

Prior sections 5015, 5016, 5021 to 5025, 5031 to 5037, and 5051 to 5056 were renumbered sections 8115, 8116, 8121 to 8125, 8131 to 8137, and 8151 to 8156 of this title, respectively.

A prior section 5057, added Pub. L. 89-785, title II, §203, Nov. 7, 1966, 80 Stat. 1376, directed Administrator to submit to Congress not more than sixty days after end of each fiscal year separate reports on activities carried out under sections 5053 and 5054 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 99-576, title II, §231(c)(2)(A), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3264.

Prior sections 5070, 5071 to 5074, 5081 to 5083, 5091 to 5093, and 5096 were renumbered sections 8201, 8211 to 8214, 8221 to 8223, 8231 to 8233, and 8241 of this title, respectively.

**PART IV—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

Chap.		Sec.
51.	Claims, Effective Dates, and Payments	5100
53.	Special Provisions Relating to Benefits	5301
55.	Minors, Incompetents, and Other Wards	5501
57.	Records and Investigations .....	5701
59.	Agents and Attorneys .....	5901
61.	Penal and Forfeiture Provisions .....	6101
63.	Outreach Activities .....	6301

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-233, title IV, §402(d)(3), June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 411, added item for chapter 63.

2002—Pub. L. 107-330, title III, §308(g)(1)(A), Dec. 6, 2002, 116 Stat. 2828, substituted "5100" for "5101" in item for chapter 51.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(c)(2), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, substituted "5101" for "3001" in item for chapter 51, "5301" for "3101" in item for chapter 53, "5501" for "3201" in item for chapter 55, "5701" for "3301" in item for chapter 57, "5901" for "3401" in item for chapter 59, and "6101" for "3501" in item for chapter 61.

1988—Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title I, §103(c)(1), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4107, substituted "Claims" for "Applications" in item for chapter 51.

**CHAPTER 51—CLAIMS, EFFECTIVE DATES, AND PAYMENTS**

SUBCHAPTER I—CLAIMS

Sec.	
5100.	Definition of "claimant".
5101.	Claims and forms.
5102.	Application forms furnished upon request; notice to claimants of incomplete applications.
5103.	Notice to claimants of required information and evidence.
5103A.	Duty to assist claimants.
5104.	Decisions and notices of decisions.
5104A.	Binding nature of favorable findings.
5104B.	Higher-level review by the agency of original jurisdiction.
5104C.	Options following decision by agency of original jurisdiction.
5105.	Joint applications for social security and dependency and indemnity compensation.
5106.	Furnishing of information by other agencies.
5107.	Claimant responsibility; benefit of the doubt.
5108.	Supplemental claims.
5109.	Independent medical opinions.
5109A.	Revision of decisions on grounds of clear and unmistakable error.
5109B.	Expedited treatment of returned and remanded claims.

SUBCHAPTER II—EFFECTIVE DATES

5110.	Effective dates of awards.
5111.	Commencement of period of payment.

Sec.	
5112.	Effective dates of reductions and discontinuances.
5113.	Effective dates of educational benefits.

SUBCHAPTER III—PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

5120.	Payment of benefits; delivery.
5121.	Payment of certain accrued benefits upon death of a beneficiary.
5121A.	Substitution in case of death of claimant.
5122.	Cancellation of checks mailed to deceased payees.
5123.	Rounding down of pension rates.
5124.	Acceptance of claimant's statement as proof of relationship.
5125.	Acceptance of reports of private physician examinations.
5126.	Benefits not to be denied based on lack of mailing address.

APPLICABILITY OF AMENDMENT

*Amendment of analysis by section 2(f)(2), (g)(2), (h)(2), (i)(3), (k)(2) of Pub. L. 115-55 applicable to all claims for which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides notice of a decision under section 5104 of this title on or after the later of 540 days after Aug. 23, 2017, or 30 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to Congress a certification of certain capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out the new appeals system established by Pub. L. 115-55 and to address appeals of decisions on legacy claims, with provision for early applicability of the new appeals system to certain claims. See 2017 Amendment note below.*

AMENDMENTS

2017—Pub. L. 115-55, §2(f)(2), (g)(2), (h)(2), (i)(3), (k)(2), Aug. 23, 2017, 131 Stat. 1107-1109, added items 5104A to 5104C and substituted "Supplemental claims" for "Reopened disallowed claims" in item 5108 and "Expedited treatment of returned and remanded claims" for "Expedited treatment of remanded claims" in item 5109B.

2008—Pub. L. 110-389, title II, §212(b), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4151, added item 5121A.

Pub. L. 110-387, title IX, §901(a)(5), Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4142, substituted "death of a beneficiary" for "death of beneficiary" in item 5121.

2003—Pub. L. 108-183, title VII, §707(a)(2), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2673, added item 5109B.

2000—Pub. L. 106-475, §6, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2099, added items 5100, 5102 to 5103A, 5107, and 5126, and struck out former items 5102 "Application forms furnished upon request", 5103 "Incomplete applications", and 5107 "Burden of proof; benefit of the doubt".

Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title XVI, §1611(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-360, directed amendment of table of sections by striking the item relating to section 5017 and inserting item 5107 "Assistance to claimants; benefit of the doubt; burden of proof". Pub. L. 106-419, title I, §104(c)(2), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1828, provided that, as of the enactment of Pub. L. 106-419, the amendments made by Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title XVI, §1611(b)], were deemed for all purposes not to have taken effect and that Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title XVI, §1611(b)], ceased to be in effect.

1997—Pub. L. 105-111, §1(a)(2), Nov. 21, 1997, 111 Stat. 2271, added item 5109A.

1994—Pub. L. 103-446, title III, §301(c), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4658, added items 5124 and 5125.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(c)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, renumbered items 3001 to 3023 as 5101 to 5123, respectively.

1989—Pub. L. 101-237, title I, §115(a)(2), Dec. 18, 1989, 103 Stat. 2066, added item 3004.

1988—Pub. L. 100-687, div. A, title I, §103(a)(2), (c)(2), (3), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4107, 4108, substituted "CLAIMS" for "APPLICATIONS" in heading for chap-