

the term “miner” shall not include any person who has been found to be totally disabled.

**(b) Determination by Secretary; procedure**

Any miner who believes that he has been discharged or otherwise discriminated against by any person in violation of subsection (a) of this section, or any representative of such miner may, within ninety days after such violation occurs, apply to the Secretary for a review of such alleged discharge or discrimination. A copy of the application shall be sent to such person who shall be the respondent. Upon receipt of such application, the Secretary shall cause such investigation to be made as he deems appropriate. Such investigation shall provide an opportunity for a public hearing at the request of any party to enable the parties to present information relating to such violation. The parties shall be given written notice of the time and place of the hearing at least five days prior to the hearing. Any such hearing shall be of record and shall be subject to section 554 of title 5. Each administrative law judge presiding under this section and under the provisions of subchapters I, II and III of this chapter shall receive compensation at a rate determined under section 5372 of title 5. Upon receiving the report of such investigation, the Secretary shall make findings of fact. If he finds that such violation did occur, he shall issue a decision, incorporating an order therein, requiring the person committing such violation to take such affirmative action as the Secretary deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, the rehiring or reinstatement of the miner to his former position with back pay. If he finds that there was no such violation, he shall issue an order denying the application. Such order shall incorporate the Secretary’s findings therein.

**(c) Costs and penalties**

Whenever an order is issued under this subsection granting relief to a miner at the request of such miner, a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all costs and expenses (including the attorney’s fees) as determined by the Secretary to have been reasonably incurred by such miner for, or in connection with, the institution and prosecution of such proceedings, shall be assessed against the person committing the violation.

(Pub. L. 91-173, title IV, § 428, as added Pub. L. 92-303, § 5(7), May 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 155; amended Pub. L. 95-251, § 2(a)(9), Mar. 27, 1978, 92 Stat. 183; Pub. L. 101-509, title V, § 529 [title I, § 104(d)(3)], Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1427, 1447.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-509 amended seventh sentence generally, substituting “determined under section 5372 of title 5” for “not less than that prescribed for GS-16 under section 5332 of title 5”.

1978—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95-251 substituted “administrative law judge” for “hearing examiner”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-509 effective on such date as the President shall determine, but not earlier than

90 days, and not later than 180 days, after Nov. 5, 1990, see section 529 [title III, § 305] of Pub. L. 101-509, set out as a note under section 5301 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 939. Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Labor such sums as may be necessary to carry out his responsibilities under this subchapter. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 91-173, title IV, § 429, as added Pub. L. 92-303, § 5(8), May 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 156.)

**§ 940. Applicability of amendments to part B of this subchapter to this part**

The amendments made by the Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972, the Black Lung Benefits Reform Act of 1977 and the Black Lung Benefits Amendments of 1981 to part B of this subchapter shall, to the extent appropriate, also apply to this part.

(Pub. L. 91-173, title IV, § 430, as added Pub. L. 92-303, § 5(10), May 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 156; amended Pub. L. 95-239, § 10, Mar. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 100; Pub. L. 97-119, title II, § 202(d), Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1643.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Black Lung Benefits Act of 1972, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 92-303, May 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 150, which is classified generally to sections 901, 902, 921 to 925, 931 to 934, and 936 to 941 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 901 of this title and Tables.

The Black Lung Benefits Reform Act of 1977, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 95-239, Mar. 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 95. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1978 Amendment note set out under section 801 of this title and Tables.

The Black Lung Benefits Amendments of 1981, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 97-119, title II, Dec. 29, 1981, 95 Stat. 1643, which amended this section and sections 901, 902, 921, 922, 923, and 932 of this title and enacted provisions set out as notes under section 901 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1981 Amendment note set out under section 801 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1981—Pub. L. 97-119 inserted “, and the Black Lung Benefits Amendments of 1981”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-239 inserted reference to amendments made by the Black Lung Benefits Reform Act of 1977 and struck out provision that, for the purpose of determining the applicability of the presumption established by 921(c)(4) of this title to claims filed under this part, no period of employment after June 30, 1971, could be considered in determining whether a miner was employed at least fifteen years in one or more underground mines.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-119 effective Jan. 1, 1982, except as otherwise provided, see section 206(a) of Pub. L. 97-119, set out as a note under section 901 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-239 effective Mar. 1, 1978, see section 20(a) of Pub. L. 95-239, set out as a note under section 901 of this title.