

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-295, §4(79)(A), substituted “September 1, 1959,” for “the date of enactment of this section”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-295, §4(79)(B), substituted pars. (1), (2), and (3) for cls. (2), (1), and (3), respectively, and inserted citations to the United States Code.

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-43 inserted “(including the right to burial in a national cemetery)” after “gratuitous benefits” in first sentence.

1971—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 92-128 substituted “in section 4 of the Internal Security Act of 1950” for “in the following sections of the Internal Security Act of 1950; sections 4, 112, and 113”.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 108-183, title VII, §705(b), Dec. 16, 2003, 117 Stat. 2672, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to claims filed after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 16, 2003].”

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective on the date of transfer of the Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security, see section 1704(g) of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as a note under section 101 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

##### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-43 effective June 18, 1973, see section 10(a) of Pub. L. 93-43, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2400 of this title.

#### § 6106. Misuse of benefits by fiduciaries

(a) **FEE FORFEITURE IN CASE OF BENEFIT MISUSE BY FIDUCIARIES.**—A fiduciary may not collect a fee from a beneficiary for any month with respect to which the Secretary or a court of competent jurisdiction has determined that the fiduciary misused all or part of the individual's benefit, and any amount so collected by the fiduciary as a fee for such month shall be treated as a misused part of the individual's benefit.

(b) **MISUSE OF BENEFITS DEFINED.**—For purposes of this chapter, misuse of benefits by a fiduciary occurs in any case in which the fiduciary receives payment, under any of laws administered by the Secretary, for the use and benefit of a beneficiary and uses such payment, or any part thereof, for a use other than for the use and benefit of such beneficiary or that beneficiary's dependents. Retention by a fiduciary of an amount of a benefit payment as a fiduciary fee or commission, or as attorney's fees (including expenses) and court costs, if authorized by the Secretary or a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be considered to be for the use or benefit of such beneficiary.

(c) **REGULATIONS.**—The Secretary may prescribe by regulation the meaning of the term “use and benefit” for purposes of this section.

(Added Pub. L. 108-454, title V, §503(a)(1), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3619.)

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable with respect to any determinations by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs made after Dec. 10, 2004, of misuse of funds by a fiduciary, see section 507(b)(2) of Pub. L. 108-454, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 5312 of this title.

#### § 6107. Reissuance of benefits

(a) **NEGLIGENT FAILURE BY SECRETARY.**—(1) In any case in which the negligent failure of the Secretary to investigate or monitor a fiduciary results in misuse of benefits by the fiduciary, the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's successor fiduciary an amount equal to the amount of benefits that were so misused.

(2) There shall be considered to have been a negligent failure by the Secretary to investigate and monitor a fiduciary in the following cases:

(A) A case in which the Secretary failed to review a fiduciary's accounting within 60 days of the date on which that accounting is scheduled for review.

(B) A case in which the Secretary was notified of allegations of misuse, but failed to act within 60 days of the date of such notification to terminate the fiduciary.

(C) In any other case in which actual negligence is shown.

(b) **REISSUANCE OF MISUSED BENEFITS IN OTHER CASES.**—(1) In any case not covered by subsection (a) in which a fiduciary misuses all or part of an individual's benefit paid to such fiduciary, the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's successor fiduciary an amount equal to the amount of such benefit so misused.

(2) In any other case in which the Secretary obtains recoupment from a fiduciary who has misused benefits, the Secretary shall promptly remit payment of the recouped amounts to the beneficiary or the beneficiary's successor fiduciary as the case may be.

(c) **LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT PAID.**—The total of the amounts paid to a beneficiary (or a beneficiary's successor fiduciary) under this section may not exceed the total benefit amount misused by the fiduciary with respect to that beneficiary.

(d) **RECOUPMENT OF AMOUNTS REISSUED.**—In any case in which the Secretary reissues a benefit payment (in whole or in part) under subsection (a) or (b), the Secretary shall make a good faith effort to obtain recoupment from the fiduciary to whom the payment was originally made.

(Added Pub. L. 108-454, title V, §503(a)(1), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3619; amended Pub. L. 116-315, title VII, §7005(a), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 5059.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### AMENDMENTS

2021—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-315, §7005(a)(1), substituted “In any case not covered by subsection (a) in which a fiduciary” for “In any case in which a fiduciary described in paragraph (2)”.

Subsec. (b)(2), (3). Pub. L. 116-315, §7005(a)(2), (3), redesignated par. (3) as (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “Paragraph (1) applies to a fiduciary that—

“(A) is not an individual; or

“(B) is an individual who, for any month during a period when misuse occurs, serves 10 or more individuals who are beneficiaries under this title.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries****EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2021 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 116-315, title VII, §7005(b), Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 5059, provided that: “The amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to any determination by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 5, 2021] regarding the misuse of benefits by a fiduciary.”

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section applicable with respect to any determinations by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs made after Dec. 10, 2004, of misuse of funds by a fiduciary, see section 507(b)(2) of Pub. L. 108-454, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 5312 of this title.

**§ 6108. Authority for judicial orders of restitution**

(a) Any Federal court, when sentencing a defendant convicted of an offense arising from the misuse of benefits under this title, may order, in addition to or in lieu of any other penalty authorized by law, that the defendant make restitution to the Department.

(b) Sections 3612, 3663, and 3664 of title 18 shall apply with respect to the issuance and enforcement of orders of restitution under subsection (a). In so applying those sections, the Department shall be considered the victim.

(c) If the court does not order restitution, or orders only partial restitution, under subsection (a), the court shall state on the record the reasons therefor.

(d) Amounts received in connection with misuse by a fiduciary of funds paid as benefits under laws administered by the Secretary shall be paid to the individual whose benefits were misused. If the Secretary has previously reissued the misused benefits, the amounts shall be treated in the same manner as overpayments recouped by the Secretary and shall be deposited to the credit of the applicable revolving fund, trust fund, or appropriation.

(Added Pub. L. 108-454, title V, §504(b)(1), Dec. 10, 2004, 118 Stat. 3621.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries****EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective on the first day of the seventh month beginning after Dec. 10, 2004, see section 507(a) of Pub. L. 108-454, set out as an Effective Date of 2004 Amendment note under section 5312 of this title.

**CHAPTER 63—OUTREACH ACTIVITIES****SUBCHAPTER I—OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM**

Sec.<sup>1</sup>

- 6301. Purpose; definitions.
- 6302. Biennial plan.
- 6303. Outreach services.
- 6304. Veterans assistance offices.
- 6305. Outstationing of counseling and outreach personnel.
- 6306. Use of other agencies.
- 6307. Outreach for eligible dependents.
- 6308. Biennial report to Congress.

**SUBCHAPTER II—OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

- 6320. Solid Start program.

<sup>1</sup> Editorially supplied.

**AMENDMENTS**

2022—Pub. L. 117-205, §2(c), Oct. 17, 2022, 136 Stat. 2233, added subchapter I heading and added item for subchapter II and item 6320.

**SUBCHAPTER I—OUTREACH SERVICES PROGRAM****Editorial Notes****AMENDMENTS**

2022—Pub. L. 117-205, §2(b)(1), Oct. 17, 2022, 136 Stat. 2233, inserted subchapter heading.

**§ 6301. Purpose; definitions**

(a) **PURPOSE.**—The Congress declares that—

(1) the outreach services program authorized by this subchapter is for the purpose of ensuring that all veterans (especially those who have been recently discharged or released from active military, naval, air, or space service, or from a reserve component, and those who are eligible for readjustment or other benefits and services under laws administered by the Department) are provided timely and appropriate assistance to aid and encourage them in applying for and obtaining such benefits and services in order that they may achieve a rapid social and economic readjustment to civilian life and obtain a higher standard of living for themselves and their dependents; and

(2) the outreach services program authorized by this subchapter is for the purpose of charging the Department with the affirmative duty of seeking out eligible veterans and eligible dependents and providing them with such services.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this subchapter—

(1) the term “outreach” means the act or process of reaching out in a systematic manner to proactively provide information, services, and benefits counseling to veterans, and to the spouses, children, and parents of veterans who may be eligible to receive benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and receive assistance in applying for, such benefits;

(2) the term “other governmental programs” includes all programs under State or local laws as well as all programs under Federal law other than those authorized by this title; and

(3) the term “eligible dependent” means a spouse, surviving spouse, child, or dependent parent of a person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service.

(Added Pub. L. 109-233, title IV, §402(a), June 15, 2006, 120 Stat. 407; amended Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title XVII, §1710, Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 494; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §926(a)(58), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3830; Pub. L. 117-205, §2(b)(2), Oct. 17, 2022, 136 Stat. 2233.)

**Editorial Notes****PRIOR PROVISIONS**

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 7721 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 109-233.