of this title.

## REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 106-169, title II, §207(d), Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat. 1838, provided that: “Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 14, 1999], the Commissioner of Social Security shall develop regulations that prescribe the administrative process for making deter-

minations under section 1129A of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1320a-8a] (including when the applicable period in subsection (c) of such section shall commence), and shall provide guidance on the exercise of discretion as to whether the penalty should be imposed in particular cases.”

**§ 1320a-8b. Attempts to interfere with administration of this chapter**

Whoever corruptly or by force or threats of force (including any threatening letter or communication) attempts to intimidate or impede any officer, employee, or contractor of the Social Security Administration (including any State employee of a disability determination service or any other individual designated by the Commissioner of Social Security) acting in an official capacity to carry out a duty under this chapter, or in any other way corruptly or by force or threats of force (including any threatening letter or communication) obstructs or impedes, or attempts to obstruct or impede, the due administration of this chapter, shall be fined not more than \$5,000, imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both, except that if the offense is committed only by threats of force, the person shall be fined not more than \$3,000, imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both. In this subsection, the term “threats of force” means threats of harm to the officer or employee of the United States or to a contractor of the Social Security Administration, or to a member of the family of such an officer or employee or contractor.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XI, §1129B, as added Pub. L. 108-203, title II, §206, Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat. 512.)

**§ 1320a-9. Demonstration projects****(a) Authority to approve demonstration projects****(1) In general**

The Secretary may authorize States to conduct demonstration projects pursuant to this section which the Secretary finds are likely to promote the objectives of part B or E of subchapter IV.

**(2) Limitation**

During fiscal years 2012 through 2014, the Secretary may authorize demonstration projects described in paragraph (1), with not more than 10 demonstration projects to be authorized in each fiscal year.

**(3) Conditions for State eligibility**

For purposes of a new demonstration project under this section that is initially approved in any of fiscal years 2012 through 2014, a State shall be authorized to conduct such demonstration project only if the State satisfies the following conditions:

**(A) Identify 1 or more goals****(i) In general**

The State shall demonstrate that the demonstration project is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the following goals:

(I) Increase permanency for all infants, children, and youth by reducing the time in foster placements when possible and promoting a successful transition to adulthood for older youth.