

§ 4010. Civil liability

(a) Civil liability

Except as otherwise provided in this section, any depository institution which fails to comply with any requirement imposed under this chapter or any regulation prescribed under this chapter with respect to any person other than another depository institution is liable to such person in an amount equal to the sum of—

(1) any actual damage sustained by such person as a result of the failure;

(2)(A) in the case of an individual action, such additional amount as the court may allow, except that the liability under this subparagraph shall not be less than \$100 nor greater than \$1,000; or

(B) in the case of a class action, such amount as the court may allow, except that—

(i) as to each member of the class, no minimum recovery shall be applicable; and

(ii) the total recovery under this subparagraph in any class action or series of class actions arising out of the same failure to comply by the same depository institution shall not be more than the lesser of \$500,000 or 1 percent of the net worth of the depository institution involved; and

(3) in the case of any successful action to enforce the foregoing liability, the costs of the action, together with a reasonable attorney's fee as determined by the court.

(b) Class action awards

In determining the amount of any award in any class action, the court shall consider, among other relevant factors—

(1) the amount of any actual damages awarded;

(2) the frequency and persistence of failures of compliance;

(3) the resources of the depository institution;

(4) the number of persons adversely affected; and

(5) the extent to which the failure of compliance was intentional.

(c) Bona fide errors

(1) General rule

A depository institution may not be held liable in any action brought under this section for a violation of this chapter if the depository institution demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the violation was not intentional and resulted from a bona fide error, notwithstanding the maintenance of procedures reasonably adapted to avoid any such error.

(2) Examples

Examples of a bona fide error include clerical, calculation, computer malfunction and programming, and printing errors, except that an error of legal judgment with respect to a depository institution's obligation under this chapter is not a bona fide error.

(d) Jurisdiction

Any action under this section may be brought in any United States district court, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction, within

one year after the date of the occurrence of the violation involved.

(e) Reliance on Board rulings

No provision of this section 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 Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, notwithstanding the fact 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.

(f) Authority to establish rules regarding losses and liability among depository institutions

The Board is authorized to impose on or allocate among depository institutions the risks of loss and liability in connection with any aspect of the payment system, including the receipt, payment, collection, or clearing of checks, and any related function of the payment system with respect to checks. Liability under this subsection shall not exceed the amount of the check giving rise to the loss or liability, and, where there is bad faith, other damages, if any, suffered as a proximate consequence of any act or omission giving rise to the loss or liability.

(Pub. L. 100-86, title VI, §611, Aug. 10, 1987, 101 Stat. 650.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Sept. 1, 1988, see section 613(b) of Pub. L. 100-86, set out as a note under section 4001 of this title.

CHAPTER 42—LOW-INCOME HOUSING PRESERVATION AND RESIDENT HOMEOWNERSHIP

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CODIFICATION

Subtitles A and B of the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, Pub. L. 100-242, title II, as revised generally by Pub. L. 101-625, title VI, §601(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4249, comprise subchapter I of this chapter. Prior to the general revision by Pub. L. 101-625 subtitles A and B (§§201-235) of the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-242, title II, Feb. 5, 1988, 101 Stat. 1877, as amended by Pub. L. 100-628, title X, §§1021-1027, Nov. 7, 1988, 102 Stat. 3270, 3271; Pub. L. 101-235, title II, §§201, 202(a)-(c), 203(b), Dec. 15, 1989, 103 Stat. 2037, 2038; Pub. L. 101-402, §1, Oct. 1, 1990, 104 Stat. 866; Pub. L. 101-494, §§1(c), 2(a), Oct. 31, 1990, 104 Stat. 1185, were set out as a note under section 1715f of this title and amended section 1715z-6 of this title.

Subtitle C of the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, Pub. L. 100-242, title II, as added by Pub. L. 102-550, title III, §312, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3765, comprises subchapter II of this chapter. Another subtitle C of title II of Pub. L. 100-242 amended sections 1472, 1485, and 1487 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

SUBCHAPTER I—PREPAYMENT OF MORTGAGES
INSURED UNDER NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

§ 4101. General prepayment limitation

(a) Prepayment and termination

An owner of eligible low-income housing may prepay, and a mortgagee may accept prepayment of, a mortgage on such housing only in accordance with a plan of action approved by the Secretary under this subchapter or in accordance with section 4114 of this title. An insurance contract with respect to eligible low-income housing may be terminated pursuant to section 1715t of this title only in accordance with a plan of action approved by the Secretary under this subchapter or in accordance with section 4114 of this title.

(b) Foreclosure

A mortgagee may foreclose the mortgage on, or acquire by deed in lieu of foreclosure, any eligible low-income housing project only if the mortgagee also conveys title to the project to the Secretary in connection with a claim for insurance benefits.

(c) Effect of unauthorized prepayment

Any prepayment of a mortgage on eligible low-income housing or termination of the mortgage insurance on such housing not in compliance with the provisions of this subchapter shall be null and void and any low-income affordability restrictions on the housing shall continue to apply to the housing.

(Pub. L. 100-242, title II, §211, as added Pub. L. 101-625, title VI, §601(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4249.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 605 of Pub. L. 101-625 provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle A (§§601-605) of title VI of Pub. L. 101-625, enacting this chapter, amending sections 1715z-6 and 1715z-15 of this title and section 1437f of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacting provisions set out below] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 28, 1990]."

SHORT TITLE

Section 201 of title II of Pub. L. 100-242, as added by Pub. L. 101-625, title VI, §601(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4249, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter, amending section 1715z-15 of this title and sections 1437f, 1472, 1485, and 1487 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and enacting provisions set out below] may be cited as the 'Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990'."

APPLICABILITY

Section 235 of Pub. L. 100-242, as added by Pub. L. 101-625, title VI, §601(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4274, provided that: "Subject to section 605 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act [Pub. L. 101-625, set out above], the requirements of this subtitle [subtitle B (§§211-235) of title II of Pub. L. 100-242, enacting this subchapter] shall apply to any project that is eligible low-income housing on or after November 1, 1987."

REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 102-550, title III, §332, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 3773, provided that: "Except as otherwise provided in this title [enacting sections 4141 to 4147 of this title, amending sections 1715z-1, 1715z-6, 4103, 4105 to 4112, 4116, 4119, 4121, 4122, 4124, and 4125 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 1715z-6, 4109, and 4117 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under this section], the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue interim regulations implementing this title and the amendments made by this title not later than the expiration of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 1992], which shall take effect upon issuance. The Secretary shall issue final regulations implementing this title and the amendments made by this title after notice and opportunity for public comment regarding the interim regulations, pursuant to the provisions of section 553 of title 5, United States Code (notwithstanding subsections (a)(2), (b)(B), and (d)(3) of such section). The duration of the period for public comment shall not be less than 60 days, and the final regulations shall be issued not later than the expiration of the 60-day period beginning upon the conclusion of the comment period and shall take effect upon issuance."

LOW-INCOME HOUSING PRESERVATION

Pub. L. 104-204, title II, Sept. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 2883, provided in part: "That of the total amount provided under this head, \$350,000,000 shall be available for use in conjunction with properties that are eligible for assistance under the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990 (LIHPRHA) [see Short Title note above] or the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 (ELIHPA) [see Codification note set out preceding this section], of which \$75,000,000 shall be available for obligation until March 1, 1997 for projects (1) that are subject to a repayment or settlement agreement that was executed between the owner and the Secretary prior to September 1, 1995; (2) whose submissions were delayed as a result of their location in areas that were designated as a Federal disaster area in a Presidential Disaster Declaration; or (3)