

§ 1342. Institution of termination proceedings by the corporation

(a) Authority to institute proceedings to terminate a plan

The corporation may institute proceedings under this section to terminate a plan whenever it determines that—

- (1) the plan has not met the minimum funding standard required under section 412 of title 26, or has been notified by the Secretary of the Treasury that a notice of deficiency under section 6212 of title 26 has been mailed with respect to the tax imposed under section 4971(a) of title 26,
- (2) the plan will be unable to pay benefits when due,
- (3) the reportable event described in section 1343(c)(7) of this title has occurred, or
- (4) the possible long-run loss of the corporation with respect to the plan may reasonably be expected to increase unreasonably if the plan is not terminated.

The corporation shall as soon as practicable institute proceedings under this section to terminate a single-employer plan whenever the corporation determines that the plan does not have assets available to pay benefits which are currently due under the terms of the plan. The corporation may prescribe a simplified procedure to follow in terminating small plans as long as that procedure includes substantial safeguards for the rights of the participants and beneficiaries under the plans, and for the employers who maintain such plans (including the requirement for a court decree under subsection (c)). Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the corporation is authorized to pool assets of terminated plans for purposes of administration, investment, payment of liabilities of all such terminated plans, and such other purposes as it determines to be appropriate in the administration of this subchapter.

(b) Appointment of trustee

(1) Whenever the corporation makes a determination under subsection (a) with respect to a plan or is required under subsection (a) to institute proceedings under this section, it may, upon notice to the plan, apply to the appropriate United States district court for the appointment of a trustee to administer the plan with respect to which the determination is made pending the issuance of a decree under subsection (c) ordering the termination of the plan. If within 3 business days after the filing of an application under this subsection, or such other period as the court may order, the administrator of the plan consents to the appointment of a trustee, or fails to show why a trustee should not be appointed, the court may grant the application and appoint a trustee to administer the plan in accordance with its terms until the corporation determines that the plan should be terminated or that termination is unnecessary. The corporation may request that it be appointed as trustee of a plan in any case.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter—

- (A) upon the petition of a plan administrator or the corporation, the appropriate United

States district court may appoint a trustee in accordance with the provisions of this section if the interests of the plan participants would be better served by the appointment of the trustee, and

(B) upon the petition of the corporation, the appropriate United States district court shall appoint a trustee proposed by the corporation for a multiemployer plan which is in reorganization or to which section 1341a(d) of this title applies, unless such appointment would be adverse to the interests of the plan participants and beneficiaries in the aggregate.

(3) The corporation and plan administrator may agree to the appointment of a trustee without proceeding in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) Adjudication that plan must be terminated

(1) If the corporation is required under subsection (a) of this section to commence proceedings under this section with respect to a plan or, after issuing a notice under this section to a plan administrator, has determined that the plan should be terminated, it may, upon notice to the plan administrator, apply to the appropriate United States district court for a decree adjudicating that the plan must be terminated in order to protect the interests of the participants or to avoid any unreasonable deterioration of the financial condition of the plan or any unreasonable increase in the liability of the fund. If the trustee appointed under subsection (b) disagrees with the determination of the corporation under the preceding sentence he may intervene in the proceeding relating to the application for the decree, or make application for such decree himself. Upon granting a decree for which the corporation or trustee has applied under this subsection the court shall authorize the trustee appointed under subsection (b) (or appoint a trustee if one has not been appointed under such subsection and authorize him) to terminate the plan in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle. If the corporation and the plan administrator agree that a plan should be terminated and agree to the appointment of a trustee without proceeding in accordance with the requirements of this subsection (other than this sentence) the trustee shall have the power described in subsection (d)(1) and, in addition to any other duties imposed on the trustee under law or by agreement between the corporation and the plan administrator, the trustee is subject to the duties described in subsection (d)(3). Whenever a trustee appointed under this subchapter is operating a plan with discretion as to the date upon which final distribution of the assets is to be commenced, the trustee shall notify the corporation at least 10 days before the date on which he proposes to commence such distribution.

(2) In the case of a proceeding initiated under this section, the plan administrator shall provide the corporation, upon the request of the corporation, the information described in clauses (ii), (iii), and (iv) of section 1341(c)(2)(A) of this title.

(3) DISCLOSURE OF TERMINATION INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—

(i) INFORMATION FROM PLAN SPONSOR OR ADMINISTRATOR.—A plan sponsor or plan admin-

istrator of a single-employer plan that has received a notice from the corporation of a determination that the plan should be terminated under this section shall provide to an affected party any information provided to the corporation in connection with the plan termination.

(ii) INFORMATION FROM CORPORATION.—The corporation shall provide a copy of the administrative record, including the trusteeship decision record of a termination of a plan described under clause (i).

(B) TIMING OF DISCLOSURE.—The plan sponsor, plan administrator, or the corporation, as applicable, shall provide the information described in subparagraph (A) not later than 15 days after—

(i) receipt of a request from an affected party for such information; or

(ii) in the case of information described under subparagraph (A)(i), the provision of any new information to the corporation relating to a previous request by an affected party.

(C) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The plan administrator, the plan sponsor, or the corporation shall not provide information under subparagraph (A) in a form which includes any information that may directly or indirectly be associated with, or otherwise identify, an individual participant or beneficiary.

(ii) LIMITATION.—A court may limit disclosure under this paragraph of confidential information described in section 552(b) of title 5 to authorized representatives (within the meaning of section 1341(c)(2)(D)(iv) of this title) of the participants or beneficiaries that agree to ensure the confidentiality of such information.

(D) FORM AND MANNER OF INFORMATION; CHARGES.—

(i) FORM AND MANNER.—The corporation may prescribe the form and manner of the provision of information under this paragraph, which shall include delivery in written, electronic, or other appropriate form to the extent that such form is reasonably accessible to individuals to whom the information is required to be provided.

(ii) REASONABLE CHARGES.—A plan sponsor may charge a reasonable fee for any information provided under this paragraph in other than electronic form.

(d) Powers of trustee

(1)(A) A trustee appointed under subsection (b) shall have the power—

(i) to do any act authorized by the plan or this subchapter to be done by the plan administrator or any trustee of the plan;

(ii) to require the transfer of all (or any part) of the assets and records of the plan to himself as trustee;

(iii) to invest any assets of the plan which he holds in accordance with the provisions of the plan, regulations of the corporation, and applicable rules of law;

(iv) to limit payment of benefits under the plan to basic benefits or to continue payment

of some or all of the benefits which were being paid prior to his appointment;

(v) in the case of a multiemployer plan, to reduce benefits or suspend benefit payments under the plan, give appropriate notices, amend the plan, and perform other acts required or authorized by subtitle (E)¹ to be performed by the plan sponsor or administrator;

(vi) to do such other acts as he deems necessary to continue operation of the plan without increasing the potential liability of the corporation, if such acts may be done under the provisions of the plan; and

(vii) to require the plan sponsor, the plan administrator, any contributing or withdrawn employer, and any employee organization representing plan participants to furnish any information with respect to the plan which the trustee may reasonably need in order to administer the plan.

If the court to which application is made under subsection (c) dismisses the application with prejudice, or if the corporation fails to apply for a decree under subsection (c), within 30 days after the date on which the trustee is appointed under subsection (b), the trustee shall transfer all assets and records of the plan held by him to the plan administrator within 3 business days after such dismissal or the expiration of such 30-day period, and shall not be liable to the plan or any other person for his acts as trustee except for willful misconduct, or for conduct in violation of the provisions of part 4 of subtitle B of subchapter I of this chapter (except as provided in subsection (d)(1)(A)(v)).² The 30-day period referred to in this subparagraph may be extended as provided by agreement between the plan administrator and the corporation or by court order obtained by the corporation.

(B) If the court to which an application is made under subsection (c) issues the decree requested in such application, in addition to the powers described in subparagraph (A), the trustee shall have the power—

(i) to pay benefits under the plan in accordance with the requirements of this subchapter;

(ii) to collect for the plan any amounts due the plan, including but not limited to the power to collect from the persons obligated to meet the requirements of section 1082 of this title or the terms of the plan;

(iii) to receive any payment made by the corporation to the plan under this subchapter;

(iv) to commence, prosecute, or defend on behalf of the plan any suit or proceeding involving the plan;

(v) to issue, publish, or file such notices, statements, and reports as may be required by the corporation or any order of the court;

(vi) to liquidate the plan assets;

(vii) to recover payments under section 1345(a) of this title; and

(viii) to do such other acts as may be necessary to comply with this subchapter or any order of the court and to protect the interests of plan participants and beneficiaries.

(2) As soon as practicable after his appointment, the trustee shall give notice to interested

¹ So in original. Probably should be "subtitle E".

² See References in Text note below.

parties of the institution of proceedings under this subchapter to determine whether the plan should be terminated or to terminate the plan, whichever is applicable. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “interested party” means—

(A) the plan administrator,

(B) each participant in the plan and each beneficiary of a deceased participant,

(C) each employer who may be subject to liability under section 1362, 1363, or 1364 of this title,

(D) each employer who is or may be liable to the plan under section³ part 1 of subtitle E,

(E) each employer who has an obligation to contribute, within the meaning of section 1392(a) of this title, under a multiemployer plan, and

(F) each employee organization which, for purposes of collective bargaining, represents plan participants employed by an employer described in subparagraph (C), (D), or (E).

(3) Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, or as may be otherwise ordered by the court, a trustee appointed under this section shall be subject to the same duties as those of a trustee under section 704 of title 11, and shall be, with respect to the plan, a fiduciary within the meaning of paragraph (21) of section 1002 of this title and under section 4975(e) of title 26 (except to the extent that the provisions of this subchapter are inconsistent with the requirements applicable under part 4 of subtitle B of subchapter I of this chapter and of such section 4975).

(e) Filing of application notwithstanding pendency of other proceedings

An application by the corporation under this section may be filed notwithstanding the pendency in the same or any other court of any bankruptcy, mortgage foreclosure, or equity receivership proceeding, or any proceeding to reorganize, conserve, or liquidate such plan or its property, or any proceeding to enforce a lien against property of the plan.

(f) Exclusive jurisdiction; stay of other proceedings

Upon the filing of an application for the appointment of a trustee or the issuance of a decree under this section, the court to which an application is made shall have exclusive jurisdiction of the plan involved and its property wherever located with the powers, to the extent consistent with the purposes of this section, of a court of the United States having jurisdiction over cases under chapter 11 of title 11. Pending an adjudication under subsection (c) such court shall stay, and upon appointment by it of a trustee, as provided in this section such court shall continue the stay of, any pending mortgage foreclosure, equity receivership, or other proceeding to reorganize, conserve, or liquidate the plan or its property and any other suit against any receiver, conservator, or trustee of the plan or its property. Pending such adjudication and upon the appointment by it of such trustee, the court may stay any proceeding to enforce a lien against property of the plan or any other suit against the plan.

³So in original.

(g) Venue

An action under this subsection may be brought in the judicial district where the plan administrator resides or does business or where any asset of the plan is situated. A district court in which such action is brought may issue process with respect to such action in any other judicial district.

(h) Compensation of trustee and professional service personnel appointed or retained by trustee

(1) The amount of compensation paid to each trustee appointed under the provisions of this subchapter shall require the prior approval of the corporation, and, in the case of a trustee appointed by a court, the consent of that court.

(2) Trustees shall appoint, retain, and compensate accountants, actuaries, and other professional service personnel in accordance with regulations prescribed by the corporation.

(Pub. L. 93-406, title IV, §4042, Sept. 2, 1974, 88 Stat. 1021; Pub. L. 95-598, title III, §321(a), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2678; Pub. L. 96-364, title IV, §402(a)(6), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1298; Pub. L. 99-272, title XI, §§11010, 11016(c)(10), (11), Apr. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 253, 274; Pub. L. 100-203, title IX, §§9312(c)(3), 9314(b), 9314(b), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-363, 1330-366, 1330-367; Pub. L. 101-239, title VII, §§7881(g)(7), 7891(a)(1), 7893(e), Dec. 19, 1989, 103 Stat. 2441, 2445, 2447; Pub. L. 103-465, title VII, §771(e)(2), Dec. 8, 1994, 108 Stat. 5043; Pub. L. 109-280, title V, §506(b), Aug. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 947; Pub. L. 110-458, title I, §105(e)(2), Dec. 23, 2008, 122 Stat. 5105.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Subsection (d)(1)(A)(v), referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(A), was redesignated subsec. (d)(1)(A)(vi) of this section by Pub. L. 96-364, title IV, §402(a)(6)(E)(ii), Sept. 26, 1980, 94 Stat. 1298.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (d)(3), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 93-406, known as the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Titles I, III, and IV of such Act are classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1001 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (c)(3)(C)(i). Pub. L. 110-458 substituted “the plan sponsor, or the corporation” for “and plan sponsor” and “subparagraph (A)” for “subparagraph (A)(i)”.

2006—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-280 designated first par. as par. (1), redesignated par. (3) as (2), and added a new par. (3).

1994—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 103-465 substituted “1343(c)(7)” for “1343(b)(7)”.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-239, §7893(e), inserted period after “terms of the plan” at end of second sentence.

Pub. L. 101-239, §7881(g)(7), made technical correction to directory language of Pub. L. 100-203, §9314(b), see 1987 Amendment note below.

Subsecs. (a)(1), (d)(3). Pub. L. 101-239, §7891(a)(1), substituted “Internal Revenue Code of 1986” for “Internal Revenue Code of 1954”, which for purposes of codification was translated as “title 26” thus requiring no change in text.

1987—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-203, §9314(b), as amended by Pub. L. 101-239, §7881(g)(7), amended last sentence

generally. Prior to amendment, last sentence read as follows: "The corporation is authorized to pool the assets of terminated plans for purposes of administration and such other purposes, not inconsistent with its duties to the plan participants and the employer maintaining the plan under this subchapter, as it determines to be required for the efficient administration of this subchapter." Another section 9314(b) of Pub. L. 100-203 amended subsec. (c) of this section, see below.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 100-203, §9314(b), added par. (3). Another section 9314(b) of Pub. L. 100-203 amended subsec. (a) of this section, see above.

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 100-203, §9312(c)(3), struck out subsec. (i) which read as follows: "In any case in which a plan is terminated under this section in a termination proceeding initiated by the corporation pursuant to subsection (a), the corporation shall establish a separate trust in connection with the plan for purposes of section 1349 of this title, unless the corporation determines that all benefit commitments under the plan are benefits guaranteed by the corporation under section 1322 of this title or that there is no amount of unfunded benefit commitments under the plan."

1986—Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(c), substituted "Institution of termination proceedings by the corporation" for "Termination by corporation" in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(a)(1)(B), in provision following par. (4) inserted provision that the corporation as soon as practicable institute proceedings under this section to terminate a single-employer plan whenever the corporation determines that the plan does not have assets available to pay benefits currently due under the terms of the plan.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(a)(1)(A), substituted "will be" for "is".

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(a)(2)(A), inserted "or is required under subsection (a) to institute proceedings under this section."

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(a)(2)(B), substituted "is required under subsection (a) of this section to commence proceedings under this section with respect to a plan or, after issuing a notice under this section to a plan administrator," for "has issued a notice under this section to a plan administrator and (whether or not a trustee has been appointed under subsection (b))".

Subsec. (d)(1)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 99-272, §11016(c)(10), inserted ", including but not limited to the power to collect from the persons obligated to meet the requirements of section 1082 of this title or the terms of the plan".

Subsec. (d)(3). Pub. L. 99-272, §11016(c)(11), substituted "those of a trustee under section 704 of title 11" for "a trustee appointed under section 75 of title 11".

Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 99-272, §11010(b), added subsec. (i). 1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(A), substituted "terminated plans" for "such small plans".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(B), redesignated existing provisions as par. (1) and added pars. (2) and (3).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(C), (D), substituted "unreasonable" for "further" wherever appearing, and "of the participants or" for "of the participants and".

Subsec. (d)(1)(A). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(E), added cls. (v) and (vii) and redesignated former cl. (v) as (vi).

Subsec. (d)(1)(B). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(F), (G), in cl. (i) substituted "requirements of this subchapter" for "allocation requirements of section 1344 of this title", and in cl. (iv) struck out exception respecting adverse party status of corporation.

Subsec. (d)(2)(D) to (F). Pub. L. 96-364, §402(a)(6)(H)-(J), added subpars. (D) to (F).

1978—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 95-598 substituted "of a court of the United States having jurisdiction over cases under chapter 11 of title 11" for "of a court of bankruptcy and of a court in a proceeding under chapter X of the Bankruptcy Act" in first sentence and struck out "bankruptcy," before "mortgage foreclosure" in second sentence.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-458 effective as if included in the provisions of Pub. L. 109-280 to which the amendment relates, except as otherwise provided, see section 112 of Pub. L. 110-458, set out as a note under section 72 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 109-280 applicable to any plan termination under this subchapter with respect to which the notice of intent to terminate, or in the case of a termination by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, a notice of determination under this section occurs after Aug. 17, 2006, with transition rule, see section 506(c) of Pub. L. 109-280, set out as a note under section 1341 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-465, title VII, §771(f), Dec. 8, 1994, 108 Stat. 5043, provided that: "The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1343 of this title] shall be effective for events occurring 60 days or more after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 8, 1994]."

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 7881(g)(7) of Pub. L. 101-239 effective, except as otherwise provided, as if included in the provision of the Pension Protection Act, Pub. L. 100-203, §§9302-9346, to which such amendment relates, see section 7882 of Pub. L. 101-239, set out as a note under section 401 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

Amendment by section 7891(a)(1) of Pub. L. 101-239 effective, except as otherwise provided, as if included in the provision of the Tax Reform Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-514, to which such amendment relates, see section 7891(f) of Pub. L. 101-239, set out as a note under section 1002 of this title.

Amendment by section 7893(e) of Pub. L. 101-239 effective as if included in the provision of the Single-Employer Pension Plan Amendments Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-272, title XI, to which such amendment relates, see section 7893(h) of Pub. L. 101-239, set out as a note under section 1002 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1987 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 9312(c)(3) of Pub. L. 100-203 applicable with respect to plan terminations under section 1341 of this title with respect to which notices of intent to terminate are provided under section 1341(a)(2) of this title after Dec. 17, 1987, and plan terminations with respect to which proceedings are instituted by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation under this section after that date, see section 9312(d)(1) of Pub. L. 100-203, as amended, set out as a note under section 1301 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-272 effective Jan. 1, 1986, with certain exceptions, see section 11019 of Pub. L. 99-272, set out as a note under section 1341 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-364 effective Sept. 26, 1980, except as specifically provided, see section 1461(e) of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-598 effective Oct. 1, 1979, see section 402(a) of Pub. L. 95-598, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 11, Bankruptcy.

§ 1343. Reportable events

(a) Notification that event has occurred

Within 30 days after the plan administrator or the contributing sponsor knows or has reason to