

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 subsection (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, required, within 6 months after Dec. 14, 1999, the development of regulations prescribing the administrative process for making determinations under this section and guidance on discretion in imposing penalties.

**§ 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.

(II) Increase positive outcomes for infants, children, youth, and families in their homes and communities, including tribal communities, and improve the safety and well-being of infants, children, and youth.

(III) Prevent child abuse and neglect and the re-entry of infants, children, and youth into foster care.

##### (ii) Long-term therapeutic family treatment centers; addressing domestic violence

With respect to a demonstration project that is designed to accomplish 1 or more of the goals described in clause (i), the State may elect to establish a program—

(I) to permit foster care maintenance payments to be made under part E of subchapter IV to a long-term therapeutic family treatment center (as described in paragraph (8)(B)) on behalf of a child residing in the center; or

(II) to identify and address domestic violence that endangers children and results in the placement of children in foster care.

#### (B) Demonstrate readiness

The State shall demonstrate through a narrative description the State's capacity to

effectively use the authority to conduct a demonstration project under this section by identifying changes the State has made or plans to make in policies, procedures, or other elements of the State's child welfare program that will enable the State to successfully achieve the goal or goals of the project.

#### (C) Demonstrate implemented or planned child welfare program improvement policies

##### (i) In general

The State shall demonstrate that the State has implemented, or plans to implement within 3 years of the date on which the State submits its application to conduct the demonstration project or 2 years after the date on which the Secretary approves such demonstration project (whichever is later), at least 2 of the child welfare program improvement policies described in paragraph (7).

##### (ii) Previous implementation

For purposes of the requirement described in clause (i), at least 1 of the child welfare program improvement policies to be implemented by the State shall be a policy that the State has not previously implemented as of the date on which the State submits an application to conduct the demonstration project.

##### (iii) Implementation review

The Secretary may terminate the authority of a State to conduct a demonstration project under this section if, after the 3-year period following approval of the demonstration project, the State has not made significant progress in implementing the child welfare program improvement policies proposed by the State under clause (i).

#### (4) Limitation on eligibility

The Secretary may not authorize a State to conduct a demonstration project under this section if the State fails to provide health insurance coverage to any child with special needs (as determined under section 673(c) of this title) for whom there is in effect an adoption assistance agreement between a State and an adoptive parent or parents.

#### (5) Requirement to consider effect of project on terms and conditions of certain court orders

In considering an application to conduct a demonstration project under this section that has been submitted by a State in which there is in effect a court order determining that the State's child welfare program has failed to comply with the provisions of part B or E of subchapter IV, or with the Constitution of the United States, the Secretary shall take into consideration the effect of approving the proposed project on the terms and conditions of the court order related to the failure to comply and the ability of the State to implement a corrective action plan approved under section 1320a-2a of this title.