

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2009 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111-21 effective May 20, 2009, and applicable to conduct on or after May 20, 2009, except that this section, as amended by Pub. L. 111-21, applicable to cases pending on May 20, 2009, see section 4(f) of Pub. L. 111-21, set out as a note under section 3729 of this title.

CHAPTER 38—ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES FOR FALSE CLAIMS AND STATEMENTS

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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1995—Pub. L. 104-66, title III, §3001(c)(2), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 734, struck out item 3810 “Reports”.

§ 3801. Definitions

- (a) For purposes of this chapter—
- (1) “authority” means—
- (A) an executive department;
 - (B) a military department;
 - (C) an establishment (as such term is defined in section 401 of title 5) which is not an executive department;
 - (D) the United States Postal Service;
 - (E) the National Science Foundation; and
 - (F) a designated Federal entity (as such term is defined under section 415(a) of title 5);
- (2) “authority head” means—
- (A) the head of an authority; or
 - (B) an official or employee of the authority designated, in regulations promulgated by the head of the authority, to act on behalf of the head of the authority;
- (3) “claim” means any request, demand, or submission—
- (A) made to an authority for property, services, or money (including money representing grants, loans, insurance, or benefits);
 - (B) made to a recipient of property, services, or money from an authority or to a party to a contract with an authority—
 - (i) for property or services if the United States—
 - (I) provided such property or services;
 - (II) provided any portion of the funds for the purchase of such property or services; or
 - (III) will reimburse such recipient or party for the purchase of such property or services; or
 - (ii) for the payment of money (including money representing grants, loans, insurance, or benefits) if the United States—

(I) provided any portion of the money requested or demanded; or

(II) will reimburse such recipient or party for any portion of the money paid on such request or demand; or

(C) made to an authority which has the effect of decreasing an obligation to pay or account for property, services, or money,

except that such term does not include any claim made in any return of tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(4) “investigating official” means an individual who—

(A)(i) in the case of an authority in which an Office of Inspector General is established by chapter 4 of title 5 or by any other Federal law, is the Inspector General of that authority or an officer or employee of such Office designated by the Inspector General;

(ii) in the case of an authority in which an Office of Inspector General is not established by chapter 4 of title 5 or by any other Federal law, is an officer or employee of the authority designated by the authority head to conduct investigations under section 3803(a)(1) of this title; or

(iii) in the case of a military department, is the Inspector General of the Department of Defense or an officer or employee of the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense who is designated by the Inspector General; and

(B) who, if a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty, is serving in grade O-7 or above or, if a civilian employee, is serving in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS-16 under the General Schedule;

(5) “knows or has reason to know”, for purposes of establishing liability under section 3802, means that a person, with respect to a claim or statement—

(A) has actual knowledge that the claim or statement is false, fictitious, or fraudulent;

(B) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement; or

(C) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the claim or statement,

and no proof of specific intent to defraud is required;

(6) “person” means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or private organization;

(7) “presiding officer” means—

(A) in the case of an authority to which the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 apply, an administrative law judge appointed in the authority pursuant to section 3105 of such title or detailed to the authority pursuant to section 3344 of such title; or

(B) in the case of an authority to which the provisions of such subchapter do not apply, an officer or employee of the authority who—

(i) is selected under chapter 33 of title 5 pursuant to the competitive examination process applicable to administrative law judges;

(ii) is appointed by the authority head to conduct hearings under section 3803 of this title;

(iii) is assigned to cases in rotation so far as practicable;

(iv) may not perform duties inconsistent with the duties and responsibilities of a presiding officer;

(v) is entitled to pay prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management independently of ratings and recommendations made by the authority and in accordance with chapter 51 of such title and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title;

(vi) is not subject to performance appraisal pursuant to chapter 43 of such title; and

(vii) may be removed, suspended, furloughed, or reduced in grade or pay only for good cause established and determined by the Merit Systems Protection Board on the record after opportunity for hearing by such Board;

(8) “reviewing official” means any officer or employee of an authority—

(A) who is designated by the authority head to make the determination required under section 3803(a)(2) of this title;

(B) who, if a member of the Armed Forces of the United States on active duty, is serving in grade O-7 or above or, if a civilian employee, is serving in a position for which the rate of basic pay is not less than the minimum rate of basic pay for grade GS-16 under the General Schedule; and

(C) who is—

(i) not subject to supervision by, or required to report to, the investigating official; and

(ii) not employed in the organizational unit of the authority in which the investigating official is employed; and

(9) “statement” means any representation, certification, affirmation, document, record, or accounting or bookkeeping entry made—

(A) with respect to a claim or to obtain the approval or payment of a claim (including relating to eligibility to make a claim); or

(B) with respect to (including relating to eligibility for)—

(i) a contract with, or a bid or proposal for a contract with; or

(ii) a grant, loan, or benefit from,

an authority, or any State, political subdivision of a State, or other party, if the United States Government provides any portion of the money or property under such contract or for such grant, loan, or benefit, or if the Government will reimburse such State, political subdivision, or party for any portion of the money or property under such contract or for such grant, loan, or benefit,

except that such term does not include any statement made in any return of tax imposed by the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) For purposes of paragraph (3) of subsection (a)—

(1) each voucher, invoice, claim form, or other individual request or demand for prop-

erty, services, or money constitutes a separate claim;

(2) each claim for property, services, or money is subject to this chapter regardless of whether such property, services, or money is actually delivered or paid; and

(3) a claim shall be considered made, presented, or submitted to an authority, recipient, or party when such claim is actually made to an agent, fiscal intermediary, or other entity, including any State or political subdivision thereof, acting for or on behalf of such authority, recipient, or party.

(c) For purposes of paragraph (9) of subsection (a)—

(1) each written representation, certification, or affirmation constitutes a separate statement; and

(2) a statement shall be considered made, presented, or submitted to an authority when such statement is actually made to an agent, fiscal intermediary, or other entity, including any State or political subdivision thereof, acting for or on behalf of such authority.

(Added Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, §6103(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1934; amended Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095; Pub. L. 103-272, §4(f)(1)(Q), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1362; Pub. L. 110-69, title VII, §7017, Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 684; Pub. L. 110-409, §10, Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4314; Pub. L. 117-286, §4(b)(56), Dec. 27, 2022, 136 Stat. 4349.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), (9), is classified generally to Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (a)(1)(C). Pub. L. 117-286, §4(b)(56)(A), substituted “section 401 of title 5” for “section 11(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978”.

Subsec. (a)(1)(F). Pub. L. 117-286, §4(b)(56)(B), substituted “section 415(a) of title 5” for “section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978”.

Subsec. (a)(4)(A)(i). Pub. L. 117-286, §4(b)(56)(C), substituted “chapter 4 of title 5” for “the Inspector General Act of 1978”.

Subsec. (a)(4)(A)(ii). Pub. L. 117-286, §4(b)(56)(D), substituted “chapter 4 of title 5” for “the Inspector General Act of 1978”.

2008—Subsec. (a)(1)(F). Pub. L. 110-409 added subpar. (F).

2007—Subsec. (a)(1)(E). Pub. L. 110-69 added subpar. (E).

1994—Subsec. (a)(7)(B)(ii). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “section 3803 of this title” for “section 3803 of such title”.

1986—Subsec. (a)(3), (9). Pub. L. 99-514 substituted “Internal Revenue Code of 1986” for “Internal Revenue Code of 1954”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, subtitle B (§§6101-6104), §6104, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1948, provided that: “This subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle [see Short Title note below] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 21, 1986], and shall apply to any claim or statement made, presented, or submitted on or after such date.”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, subtitle B (§§ 6101-6104), § 6101, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1934, provided that: "This subtitle [enacting this chapter, amending section 504 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the 'Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986'."

REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS TO GS-16, 17, OR 18 PAY RATES

References in laws to the rates of pay for GS-16, 17, or 18, or to maximum rates of pay under the General Schedule, to be considered references to rates payable under specified sections of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, see section 529 [title I, § 101(c)(1)] of Pub. L. 101-509, set out in a note under section 5376 of Title 5.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND PURPOSES

Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, subtitle B (§§ 6101-6104), § 6102, Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1934, provided that:

"(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

"(1) false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims and statements in Government programs are a serious problem;

"(2) false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims and statements in Government programs result in the loss of millions of dollars annually by allowing persons to receive Federal funds to which they are not entitled;

"(3) false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims and statements in Government programs undermine the integrity of such programs by allowing ineligible persons to participate in such programs; and

"(4) present civil and criminal remedies for such claims and statements are not sufficiently responsive.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle [see Short Title note above] are—

"(1) to provide Federal agencies which are the victims of false, fictitious, and fraudulent claims and statements with an administrative remedy to recompense such agencies for losses resulting from such claims and statements, to permit administrative proceedings to be brought against persons who make, present, or submit such claims and statements, and to deter the making, presenting, and submitting of such claims and statements in the future; and

"(2) to provide due process protections to all persons who are subject to the administrative adjudication of false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims or statements."

§ 3802. False claims and statements; liability

(a)(1) Any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a claim that the person knows or has reason to know—

(A) is false, fictitious, or fraudulent;

(B) includes or is supported by any written statement which asserts a material fact which is false, fictitious, or fraudulent;

(C) includes or is supported by any written statement that—

(i) omits a material fact;

(ii) is false, fictitious, or fraudulent as a result of such omission; and

(iii) is a statement in which the person making, presenting, or submitting such statement has a duty to include such material fact; or

(D) is for payment for the provision of property or services which the person has not provided as claimed,

shall be subject to, in addition to any other remedy that may be prescribed by law, a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each such claim. Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, such person shall also be subject to an assessment, in lieu of damages sustained by the United States because of such claim, of not more than twice the amount of such claim, or the portion of such claim, which is determined under this chapter to be in violation of the preceding sentence.

(2) Any person who makes, presents, or submits, or causes to be made, presented, or submitted, a written statement that—

(A) the person knows or has reason to know—

(i) asserts a material fact which is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; or

(ii)(I) omits a material fact; and

(II) is false, fictitious, or fraudulent as a result of such omission;

(B) in the case of a statement described in clause (ii) of subparagraph (A), is a statement in which the person making, presenting, or submitting such statement has a duty to include such material fact; and

(C) contains or is accompanied by an express certification or affirmation of the truthfulness and accuracy of the contents of the statement,

shall be subject to, in addition to any other remedy that may be prescribed by law, a civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each such statement.

(3) An assessment shall not be made under the second sentence of paragraph (1) with respect to a claim if payment by the Government has not been made on such claim.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection—

(A) a determination under section 3803(a)(2) of this title that there is adequate evidence to believe that a person is liable under subsection (a) of this section; or

(B) a determination under section 3803 of this title that a person is liable under subsection (a) of this section,

may provide the authority with grounds for commencing any administrative or contractual action against such person which is authorized by law and which is in addition to any action against such person under this chapter.

(2) A determination referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection may be used by the authority, but shall not require such authority, to commence any administrative or contractual action which is authorized by law.

(3) In the case of an administrative or contractual action to suspend or debar any person who is eligible to enter into contracts with the Federal Government, a determination referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not be considered as a conclusive determination of such person's responsibility pursuant to Federal procurement laws and regulations.

(Added Pub. L. 99-509, title VI, § 6103(a), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1937.)

§ 3803. Hearing and determinations

(a)(1) The investigating official of an authority may investigate allegations that a person is