

**CHAPTER 35—RIGHT TO FINANCIAL
PRIVACY**

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§ 3401. Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the term—

(1) “financial institution”, except as provided in section 3414 of this title, means any office of a bank, savings bank, card issuer as defined in section 1602(n) of title 15, industrial loan company, trust company, savings association, building and loan, or homestead association (including cooperative banks), credit union, or consumer finance institution, located in any State or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the Virgin Islands;

(2) “financial record” means an original of, a copy of, or information known to have been derived from, any record held by a financial institution pertaining to a customer’s relationship with the financial institution;

(3) “Government authority” means any agency or department of the United States, or any officer, employee, or agent thereof;

(4) “person” means an individual or a partnership of five or fewer individuals;

(5) “customer” means any person or authorized representative of that person who utilized or is utilizing any service of a financial institution, or for whom a financial institution is acting or has acted as a fiduciary, in relation to an account maintained in the person’s name;

(6) “holding company” means—

(A) any bank holding company (as defined in section 1841 of this title);

(B) any company described in section 1843(f)(1) of this title; and

(C) any savings and loan holding company (as defined in the Home Owners’ Loan Act [12 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.]);

(7) “supervisory agency” means with respect to any particular financial institution, holding company, or any subsidiary of a financial institution or holding company, any of the following which has statutory authority to ex-

amine the financial condition, business operations, or records or transactions of that institution, holding company, or subsidiary—

(A) the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(B) Director,¹ Office of Thrift Supervision;

(C) the National Credit Union Administration;

(D) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;

(E) the Comptroller of the Currency;

(F) the Securities and Exchange Commission;

(G) the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

(H) the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to the Bank Secrecy Act (Public Law 91-508, title I) [12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.] and subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31; or

(I) any State banking or securities department or agency; and

(8) “law enforcement inquiry” means a lawful investigation or official proceeding inquiring into a violation of, or failure to comply with, any criminal or civil statute or any regulation, rule, or order issued pursuant thereto.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1101, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3697; Pub. L. 101-73, title VII, §744(b), title IX, §941, Aug. 9, 1989, 103 Stat. 438, 496; Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, §2596(c), Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4908; Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §727(b)(1), Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1475; Pub. L. 108-177, title III, §374(b), Dec. 13, 2003, 117 Stat. 2628; Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §1099(1), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2105.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

Pub. L. 111-203, title X, §§1099(1), 1100H, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2105, 2113, provided that, effective on the designated transfer date, this section is amended:

(1) in paragraph (6)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and” after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking out “and” at the end; and

(C) by striking out subparagraph (C); and

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking out subparagraph (B), and adding the following:

“(B) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection;”.

See Effective Date of 2010 Amendment note below.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Home Owners’ Loan Act, referred to in par. (6)(C), is act June 13, 1933, ch. 64, 48 Stat. 128, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 12 (§1461 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1461 of this title and Tables.

The Bank Secrecy Act, referred to in par. (7)(H), is title I of Pub. L. 91-508, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1114, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 21 (§1951 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1951 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

In par. (7)(H), “the Bank Secrecy Act (Public Law 91-508, title I) [12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.] and subchapter II

¹ So in original. Probably should be “the Director.”.