

## SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL AUTHORITIES

## AMENDMENTS

**§ 501. Rules and regulations**

(a) The Secretary has authority to prescribe all rules and regulations which are necessary or appropriate to carry out the laws administered by the Department and are consistent with those laws, including—

- (1) regulations with respect to the nature and extent of proof and evidence and the method of taking and furnishing them in order to establish the right to benefits under such laws;
- (2) the forms of application by claimants under such laws;
- (3) the methods of making investigations and medical examinations; and
- (4) the manner and form of adjudications and awards.

(b) Any rule, regulation, guideline, or other published interpretation or order (and any amendment thereto) issued pursuant to the authority granted by this section or any other provision of this title shall contain citations to the particular section or sections of statutory law or other legal authority upon which such issuance is based. The citation to the authority shall appear immediately following each substantive provision of the issuance.

(c) In applying section 552(a)(1) of title 5 to the Department, the Secretary shall ensure that subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E) of that section are complied with, particularly with respect to opinions and interpretations of the General Counsel.

(d) The provisions of section 553 of title 5 shall apply, without regard to subsection (a)(2) of that section, to matters relating to loans, grants, or benefits under a law administered by the Secretary.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 386.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 501 was renumbered section 1501 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in sections 210(c)(1) and 223(a), (b) of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

**§ 502. Judicial review of rules and regulations**

An action of the Secretary to which section 552(a)(1) or 553 of title 5 (or both) refers is subject to judicial review. Such review shall be in accordance with chapter 7 of title 5 and may be sought only in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. However, if such review is sought in connection with an appeal brought under the provisions of chapter 72 of this title, the provisions of that chapter shall apply rather than the provisions of chapter 7 of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 386; amended Pub. L. 110-389, title I, §102, Oct. 10, 2008, 122 Stat. 4148.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 502 was renumbered section 1502 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 223(c) of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

2008—Pub. L. 110-389 struck out “(other than an action relating to the adoption or revision of the schedule of ratings for disabilities adopted under section 1155 of this title)” after “refers”.

**§ 503. Administrative error; equitable relief**

(a) If the Secretary determines that benefits administered by the Department have not been provided by reason of administrative error on the part of the Federal Government or any of its employees, the Secretary may provide such relief on account of such error as the Secretary determines equitable, including the payment of moneys to any person whom the Secretary determines is equitably entitled to such moneys.

(b) If the Secretary determines that a veteran, surviving spouse, child of a veteran, or other person has suffered loss as a consequence of reliance upon a determination by the Department of eligibility or entitlement to benefits, without knowledge that it was erroneously made, the Secretary may provide such relief on account of such error as the Secretary determines is equitable, including the payment of moneys to any person whom the Secretary determines is equitably entitled to such moneys.

(c) Not later than April 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing a statement as to the disposition of each case recommended to the Secretary for equitable relief under this section during the preceding calendar year. No report shall be required under this subsection after December 31, 2014.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 386; amended Pub. L. 106-419, title IV, §403(c)(1), Nov. 1, 2000, 114 Stat. 1864; Pub. L. 109-233, title IV, §403, June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 411; Pub. L. 111-275, title VIII, §808, Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2893.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 503 and 504 were renumbered sections 1503 and 1504 of this title, respectively.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 210(c)(2), (3) of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

## AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 111-275 substituted “December 31, 2014” for “December 31, 2009”.

2006—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-233 substituted “December 31, 2009” for “December 31, 2004”.

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-419 inserted at end “No report shall be required under this subsection after December 31, 2004.”

**§ 505. Opinions of Attorney General**

The Secretary may require the opinion of the Attorney General on any question of law arising in the administration of the Department.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 387.)

## PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior sections 505 to 508 were renumbered sections 1505 to 1508 of this title, respectively.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 211(b) of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a).

**§ 510. Authority to reorganize offices**

(a) Except to the extent inconsistent with law, the Secretary may—