

- (2) the statement on its face raises a question as to its validity;
- (3) there is conflicting information of record; or
- (4) there is reasonable indication, in the statement or otherwise, of fraud or misrepresentation.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, §301(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4657.)

#### § 5125. Acceptance of reports of private physician examinations

For purposes of establishing any claim for benefits under chapter 11 or 15 of this title, a report of a medical examination administered by a private physician that is provided by a claimant in support of a claim for benefits under that chapter may be accepted without a requirement for confirmation by an examination by a physician employed by the Veterans Health Administration if the report is sufficiently complete to be adequate for the purpose of adjudicating such claim.

(Added Pub. L. 103-446, title III, §301(b), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4658.)

#### § 5126. Benefits not to be denied based on lack of mailing address

Benefits under laws administered by the Secretary may not be denied a claimant on the basis that the claimant does not have a mailing address.

(Added Pub. L. 106-475, §3(b), Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2098.)

### CHAPTER 53—SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO BENEFITS

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| Sec.   |  |
| 5301.  | Nonassignability and exempt status of benefits.  |
| 5302.  | Waiver of recovery of claims by the United States.   |
| 5302A. | Collection of indebtedness: certain debts of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die of injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in a combat zone. |
| 5302B. | Prohibition of debt arising from overpayment due to delay in processing.   |
| 5303.  | Certain bars to benefits.  |
| 5303A. | Minimum active-duty service requirement.   |
| 5303B. | Character of service determinations.   |
| 5304.  | Prohibition against duplication of benefits.   |
| 5305.  | Waiver of retired pay.   |
| 5306.  | Renouncement of right to benefits.   |
| 5307.  | Apportionment of benefits.   |
| 5308.  | Withholding benefits of persons in territory of the enemy.   |
| 5309.  | Payment of certain withheld benefits.  |
| 5310.  | Payment of benefits for month of death.  |
| 5311.  | Prohibition of certain benefit payments.   |
| 5312.  | Annual adjustment of certain benefit rates.  |
| 5313.  | Limitation on payment of compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation to persons incarcerated for conviction of a felony.                                  |
| 5313A. | Limitation on payment of clothing allowance to incarcerated veterans.  |
| 5313B. | Prohibition on providing certain benefits with respect to persons who are fugitive felons.   |
| 5314.  | Indebtedness offsets.  |
| 5314A. | Dispute of indebtedness.   |

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| Sec.   |  |
| 5315.  | Interest and administrative cost charges on delinquent payments of certain amounts due the United States.  |
| 5316.  | Authority to sue to collect certain debts.   |
| 5317.  | Use of income information from other agencies: notice and verification.  |
| 5317A. | Use of income information from other agencies: independent verification required before termination or reduction of certain benefits and services. |
| 5318.  | Review of Social Security Administration death information.  |
| 5319.  | Limitations on access to financial records.  |
| 5320.  | Threshold for reporting debts to consumer reporting agencies.  |
| 5321.  | Benefits helpline.   |

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

- 2024—Pub. L. 118-159, div. E, title L, §5002(b), Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2409, added item 5321.
- 2022—Pub. L. 117-328, div. U, title II, §§252(a)(2), 255(b)(4), Dec. 29, 2022, 136 Stat. 5463, 5465, added items 5302B and 5314A.
- 2021—Pub. L. 116-315, title II, §2007(b), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4977, added item 5320.
- 2018—Pub. L. 115-141, div. J, title II, §259(b), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 829, added item 5303B.
- 2008—Pub. L. 110-252, title I, §1303(a)(2), June 30, 2008, 122 Stat. 2327, added item 5302A.
- 2007—Pub. L. 110-157, title III, §301(b)(2), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 1836, added item 5317A.
- 2003—Pub. L. 108-183, title VII, §708(c)(4)(B)(ii), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2675, substituted “Social Security Administration” for “Department of Health and Human Services” in item 5318.
- 2001—Pub. L. 107-103, title V, §505(a)(2), Dec. 27, 2001, 115 Stat. 996, added item 5313B.
- 1996—Pub. L. 104-275, title V, §502(b), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3341, added item 5313A.
- 1992—Pub. L. 102-568, title VI, §603(b)(2), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4343, added item 5319.
- 1991—Pub. L. 102-40, title IV, §402(c)(1), May 7, 1991, 105 Stat. 239, renumbered items 3101 to 3118 as 5301 to 5318, respectively.
- 1990—Pub. L. 101-508, title VIII, §§8051(b)(2), 8053(b)(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-351, 1388-353, added items 3117 and 3118.
- 1981—Pub. L. 97-66, title VI, §604(a)(2), Oct. 17, 1981, 95 Stat. 1036, added item 3103A.
- 1980—Pub. L. 96-466, title VI, §605(a)(2), Oct. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 2211, added items 3114, 3115, and 3116.
- Pub. L. 96-385, title V, §504(b), Oct. 7, 1980, 94 Stat. 1535, added item 3113.
- 1978—Pub. L. 95-588, title III, §305(b), Nov. 4, 1978, 92 Stat. 2508, added item 3112.
- 1972—Pub. L. 92-328, title II, §203, June 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 397, substituted “claims by the United States” for “overpayments” in item 3102.
- 1970—Pub. L. 91-376, §8(c), Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 790, added item 3111.
- 1962—Pub. L. 87-825, §4(b), Oct. 15, 1962, 76 Stat. 950, added item 3110.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE RELATING TO DEBT COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 115-407, title V, §504(a)-(c), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5378, provided that:

“(a) DEBT NOTIFICATION LETTER FORMATS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collaborate with veterans service organizations to develop a standard format for any letter provided to an individual who the Secretary determines is indebted to the United States by virtue of such individual’s participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary. Such let-