

be deducted from any sums owing by the United States to the person charged.

**(5) Notice and hearing**

No civil penalty may be assessed under this subsection with respect to a violation of any Federal consumer financial law, unless—

(A) the Bureau gives notice and an opportunity for a hearing to the person accused of the violation; or

(B) the appropriate court has ordered such assessment and entered judgment in favor of the Bureau.

(Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1055, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2029.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1058 of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 5561 of this title.

**§ 5566. Referrals for criminal proceedings**

If the Bureau obtains evidence that any person, domestic or foreign, has engaged in conduct that may constitute a violation of Federal criminal law, the Bureau shall transmit such evidence to the Attorney General of the United States, who may institute criminal proceedings under appropriate law. Nothing in this section affects any other authority of the Bureau to disclose information.

(Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1056, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2031.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1058 of Pub. L. 111-203, set out as a note under section 5561 of this title.

**§ 5567. Employee protection**

**(a) In general**

No covered person or service provider shall terminate or in any other way discriminate against, or cause to be terminated or discriminated against, any covered employee or any authorized representative of covered employees by reason of the fact that such employee or representative, whether at the initiative of the employee or in the ordinary course of the duties of the employee (or any person acting pursuant to a request of the employee), has—

(1) provided, caused to be provided, or is about to provide or cause to be provided, information to the employer, the Bureau, or any other State, local, or Federal, government authority or law enforcement agency relating to any violation of, or any act or omission that the employee reasonably believes to be a violation of, any provision of this title<sup>1</sup> or any other provision of law that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Bureau, or any rule, order, standard, or prohibition prescribed by the Bureau;

(2) testified or will testify in any proceeding resulting from the administration or enforce-

ment of any provision of this title<sup>1</sup> or any other provision of law that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Bureau, or any rule, order, standard, or prohibition prescribed by the Bureau;

(3) filed, instituted, or caused to be filed or instituted any proceeding under any Federal consumer financial law; or

(4) objected to, or refused to participate in, any activity, policy, practice, or assigned task that the employee (or other such person) reasonably believed to be in violation of any law, rule, order, standard, or prohibition, subject to the jurisdiction of, or enforceable by, the Bureau.

**(b) Definition of covered employee**

For the purposes of this section, the term “covered employee” means any individual performing tasks related to the offering or provision of a consumer financial product or service.

**(c) Procedures and timetables**

**(1) Complaint**

**(A) In general**

A person who believes that he or she has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by any person in violation of subsection (a) may, not later than 180 days after the date on which such alleged violation occurs, file (or have any person file on his or her behalf) a complaint with the Secretary of Labor alleging such discharge or discrimination and identifying the person responsible for such act.

**(B) Actions of Secretary of Labor**

Upon receipt of such a complaint, the Secretary of Labor shall notify, in writing, the person named in the complaint who is alleged to have committed the violation, of—

- (i) the filing of the complaint;
- (ii) the allegations contained in the complaint;
- (iii) the substance of evidence supporting the complaint; and
- (iv) opportunities that will be afforded to such person under paragraph (2).

**(2) Investigation by Secretary of Labor**

**(A) In general**

Not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of a complaint filed under paragraph (1), and after affording the complainant and the person named in the complaint who is alleged to have committed the violation that is the basis for the complaint an opportunity to submit to the Secretary of Labor a written response to the complaint and an opportunity to meet with a representative of the Secretary of Labor to present statements from witnesses, the Secretary of Labor shall—

- (i) initiate an investigation and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the complaint has merit; and
- (ii) notify the complainant and the person alleged to have committed the violation of subsection (a), in writing, of such determination.

**(B) Notice of relief available**

If the Secretary of Labor concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe that a

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.