

amended Pub. L. 94-239, §2, Mar. 23, 1976, 90 Stat. 251; Pub. L. 102-242, title II, §223(d), Dec. 19, 1991, 105 Stat. 2306; Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §§1071(b), 1085(1), title XIV, §1474, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2059, 2083, 2199.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-203, §1085(1), substituted “Bureau” for “Board” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 111-203, §1071(b), added par. (5).  
 Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 111-203, §1474, amended subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (e) read as follows: “Each creditor shall promptly furnish an applicant, upon written request by the applicant made within a reasonable period of time of the application, a copy of the appraisal report used in connection with the applicant’s application for a loan that is or would have been secured by a lien on residential real property. The creditor may require the applicant to reimburse the creditor for the cost of the appraisal.”

1991—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-242 added subsec. (e).

1976—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 94-239 designated existing provisions as cl. (1), expanded prohibition against discrimination to include race, color, religion, national origin and age, and added cls. (2) and (3).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-239 designated existing provisions as cl. (1) and added cls. (2) to (4).

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 94-239 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1071(d), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2059, provided that: “This section [enacting section 1691c-2 of this title and amending this section] shall become effective on the designated transfer date.”

[The term “designated transfer date” is defined in section 5481(9) of Title 12, Banks and Banking, as the date established under section 5582 of Title 12.]

Amendment by section 1085(1) of Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Amendment by section 1474 of Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the date on which final regulations implementing that amendment take effect, or on the date that is 18 months after the designated transfer date if such regulations have not been issued by that date, see section 1400(c) of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 1601 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 708, formerly §707, of title VII of Pub. L. 90-321, as added by Pub. L. 93-495, title V, §503, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1525, renumbered and amended by Pub. L. 94-239, §§7, 8, Mar. 23, 1976, 90 Stat. 255, provided that: “This title [enacting this subchapter and provisions set out as notes under section 1691 of this title] takes effect upon the expiration of one year after the date of its enactment [Oct. 28, 1974]. The amendments made by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act Amendments of 1976 [enacting section 1691f of this title, amending this section and sections 1691b, 1691c, 1691d, and 1691e of this title, repealing section 1609 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section, and repealing provisions set out as a note under this section] shall take effect on the date of enactment thereof [Mar. 23, 1976] and shall apply to any violation occurring on or after such date, except that the amendments made to section 701 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act [this section] shall take effect 12 months after the date of enactment [Mar. 23, 1976].”

#### SHORT TITLE

This subchapter known as the “Equal Credit Opportunity Act”, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title.

#### CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Pub. L. 93-495, title V, §502, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1521, provided that: “The Congress finds that there is a need

to insure that the various financial institutions and other firms engaged in the extensions of credit exercise their responsibility to make credit available with fairness, impartiality, and without discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status. Economic stabilization would be enhanced and competition among the various financial institutions and other firms engaged in the extension of credit would be strengthened by an absence of discrimination on the basis of sex or marital status, as well as by the informed use of credit which Congress has heretofore sought to promote. It is the purpose of this Act [see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title] to require that financial institutions and other firms engaged in the extension of credit make that credit equally available to all credit-worthy customers without regard to sex or marital status.”

#### § 1691a. Definitions; rules of construction

(a) The definitions and rules of construction set forth in this section are applicable for the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) The term “applicant” means any person who applies to a creditor directly for an extension, renewal, or continuation of credit, or applies to a creditor indirectly by use of an existing credit plan for an amount exceeding a previously established credit limit.

(c) The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(d) The term “credit” means the right granted by a creditor to a debtor to defer payment of debt or to incur debts and defer its payment or to purchase property or services and defer payment therefor.

(e) The term “creditor” means any person who regularly extends, renews, or continues credit; any person who regularly arranges for the extension, renewal, or continuation of credit; or any assignee of an original creditor who participates in the decision to extend, renew, or continue credit.

(f) The term “person” means a natural person, a corporation, government or governmental subdivision or agency, trust, estate, partnership, cooperative, or association.

(g) Any reference to any requirement imposed under this subchapter or any provision thereof includes reference to the regulations of the Bureau under this subchapter or the provision thereof in question.

(Pub. L. 90-321, title VII, §702, as added Pub. L. 93-495, title V, §503, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1522; amended Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1085(1), (2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2083.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-203, §1085(2), added subsec. (c) and struck out former subsec. (c) which read as follows: “The term ‘Board’ refers to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.”

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 111-203, §1085(1), substituted “Bureau” for “Board”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### § 1691b. Promulgation of regulations by the Bureau

##### (a) In general

The Bureau shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. These