

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may not pay more than \$400,000,000 in the aggregate under section 455(a)(3)(B) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 655(a)(3)(B)] for fiscal years 1996 through 2001.

“(B) ALLOCATION OF LIMITATION AMONG STATES.—The total amount payable to a State or a system described in subparagraph (C) under section 455(a)(3)(B) of such Act for fiscal years 1996 through 2001 shall not exceed the limitation determined for the State or system by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in regulations.

“(C) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—The regulations referred to in subparagraph (B) shall prescribe a formula for allocating the amount specified in subparagraph (A) among States with plans approved under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.], and among systems that have been approved by the Secretary to receive enhanced funding pursuant to the Family Support Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-485; 102 Stat. 2343) for the purpose of developing a system that meets the requirements of sections 454(16) (as in effect on and after September 30, 1995) and 454A [probably means sections 454(16) and 454A of the Social Security Act which are classified to sections 654(16) and 654a, respectively, of this title], including systems that have received funding for such purpose pursuant to a waiver under section 1115(a) [probably means section 1115(a) of the Social Security Act which is classified to section 1315(a) of this title], which shall take into account—

“(i) the relative size of such State and system case-loads under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.]; and

“(ii) the level of automation needed to meet the automated data processing requirements of such part.”

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES  
INCURRED DURING JULY 1975

Pub. L. 94-88, title II, §206, Aug. 9, 1975, 89 Stat. 435, provided that amounts expended in good faith by any State during July 1975 in certain ways in preparation for or implementation of the child support program under this part were to be considered for purposes of this section, to the extent that payment for the expenses incurred would have been made under the terms of this section, had the amendment by section 101 of Pub. L. 93-647 been effective on July 1, 1975, to have been expended by the State for the operation of the State plan or for the conduct of activities specified in this section.

**§ 655a. Provision for reimbursement of expenses**

For purposes of section 655 of this title, expenses incurred to reimburse State employment offices for furnishing information requested of such offices—

(1) pursuant to section 49b(b) of title 29, or

(2) by a State or local agency charged with the duty of carrying a State plan for child support approved under this part,

shall be considered to constitute expenses incurred in the administration of such State plan.

(Pub. L. 94-566, title V, §508(b), Oct. 20, 1976, 90 Stat. 2689; Pub. L. 104-193, title I, §110(a), Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2171; Pub. L. 105-220, title III, §302(b), Aug. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1081.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 603a of this title.

Section was not enacted as part of the Social Security Act which comprises this chapter.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Par. (1). Pub. L. 105-220 substituted “section 49b(b) of title 29” for “the third sentence of section 49b(a) of title 29”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-193 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “For purposes of section 603 of this title, expenses incurred to reimburse State employment offices for furnishing information requested of such offices pursuant to the third sentence of section 49b(a) of title 29, by a State or local agency administering a State plan approved under part A of this subchapter shall be considered to constitute expenses incurred in the administration of such State plan; and for purposes of section 655 of this title, expenses incurred to reimburse State employment offices for furnishing information so requested by a State or local agency charged with the duty of carrying out a State plan for child support approved under part D of this subchapter shall be considered to constitute expenses incurred in the administration of such State plan.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-220 effective July 1, 1999, see section 311 of Pub. L. 105-220, formerly set out as a note under section 49a of Title 29, Labor.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-193 effective July 1, 1997, with transition rules relating to State options to accelerate such date, rules relating to claims, actions, and proceedings commenced before such date, rules relating to closing out of accounts for terminated or substantially modified programs and continuance in office of Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and provisions relating to termination of entitlement under AFDC program, see section 116 of Pub. L. 104-193, as amended, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

**§ 656. Support obligation as obligation to State; amount; discharge in bankruptcy**

**(a) Collection processes**

(1) The support rights assigned to the State pursuant to section 608(a)(3) of this title or secured on behalf of a child receiving foster care maintenance payments shall constitute an obligation owed to such State by the individual responsible for providing such support. Such obligation shall be deemed for collection purposes to be collectible under all applicable State and local processes.

(2) The amount of such obligation shall be—

(A) the amount specified in a court order which covers the assigned support rights, or

(B) if there is no court order, an amount determined by the State in accordance with a formula approved by the Secretary.

(3) Any amounts collected from a noncustodial parent under the plan shall reduce, dollar for dollar, the amount of his obligation under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

**(b) Nondischargeability**

A debt (as defined in section 101 of title 11) owed under State law to a State (as defined in such section) or municipality (as defined in such section) that is in the nature of support and that is enforceable under this part is not released by a discharge in bankruptcy under title 11.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, §456, as added Pub. L. 93-647, §101(a), Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2356; amended Pub. L. 95-598, title III, §328, Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2679; Pub. L. 97-35, title XXIII, §2334(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 863; Pub. L. 98-369, div. B, title VI, §2663(c)(15), July 18, 1984, 98 Stat. 1167; Pub. L. 98-378, §11(b)(2), Aug. 16, 1984, 98

Stat. 1318; Pub. L. 104-193, title I, §108(c)(13), title III, §§374(b), 395(d)(2)(C), Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2166, 2255, 2260; Pub. L. 105-33, title V, §§5513(a)(3), 5556(d), Aug. 5, 1997, 111 Stat. 619, 637.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1997—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 105-33, §5513(a)(3), amended Pub. L. 104-193, §108(c)(13). See 1996 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B). Pub. L. 105-33, §5556(d), substituted “Secretary.” for “Secretary, and”.

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104-193, §108(c)(13), as amended by Pub. L. 105-33, §5513(a)(3), substituted “pursuant to section 608(a)(3) of this title” for “under section 602(a)(26) of this title”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 104-193, §395(d)(2)(C), substituted “a noncustodial parent” for “an absent parent”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-193, §374(b), inserted heading and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “A debt which is a child support obligation assigned to a State under section 602(a)(26) of this title is not released by a discharge in bankruptcy under title 11.”

1984—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 98-378, §11(b)(2), inserted “or secured on behalf of a child receiving foster care maintenance payments” after “section 602(a)(26) of this title”.

Pub. L. 98-369, §2663(c)(15)(A), designated existing unenumerated provisions as par. (1). Former par. (1) redesignated (2).

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 98-369, §2663(c)(15)(B), redesignated former par. (1) as (2). Former par. (2) redesignated (3).

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 98-369, §2663(c)(15)(C), (D), redesignated former par. (2) as (3) and substituted “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2)” for “paragraphs (1)(A) and (B)”.

1981—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-35 added subsec. (b).

1978—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95-598 repealed provision declaring a debt which is a child support obligation assigned to a State under section 602(a)(26) of this title as not released by a discharge in bankruptcy under the Bankruptcy Act.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1997 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 5513(a)(3) of Pub. L. 105-33 effective as if included in section 108 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-193, at the time such section 108 became law, see section 5518(b) of Pub. L. 105-33, set out as a note under section 652 of this title.

Amendment by section 5556(d) of Pub. L. 105-33 effective as if included in the enactment of title III of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-193, see section 5557 of Pub. L. 105-33, set out as a note under section 608 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 108(c)(13) of Pub. L. 104-193 effective July 1, 1997, with transition rules relating to State options to accelerate such date, rules relating to claims, actions, and proceedings commenced before such date, rules relating to closing out of accounts for terminated or substantially modified programs and continuance in office of Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and provisions relating to termination of entitlement under AFDC program, see section 116 of Pub. L. 104-193, as amended, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of this title.

Amendment by section 374(b) of Pub. L. 104-193 applicable only with respect to cases commenced under Title 11, Bankruptcy, after Aug. 22, 1996, see section 374(c) of Pub. L. 104-193, set out as a note under section 523 of Title 11.

For provisions relating to effective date of title III of Pub. L. 104-193, see section 395(a)-(c) of Pub. L. 104-193, set out as a note under section 654 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-378 effective Oct. 1, 1984, and applicable to collections made on or after that date, see section 11(e) of Pub. L. 98-378, set out as a note under section 654 of this title.

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-369 effective July 18, 1984, but not to be construed as changing or affecting any right, liability, status, or interpretation which existed (under the provisions of law involved) before that date, see section 2664(b) of Pub. L. 98-369, set out as a note under section 401 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 97-35, title XXIII, §2334(c), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 863, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 523 of Title 11, Bankruptcy] shall become effective on the date of the enactment of this Act [Aug. 13, 1981].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-598 effective Nov. 6, 1978, see section 402(d) of Pub. L. 95-598, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 11, Bankruptcy.

### § 657. Distribution of collected support

#### (a) In general

Subject to subsections (d) and (e), the amounts collected on behalf of a family as support by a State pursuant to a plan approved under this part shall be distributed as follows:

##### (1) Families receiving assistance

In the case of a family receiving assistance from the State, the State shall—

(A) pay to the Federal Government the Federal share of the amount collected, subject to paragraph (3)(A);

(B) retain, or pay to the family, the State share of the amount collected, subject to paragraph (3)(B); and

(C) pay to the family any remaining amount.

##### (2) Families that formerly received assistance

In the case of a family that formerly received assistance from the State:

##### (A) Current support

To the extent that the amount collected does not exceed the current support amount, the State shall pay the amount to the family.

##### (B) Arrearages

Except as otherwise provided in an election made under section 654(34) of this title, to the extent that the amount collected exceeds the current support amount, the State—

(i) shall first pay to the family the excess amount, to the extent necessary to satisfy support arrearages not assigned pursuant to section 608(a)(3) of this title;

(ii) if the amount collected exceeds the amount required to be paid to the family under clause (i), shall—

(I) pay to the Federal Government the Federal share of the excess amount described in this clause, subject to paragraph (3)(A); and

(II) retain, or pay to the family, the State share of the excess amount de-