

program to assess the feasibility and advisability of awarding grants to eligible entities to establish new legal assistance clinics, or enhance existing legal assistance clinics or other pro bono efforts, for the provision of pro bono legal assistance described in subsection (c) of section 5906 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), on a year-round basis to individuals who served in the Armed Forces, including individuals who served in a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and who were discharged or released therefrom, regardless of the conditions of such discharge or release, at locations other than medical centers and facilities described in subsection (a) of such section.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be construed to limit or affect—

“(i) the provision of pro bono legal assistance to eligible individuals at medical centers and facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 5906(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a); or

“(ii) any other legal assistance provided pro bono at medical centers or facilities of the Department as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the pilot program, an eligible entity is—

“(A) a veterans service organization or other nonprofit organization specifically focused on assisting veterans;

“(B) an entity specifically focused on assisting veterans and associated with an accredited law school;

“(C) a legal services organization or bar association; or

“(D) such other type of entity as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of the pilot program.

“(3) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that at least one grant is awarded under paragraph (1)(A) to at least one eligible entity in each State, if the Secretary determines that there is such an entity in a State that has applied for, and meets requirements for the award of, such a grant.

“(4) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program during the five-year period beginning on the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot program.

“(5) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application therefore at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(6) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select eligible entities who submit applications under paragraph (5) for the award of grants under the pilot program using a competitive process that takes into account the following:

“(A) Capacity of the applicant entity to serve veterans and ability of the entity to provide sound legal advice.

“(B) Demonstrated need of the veteran population the applicant entity would serve.

“(C) Demonstrated need of the applicant entity for assistance from the grants.

“(D) Geographic diversity of applicant entities.

“(E) Such other criteria as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(7) GRANTEE REPORTS.—Each recipient of a grant under the pilot program shall, in accordance with such criteria as the Secretary may establish, submit to the Secretary a report on the activities of the recipient and how the grant amounts were used.

“(c) REVIEW OF PRO BONO ELIGIBILITY OF FEDERAL WORKERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, conduct a review of the rules and regulations governing the circumstances under which attorneys employed by the Federal Government can provide pro bono legal assistance.

“(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In conducting the review required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall develop recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as the Secretary considers appropriate to facilitate greater participation by Federal employees in pro bono legal and other volunteer services for veterans.

“(3) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 1, 2021], the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

“(A) the findings of the Secretary with respect to the review conducted under paragraph (1); and

“(B) the recommendations developed by the Secretary under paragraph (2).

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the status of the implementation of this section.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

“(2) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘veterans service organization’ means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.”

CHAPTER 61—PENAL AND FORFEITURE PROVISIONS

Sec.

6101.	Misappropriation by fiduciaries.
6102.	Fraudulent acceptance of payments.
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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-454, title V, §§ 503(b), 504(b)(2), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3620, 3621, added items 6106 to 6108.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, § 402(c)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, renumbered items 3501 to 3505 as 6101 to 6105, respectively.

1959—Pub. L. 86-222, § 3(b), Sept. 1, 1959, 73 Stat. 453, added item 3505.

§ 6101. Misappropriation by fiduciaries

(a) Whoever, being a fiduciary (as defined in section 5506 of this title) for the benefit of a minor, incompetent, or other beneficiary under laws administered by the Secretary, shall lend, borrow, pledge, hypothecate, use, or exchange for other funds or property, except as authorized by law, or embezzle or in any manner misappropriate any such money or property derived therefrom in whole or in part and coming into such fiduciary’s control in any manner whatever in the execution of such fiduciary’s trust, or under color of such fiduciary’s office or service as such fiduciary, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(b) Any willful neglect or refusal to make and file proper accountings or reports concerning such money or property as required by law shall be taken to be sufficient evidence prima facie of such embezzlement or misappropriation.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1239, §3501; Pub. L. 99-576, title VII, §701(82), Oct. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 3298; renumbered §6101, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-54, §14(d)(7), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 286; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403; Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(e)(17), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4686; Pub. L. 108-454, title V, §501(c), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3618.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-454, §501(c), substituted “fiduciary (as defined in section 5506 of this title) for the benefit of a minor, incompetent, or other beneficiary under laws administered by the Secretary,” for “guardian, curator, conservator, committee, or person legally vested with the responsibility or care of a claimant or a claimant’s estate, or any other person having charge and custody in a fiduciary capacity of money heretofore or hereafter paid under any of the laws administered by the Secretary for the benefit of any minor, incompetent, or other beneficiary.”

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-446 inserted a comma after “title 18”.

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 3501 of this title as this section.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “administered by the Secretary” for “administered by the Veterans’ Administration”.

Pub. L. 102-54 amended subsec. (a) as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 102-40 by substituting “in accordance with title 18” for “not more than \$2,000”.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-576 substituted “a claimant’s” for “his” before “estate”, and “such fiduciary’s” for “his” in three places.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-454 effective on the first day of the seventh month beginning after Dec. 10, 2004, see section 507(a) of Pub. L. 108-454, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 5312 of this title.

§ 6102. Fraudulent acceptance of payments

(a) Any person entitled to monetary benefits under any of the laws administered by the Secretary whose right to payment thereof ceases upon the happening of any contingency, who thereafter fraudulently accepts any such payment, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(b) Whoever obtains or receives any money or check under any of the laws administered by the Secretary without being entitled to it, and with intent to defraud the United States or any beneficiary of the United States, shall be fined in accordance with title 18, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(Pub. L. 85-857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1239, §3502; renumbered §6102, Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102-54, §14(d)(7), June 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 286; Pub. L. 102-83, §4(a)(1), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1991—Pub. L. 102-40 renumbered section 3502 of this title as this section.

Pub. L. 102-83 substituted “administered by the Secretary” for “administered by the Veterans’ Administration” in subsecs. (a) and (b).

Pub. L. 102-54 amended section as in effect immediately before the enactment of Pub. L. 102-40 by substituting “in accordance with title 18” for “not more than \$2,000” in subsecs. (a) and (b).

§ 6103. Forfeiture for fraud

(a) Whoever knowingly makes or causes to be made or conspires, combines, aids, or assists in, agrees to, arranges for, or in any way procures the making or presentation of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement, voucher, or paper, concerning any claim for benefits under any of the laws administered by the Secretary (except laws pertaining to insurance benefits) shall forfeit all rights, claims, and benefits under all laws administered by the Secretary (except laws pertaining to insurance benefits).

(b) Whenever a veteran entitled to disability compensation has forfeited the right to such compensation under this section, the compensation payable but for the forfeiture shall thereafter be paid to the veteran’s spouse, children, and parents. Payments made to a spouse, children, and parents under the preceding sentence shall not exceed the amounts payable to each if the veteran had died from service-connected disability. No spouse, child, or parent who participated in the fraud for which forfeiture was imposed shall receive any payment by reason of this subsection. An apportionment award under this subsection may not be made in any case after September 1, 1959.

(c) Forfeiture of benefits by a veteran shall not prohibit payment of the burial allowance, death compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation, or death pension in the event of the veteran’s death.

(d)(1) After September 1, 1959, no forfeiture of benefits may be imposed under this section or section 6104 of this title upon any individual who was a resident of, or domiciled in, a State at the time the act or acts occurred on account of which benefits would, but not for this subsection, be forfeited unless such individual ceases to be a resident of, or domiciled in, a State before the expiration of the period during which criminal prosecution could be instituted. This subsection shall not apply with respect to (A) any forfeiture occurring before September 1, 1959, or (B) an act or acts which occurred in the Philippine Islands before July 4, 1946.

(2) The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to review all cases in which, because of a false or fraudulent affidavit, declaration, certificate, statement, voucher, or paper, a forfeiture of gratuitous benefits under laws administered by the Secretary was imposed, pursuant to this section or prior provisions of law, on or before September 1, 1959. In any such case in which the Secretary determines that the forfeiture would not have been imposed under the provisions of this section in effect after September 1, 1959, the Secretary shall remit the forfeiture, effective June 30, 1972. Benefits to which the individual concerned becomes eligible by virtue of any such remission may be awarded, upon application therefor, and the effective date of any award of