

“(B) benefits or payments under subchapter VIII, or  
“(C) benefits or payments under subchapter XVI,  
that the person knows or should know is false or mis-  
leading or knows or should know omits a material fact  
or 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 civil money  
penalty of not more than \$5,000 for each such statement  
or representation. Such person also shall be subject to  
an assessment, in lieu of damages sustained by the  
United States because of such statement or representa-  
tion, of not more than twice the amount of benefits or  
payments paid as a result of such a statement or rep-  
resentation. In addition, the Commissioner of Social  
Security may make a determination in the same pro-  
ceeding to recommend that the Secretary exclude, as  
provided in section 1320a-7 of this title, such a person  
who is a medical provider or physician from participa-  
tion in the programs under subchapter XVIII.”

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108-203, §111(a), added par. (3).

Subsec. (b)(3)(A). Pub. L. 108-203, §201(c)(1), struck  
out “charging fraud or false statements” after “Fed-  
eral or State crime”.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 108-203, §201(c)(2), substituted  
“, representations, or actions” for “and representa-  
tions”.

Subsec. (e)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-203, §201(c)(3), sub-  
stituted “violation occurred” for “statement or rep-  
resentation referred to in subsection (a) of this section  
was made”.

Subsec. (e)(2)(B). Pub. L. 108-203, §201(b), substituted  
“In the case of any other amounts recovered under this  
section,” for “In the case of amounts recovered arising  
out of a determination relating to subchapter VIII or  
XVI of this chapter.”

1999—Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(A), substituted “II,  
VIII” for “II” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a)(1)(B), (C). Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(B),  
added subpar. (B) and redesignated former subpar. (B)  
as (C).

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(C), inserted  
“or subchapter VIII,” after “subchapter II”.

Subsec. (e)(1)(C)(ii), (iii). Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(D),  
added cl. (ii) and redesignated former cl. (ii) as (iii).

Subsec. (e)(2)(B). Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(E), sub-  
stituted “subchapter VIII or XVI” for “subchapter  
XVI”.

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 106-169, §251(b)(6)(F), substituted  
“subchapter VIII or XVI” for “subchapter XVI”.

1994—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i),  
(ii), in closing provisions substituted “Commissioner of  
Social Security” for “Secretary”, inserted “rec-  
ommend that the Secretary” before “exclude, as pro-  
vided”, and struck out before period at end “and to di-  
rect the appropriate State agency to exclude the person  
from participation in any State health care program  
permanently or for such period as the Secretary deter-  
mines”.

Subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(1), (2), (c). Pub. L. 103-296,  
§108(b)(10)(A)(i), substituted “Commissioner of Social  
Security” for “Secretary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), sub-  
stituted “Commissioner of Social Security” for “Sec-  
retary” wherever appearing.

Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), which directed that  
this section be amended by substituting “Commis-  
sioner of Social Security” for “Secretary” wherever  
appearing, was also executed by substituting “Commis-  
sioner’s” for “Secretary’s” wherever appearing in sub-  
sec. (d), to reflect the probable intent of Congress, be-  
cause Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), (iii)(I), sub-  
stituted “Commissioner of Social Security” for “Sec-  
retary” throughout this section and in subsec. (g) sub-  
stituted “Commissioner’s” for “Secretary’s”.

Subsecs. (e), (f). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i),  
which directed amendment of this section by sub-  
stituting “Commissioner of Social Security” for “Sec-  
retary” each place it appears, was executed in subsecs.  
(e) and (f) by making the substitution wherever appear-  
ing except where appearing before “of the Treasury” in

subsec. (e)(1)(B) to reflect the probable intent of Con-  
gress.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(iii), sub-  
stituted “Commissioner’s” for “Secretary’s” and “the  
Commissioner shall notify the Secretary of the final  
determination and the reasons therefor, and the Sec-  
retary shall then notify the entities described in sec-  
tion 1320a-7a(h) of this title of such final determina-  
tion.” for “the provisions of section 1320a-7a(h) of this  
title shall apply.”

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), sub-  
stituted “Commissioner of Social Security” for “Sec-  
retary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(iv), inserted  
“based on a recommendation under subsection (a)”  
after “section 1320a-7 of this title”.

Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 103-296, §206(e)(1), added subsec.  
(l).

Pub. L. 103-296, §108(b)(10)(A)(i), (v), in subsec. (l) as  
added by Pub. L. 103-296, §206(e)(1), substituted “Social  
Security Administration” for “Department of Health  
and Human Services” and “Commissioner of Social Se-  
curity” for “Secretary”.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2004 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-203, title I, §111(b), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat.  
507, provided that: “The amendment made by this sec-  
tion [amending this section] shall apply with respect to  
violations committed after the date of the enactment  
of this Act [Mar. 2, 2004].”

Pub. L. 108-203, title II, §201(d), Mar. 2, 2004, 118 Stat.  
508, provided that: “The amendments made by this sec-  
tion [amending this section and section 1320a-8a of this  
title] shall apply with respect to violations committed  
after the date on which the Commissioner of Social Se-  
curity implements the centralized computer file de-  
scribed in section 202 [set out as a note under section  
902 of this title].” [The centralized computer file was  
implemented Nov. 27, 2006, see 72 F.R. 27424.]

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 108(b)(10)(A) of Pub. L. 103-296  
effective Mar. 31, 1995, see section 110(a) of Pub. L.  
103-296, set out as a note under section 401 of this title.

Pub. L. 103-296, title II, §206(e)(2), Aug. 15, 1994, 108  
Stat. 1515, provided that: “The amendment made by  
paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect  
on October 1, 1994.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable to conduct occurring on or after  
Oct. 1, 1994, see section 206(b)(3) of Pub. L. 103-296, set  
out as an Effective Date of 1994 Amendment note under  
section 1320a-7 of this title.

#### STUDY ON POSSIBLE MEASURES TO IMPROVE FRAUD PREVENTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING

Pub. L. 106-169, title II, §210, Dec. 14, 1999, 113 Stat.  
1842, required the Commissioner of Social Security to  
study possible measures to improve prevention of fraud  
and administrative processing and submit the results  
no later than 1 year after Dec. 14, 1999.

### § 1320a-8a. Administrative procedure for impos- ing penalties for false or misleading state- ments

#### (a) In general

Any person who—

(1) 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 monthly insurance benefits  
under subchapter II or benefits or payments  
under subchapter XVI that the person knows  
or should know is false or misleading,

(2) makes such a statement or representation for such use with knowing disregard for the truth, or

(3) omits from a statement or representation for such use, or otherwise withholds disclosure of, a fact which the person knows or should know is material to the determination of any initial or continuing right to or the amount of monthly insurance benefits under subchapter II or benefits or payments under subchapter 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.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 212(b) of Public Law 93-66, referred to in subsec. (e), is section 212(b) of Pub. L. 93-66, title II, July 9, 1973, 87 Stat. 155, which is set out as a note under section 1382 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-203 substantially re-wrote 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.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

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