

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

§ 32710. Civil actions by private persons

(a) VIOLATION AND AMOUNT OF DAMAGES.—A person that violates this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter, with intent to defraud, is liable for 3 times the actual damages or \$10,000, whichever is greater.

(b) CIVIL ACTIONS.—A person may bring a civil action to enforce a claim under this section in an appropriate United States district court or in another court of competent jurisdiction. The action must be brought not later than 2 years after the claim accrues. The court shall award costs and a reasonable attorney’s fee to the person when a judgment is entered for that person.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1055; Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title I, §31206(2), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 761.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Rows for 32710(a) and 32710(b).

In subsection (a), the words “this chapter or a regulation prescribed or order issued under this chapter” are substituted for “requirement imposed under this subchapter” for consistency.

In subsection (b), the words “A person may bring a civil action to enforce a claim” are substituted for “An action to enforce any liability created . . . may be brought” for consistency with rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (28 App. U.S.C.). The word “appropriate” is added for clarity. The words “without regard to the amount in controversy” are omitted because jurisdiction is now allowed under 28:1331 without regard to the amount in controversy. The words “after the claim accrues” are substituted for “from the date on which the liability arises” to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “The court shall award . . . to the person when a judgment is entered for that person” are substituted for “in the case of any successful action to enforce the foregoing liability . . . as determined by the court” for clarity.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-141 substituted “\$10,000” for “\$1,500”.

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§ 32711. Relationship to State law

Except to the extent that State law is inconsistent with this chapter, this chapter does not—

- (1) affect a State law on disconnecting, altering, or tampering with an odometer with intent to defraud; or

- (2) exempt a person from complying with that law.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1056.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row for 32711.

In this section, before clause (1), the words “and then only to the extent of the inconsistency” are omitted as surplus. In clause (1), the word “affect” is substituted for “annul, alter, or affect” to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (2), the words “subject to the provisions of this subchapter” are omitted as surplus.

CHAPTER 329—AUTOMOBILE FUEL ECONOMY

- Sec. 32901. Definitions.
32902. Average fuel economy standards.
32903. Credits for exceeding average fuel economy standards.
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32919. Preemption.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-429, §6(43)(C), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4383, added items 32918 and 32919 and struck out former item 32918 “Preemption”.

§ 32901. Definitions

- (a) GENERAL.—In this chapter—
(1) “alternative fuel” means—
(A) methanol;
(B) denatured ethanol;
(C) other alcohols;
(D) except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a mixture containing at least 85 percent of methanol, denatured ethanol, and other alcohols by volume with gasoline or other fuels;
(E) natural gas;
(F) liquefied petroleum gas;
(G) hydrogen;
(H) coal derived liquid fuels;
(I) fuels (except alcohol) derived from biological materials;
(J) electricity (including electricity from solar energy); and
(K) any other fuel the Secretary of Transportation prescribes by regulation that is