

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-205 effective Jan. 2, 1976, see section 12 of Pub. L. 94-205, set out as a note under section 2602 of this title.

§ 2617. Authority of Secretary

(a) Issuance of regulations; exemptions

The Secretary is authorized to prescribe such rules and regulations, to make such interpretations, and to grant such reasonable exemptions for classes of transactions, as may be necessary to achieve the purposes of this chapter.

(b) Liability for acts done in good faith in conformity with rule, regulation, or interpretation

No provision of this chapter or the laws of any State imposing any liability shall apply to any act done or omitted in good faith in conformity with any rule, regulation, or interpretation thereof by the Secretary or the Attorney General, notwithstanding that after such act or omission has occurred, such rule, regulation, or interpretation is amended, rescinded, or determined by judicial or other authority to be invalid for any reason.

(c) Investigations; hearings; failure to obey order; contempt

(1) The Secretary may investigate any facts, conditions, practices, or matters that may be deemed necessary or proper to aid in the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter, in prescribing of rules and regulations thereunder, or in securing information to serve as a basis for recommending further legislation concerning real estate settlement practices. To aid in the investigations, the Secretary is authorized to hold such hearings, administer such oaths, and require by subpoena the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and production of such documents as the Secretary deems advisable.

(2) Any district court of the United States within the jurisdiction of which an inquiry is carried on may, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena of the Secretary issued under this section, issue an order requiring compliance therewith; and any failure to obey such order of the court may be punished by such court as a contempt thereof.

(d) Delay of effectiveness of recent final regulation relating to payments to employees

(1) In general

The amendment to part 3500 of title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations contained in the final regulation prescribed by the Secretary and published in the Federal Register on June 7, 1996, which will, as of the effective date of such amendment—

(A) eliminate the exemption for payments by an employer to employees of such employer for referral activities which is currently codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of such title 24; and

(B) replace such exemption with a more limited exemption in new clauses (vii), (viii), and (ix) of section 3500.14 of such title 24,

shall not take effect before July 31, 1997.

(2) Continuation of prior rule

The regulation codified as section 3500.14(g)(1)(vii) of title 24 of the Code of Fed-

eral Regulations, relating to employer-employee payments, as in effect on May 1, 1996, shall remain in effect until the date the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) takes effect in accordance with such paragraph.

(3) Public notice of effective date

The Secretary shall provide public notice of the date on which the amendment referred to in paragraph (1) will take effect in accordance with such paragraph not less than 90 days and not more than 180 days before such effective date.

(Pub. L. 93-533, §19, as added Pub. L. 94-205, §10, Jan. 2, 1976, 89 Stat. 1159; amended Pub. L. 98-181, title IV, §461(e), Nov. 30, 1983, 97 Stat. 1232; Pub. L. 104-208, div. A, title II, §2103(f), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-401.)

AMENDMENTS

- 1996—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-208 added subsec. (d).
- 1983—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 98-181 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-181 effective Jan. 1, 1984, see section 461(f) of Pub. L. 98-181, set out as a note under section 2602 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 2, 1976, see section 12 of Pub. L. 94-205, set out as an Effective Date of 1976 Amendment note under section 2602 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2606 of this title.

CHAPTER 28—EMERGENCY MORTGAGE RELIEF

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| 2701. | Congressional findings and declaration of purpose. |
| 2702. | Mortgages eligible for assistance. |
| 2703. | Manner of assistance and repayment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Form of assistance. (b) Amount of assistance. (c) Monthly payments; extension of time; report of increase in income. (d) Conditions and terms of repayment; interest rate. (e) Deferral of commencement of repayment; security for repayment. |
| 2704. | Insurance for emergency mortgage loans and advances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Institutions eligible. (b) Amount of insurance. (c) Premium charge; amount. (d) Waiver of compliance with rules and regulations; finality and incontestability of payment for loss; transfer of insurance. (e) Maximum aggregate amount of loans and advances insured. |
| 2705. | Emergency mortgage relief payments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Direct payments to mortgagee. (b) Mortgages eligible; terms and conditions. (c) Processing of relief payments; power of Secretary. |
| 2706. | Emergency Homeowners' Relief Fund. |
| 2707. | Authority of Secretary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Rules and regulations. (b) Payment of expenses and charges relating to acquisition, handling, improvement, or disposal of real and personal property. (c) Powers with respect to property rights held by Secretary. |

Sec.	
2708.	Authorization of appropriations; limitations; expiration date for loans and advances of credit.
2709.	Waiver and relaxation by institutions and approved mortgagees of limitations with respect to mortgage delinquencies; notification to Federal supervisory agency prior to foreclosure proceedings.
2710.	Reports to Congress; time; contents.
2711.	Nonapplicability of other laws.
2712.	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation advances to insured banks.

§ 2701. Congressional findings and declaration of purpose

(a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Nation is in a severe recession and that the sharp downturn in economic activity has driven large numbers of workers into unemployment and has reduced the incomes of many others;

(2) as a result of these adverse economic conditions the capacity of many homeowners to continue to make mortgage payments has deteriorated and may further deteriorate in the months ahead, leading to the possibility of widespread mortgage foreclosures and distress sales of homes; and

(3) many of these homeowners could retain their homes with temporary financial assistance until economic conditions improve.

(b) It is the purpose of this chapter to provide a standby authority which will prevent widespread mortgage foreclosures and distress sales of homes resulting from the temporary loss of employment and income through a program of emergency loans and advances and emergency mortgage relief payments to homeowners to defray mortgage expenses.

(Pub. L. 94-50, title I, § 102, July 2, 1975, 89 Stat. 249.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 94-50 provided: "That this Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 1723e and 1735b of this title and sections 1452 and 4106 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, enacting provisions set out as a note under this section, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 1723e of this title] may be cited as the 'Emergency Housing Act of 1975'."

Section 101 of title I of Pub. L. 94-50 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Emergency Homeowners' Relief Act'."

§ 2702. Mortgages eligible for assistance

No assistance shall be extended with respect to any mortgage under this chapter unless—

(1) the holder of the mortgage has indicated to the mortgagor its intention to foreclose;

(2) the mortgagor and holder of the mortgage have indicated in writing to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") and to any agency or department of the Federal Government responsible for the regulation of the holder that circumstances (such as the volume of delinquent loans in its portfolio) make it probable that there will be a foreclosure and that the mortgagor is in need of emergency mortgage relief as authorized by this chapter, except that such statement by

the holder of the mortgage may be waived by the Secretary if in his judgment such waiver would further the purposes of this chapter;

(3) payments under the mortgage have been delinquent for at least three months;

(4) the mortgagor has incurred a substantial reduction in income as a result of involuntary unemployment or underemployment due to adverse economic conditions and is financially unable to make full mortgage payments;

(5) there is a reasonable prospect that the mortgagor will be able to make the adjustments necessary for a full resumption of mortgage payments; and

(6) the mortgaged property is the principal residence of the mortgagor.

(Pub. L. 94-50, title I, § 103, July 2, 1975, 89 Stat. 249.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 2703, 2705 of this title.

§ 2703. Manner of assistance and repayment

(a) Form of assistance

Assistance under this chapter with respect to a mortgage which meets the requirements of section 2702 of this title may be provided in the form of emergency mortgage relief loans and advances of credit insured pursuant to section 2704 of this title or in the form of emergency mortgage relief payments made by the Secretary pursuant to section 2705 of this title.

(b) Amount of assistance

Assistance under this chapter on behalf of a homeowner may be made available in an amount up to the amount of the principal, interest, taxes, ground rents, hazard insurance, and mortgage insurance premiums due under the homeowner's mortgage, but such assistance shall not exceed the lesser of \$250 per month or the amount determined to be reasonably necessary to supplement such amount as the homeowner is capable of contributing toward such mortgage payment.

(c) Monthly payments; extension of time; report of increase in income

Monthly payments may be provided under this chapter either with the proceeds of an insured loan or advance of credit or with emergency mortgage relief payments for up to twelve months, and, in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, such monthly payments may be extended once for up to twelve additional months. A mortgagor receiving the benefit of mortgage relief assistance pursuant to this chapter shall be required, in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, to report any increase in income which will permit a reduction or termination of such assistance during this period.

(d) Conditions and terms of repayment; interest rate

Emergency loans or advances of credit made and insured under section 2704 of this title, and emergency mortgage relief payments made under section 2705 of this title, shall be repayable by the homeowner upon such terms and