

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

regulations may contain but are not limited to such classifications, differentiation, or other provision, and may provide for such adjustments and exceptions for any class of transactions, as in the judgment of the Bureau are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this subchapter, to prevent circumvention or evasion thereof, or to facilitate or substantiate compliance therewith.

**(b) Exempt transactions**

Such regulations may exempt from the provisions of this subchapter any class of transactions that are not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, or business or commercial loans made available by a financial institution, except that a particular type within a class of such transactions may be exempted if the Bureau determines, after making an express finding that the application of this subchapter or of any provision of this subchapter of such transaction would not contribute substantially to effecting the purposes of this subchapter.

**(c) Limitation on exemptions**

An exemption granted pursuant to subsection (b) shall be for no longer than five years and shall be extended only if the Bureau makes a subsequent determination, in the manner described by such paragraph,<sup>1</sup> that such exemption remains appropriate.

**(d) Maintenance of records**

Pursuant to Bureau regulations, entities making business or commercial loans shall maintain such records or other data relating to such loans as may be necessary to evidence compliance with this subsection<sup>2</sup> or enforce any action pursuant to the authority of this chapter. In no event shall such records or data be maintained for a period of less than one year. The Bureau shall promulgate regulations to implement this paragraph<sup>3</sup> in the manner prescribed by chapter 5 of title 5.

**(e) Notice of denial of loan**

The Bureau shall provide in regulations that an applicant for a business or commercial loan shall be provided a written notice of such applicant's right to receive a written statement of the reasons for the denial of such loan.

**(f) Board authority**

Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Board shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter with respect to a person described in section 5519(a) of title 12. These regulations may contain but are not limited to such classifications, differentiation, or other provision, and may provide for such adjustments and exceptions for any class of transactions, as in the judgment of the Board are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this subchapter, to prevent circumvention or evasion thereof, or to facilitate or substantiate compliance therewith.

**(g) Deference**

Notwithstanding any power granted to any Federal agency under this subchapter, the def-

erence that a court affords to a Federal agency with respect to a determination made by such agency relating to the meaning or interpretation of any provision of this subchapter that is subject to the jurisdiction of such agency shall be applied as if that agency were the only agency authorized to apply, enforce, interpret, or administer the provisions of this subchapter<sup>4</sup>

(Pub. L. 90-321, title VII, § 703, as added Pub. L. 93-495, title V, § 503, Oct. 28, 1974, 88 Stat. 1522; amended Pub. L. 94-239, § 3(a), Mar. 23, 1976, 90 Stat. 252; Pub. L. 100-533, title III, § 301, Oct. 25, 1988, 102 Stat. 2692; Pub. L. 111-203, title X, § 1085(1), (3), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2083.)

AMENDMENTS

2010—Pub. L. 111-203, § 1085(3)(A), substituted “Promulgation of regulations by the Bureau” for “Regulations” in section catchline.

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

Subsecs. (a) to (e). Pub. L. 111-203, § 1085(3)(B)-(E), in subsec. (a), struck out “(a)” designation before “(1)”, redesignated subsec. (a) pars. (1) to (5) as subsecs. (a) to (e), respectively, in subsec. (c) substituted “subsection (b)” for “paragraph (2)”, and struck out former subsec. (b), which related to establishment of a Consumer Advisory Council to advise and consult with the Board.

Subsecs. (f), (g). Pub. L. 111-203, § 1085(3)(F), added subsecs. (f) and (g).

1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-533 amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “The Board shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purposes of this subchapter. These regulations may contain but are not limited to such classifications, differentiation, or other provision, and may provide for such adjustments and exceptions for any class of transactions, as in the judgment of the Board are necessary or proper to effectuate the purposes of this subchapter, to prevent circumvention or evasion thereof, or to facilitate or substantiate compliance therewith. In particular, such regulations may exempt from one or more of the provisions of this subchapter any class of transactions not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, if the Board makes an express finding that the application of such provision or provisions would not contribute substantially to carrying out the purposes of this subchapter. Such regulations shall be prescribed as soon as possible after the date of enactment of this Act, but in no event later than the effective date of this Act.”

1976—Pub. L. 94-239 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted provisions exempting from regulations of this subchapter any class of transactions not primarily for personal, family, or household purposes to be determined by the Board, and added subsec. (b).

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-239 effective Mar. 23, 1976, see section 708 of Pub. L. 90-321, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1691 of this title.

**§ 1691c. Administrative enforcement**

**(a) Enforcing agencies**

Subject to subtitle B of the Consumer Protection Financial Protection Act of 2010<sup>1</sup> with<sup>2</sup> the

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “subsection.”

<sup>2</sup> So in original.

<sup>3</sup> So in original. Probably should be “subsection”.

<sup>4</sup> So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010”.

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Probably should be “, compliance with”.