

“(2) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL DESCRIBED.—A health care professional described in this paragraph is a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, audiologist, or psychologist, who—

“(A) has a current unrestricted license to practice the health care profession of the physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, audiologist, or psychologist, as the case may be;

“(B) is not barred from practicing such health care profession in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States; and

“(C) is performing authorized duties for the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to a contract entered into under subsection (a).

“(d) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—Expenses of carrying out the pilot program under this section, including payments for pilot program examination travel and incidental expenses under the terms and conditions set forth by 38 U.S.C. 111, shall be reimbursed to the accounts available for the general operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration and information technology systems from amounts available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for payment of compensation and pensions.

“(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 9, 1996], the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the effect of the use of the authority provided by subsection (a) on the cost, timeliness, and thoroughness of medical disability examinations.”

[Pub. L. 116–315, title II, §2002(a)(2), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4967, provided that: “The purpose of the amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending section 504 of Pub. L. 104–275, set out above] is to expand the license portability for physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists to supplement the capacity of employees of the Department to provide medical examinations described in subsection (b) [set out as a note above].”]

[Pub. L. 116–315, title II, §2002(a)(3), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4968, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending section 504 of Pub. L. 104–275, set out above] shall not be construed to affect the license portability for physicians in effect under section 504(c) of such Act [Pub. L. 104–275] as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 5, 2021].”]

[Pub. L. 116–315, title II, §2002(a)(4), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4968, as amended by Pub. L. 118–19, §1, Oct. 6, 2023, 137 Stat. 106, provided that: “On the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 5, 2021], subsection (c) of such section [section 504(c) of Pub. L. 104–275, set out above] shall read as it read on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.”]

EXPEDITED TREATMENT OF REMANDED CLAIMS

Pub. L. 103–446, title III, §302, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4658, as amended by Pub. L. 105–368, title V, §512(c), Nov. 11, 1998, 112 Stat. 3342, provided that Secretary of Veterans Affairs was to take necessary actions to provide for expeditious treatment, by the Board of Veterans' Appeals and by regional offices of the Veterans Benefits Administration, of any claim that had been remanded by the Board of Veterans' Appeals or by the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for additional development or other appropriate action, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108–183, title VII, §707(c), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2673.

VETERANS' CLAIMS ADJUDICATION COMMISSION

Pub. L. 103–446, title IV, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4659, as amended by Pub. L. 104–275, title V, §503(a), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3341, established Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission which was directed to conduct comprehensive evaluation and assessment of Department of Veterans Affairs system for disposition of claims for veterans benefits and of system for delivery of such benefits, together with any related issues determined

to be relevant to study, for purpose of determining means of increasing efficiency of system, means of reducing number of claims under system for which final disposition is pending, and means of enhancing ability of Department of Veterans Affairs to achieve final determination regarding claims under system in prompt and appropriate manner, and further provided for membership and powers of Commission, personnel matters, definitions and funding, and for submission of preliminary report to Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Congress not later than one year after Nov. 2, 1994, submission of final report not later than Dec. 31, 1996, and for termination of Commission 90 days after submission of final report.

§ 5102. Application forms furnished upon request; notice to claimants of incomplete applications

(a) FURNISHING FORMS.—Upon request made by any person claiming or applying for, or expressing an intent to claim or apply for, a benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall furnish such person, free of all expense, all instructions and forms necessary to apply for that benefit.

(b) INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS.—If a claimant's application for a benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary is incomplete, the Secretary shall notify the claimant and the claimant's representative, if any, of the information necessary to complete the application.

(c) TIME LIMITATION.—(1) If information that a claimant and the claimant's representative, if any, are notified under subsection (b) is necessary to complete an application is not received by the Secretary within one year from the date such notice is sent, no benefit may be paid or furnished by reason of the claimant's application.

(2) This subsection shall not apply to any application or claim for Government life insurance benefits.

(Added Pub. L. 106–475, §3(a), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2096; amended Pub. L. 108–183, title VII, §701(a), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2670.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5102, Pub. L. 85–857, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1225, §3002; renumbered §5102, Pub. L. 102–40, title IV, §402(b)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 238; Pub. L. 102–83, §4(a)(1), (b)(1), (2)(E), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 403–405, related to application forms, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 106–475, §3(a), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2096.

Another prior section 5102 was renumbered section 8302 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108–183 added subsec. (c).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108–183, title VII, §701(c), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2670, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 5103 of this title] shall take effect as if enacted on November 9, 2000, immediately after the enactment of the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–475; 114 Stat. 2096).”

§ 5103. Notice to claimants of required information and evidence

(a) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the Sec-