

Sec.

- (f) Disclosure pursuant to administrative subpoena issued by administrative law judge.
 - (g) Disclosure pursuant to legitimate law enforcement inquiry respecting name, address, account number, and type of account of particular customers.
 - (h) Disclosure pursuant to lawful proceeding, investigation, etc., directed at financial institution or legal entity or consideration or administration respecting Government loans, loan guarantees, etc.
 - (i) Disclosure pursuant to issuance of subpoena or court order respecting grand jury proceeding.
 - (j) Disclosure pursuant to proceeding, investigation, etc., instituted by General Accounting Office and directed at a government authority.
 - (k) Disclosure necessary for proper administration of programs of withholding taxes on nonresident aliens, Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits, and Railroad Retirement Act Benefits.
 - (l) Crimes against financial institutions by insiders.
 - (m) Disclosure to, or examination by, employees or agents of Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System or Federal Reserve Bank.
 - (n) Disclosure to, or examination by, Resolution Trust Corporation or its employees or agents.
 - (o) Disclosure to, or examination by, Federal Housing Finance Board or Federal home loan banks.
 - (p) Access to information necessary for administration of certain veteran benefits laws.
 - (q) Disclosure pursuant to Federal contractor-issued travel charge card.
3414. Special procedures.
3415. Cost reimbursement.
3416. Jurisdiction.
3417. Civil penalties.
- (a) Liability of agencies or departments of United States or financial institutions.
 - (b) Disciplinary action for willful or intentional violation of chapter by agents or employees of department or agency.
 - (c) Good faith defense.
 - (d) Exclusive judicial remedies and sanctions.
3418. Injunctive relief.
3419. Suspension of limitations.
3420. Grand jury information; notification of certain persons prohibited.
3421. Repealed.
3422. Applicability to Securities and Exchange Commission.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 15 sections 78u, 78x, 6802; title 38 section 5319; title 42 section 1383; title 50 section 436.

§ 3401. Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter, the term—

(1) “financial institution” 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 examine 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.)

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

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, which is classified principally to chapter 21 (§1951 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see 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 of chapter 53 of title 31” substituted for “the Bank Secrecy Act [12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.] and the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act [31 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.] (Public Law 91-508, title I and II)”, on authority of Pub. L. 97-258, §4(b), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1067, the first section of which enacted Title 31, Money and Finance.

AMENDMENTS

1999—Par. (7)(G) to (I). Pub. L. 106-102 added subpar. (G) and redesignated former subpars. (G) and (H) as (H) and (I), respectively.

1990—Par. (6)(B). Pub. L. 101-647 substituted “section 1843(f)(1)” for “section 1842(f)(1)”.

1989—Par. (1). Pub. L. 101-73, §744(b)(1), substituted “savings association” for “savings and loan”.

Par. (6). Pub. L. 101-73, §941(3), added par. (6). Former par. (6) redesignated (7).

Par. (7). Pub. L. 101-73, §941(1), (2), redesignated former par. (6) as (7) and substituted new introductory provisions for former introductory provisions which read as follows: “‘supervisory agency’ means, with respect to any particular financial institution any of the following which has statutory authority to examine the financial condition or business operations of that institution—”. Former par. (7) redesignated (8).

Pub. L. 101-73, §744(b)(2), (3), redesignated subpars. (C) to (I) as (B) to (H), respectively, substituted “Director, Office of Thrift Supervision” for “the Federal Home Loan Bank Board” in subpar. (B), and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: “the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation”.

Par. (8). Pub. L. 101-73, §941(1), redesignated par. (7) as (8).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter (except for section 3415 of this title) effective upon the expiration of 120 days after Nov. 10, 1978, see section 2101 of Pub. L. 95-630, set out as a note under section 375b of this title.

SHORT TITLE

Section 1100 of title XI of Pub. L. 95-630 provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978’.”

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 3412 of this title; title 7 section 6f; title 15 sections 78o-5, 78q, 1681u; title 42 sections 669a, 1320d-8, 1383; title 50 section 438.

§ 3402. Access to financial records by Government authorities prohibited; exceptions

Except as provided by section 3403(c) or (d), 3413, or 3414 of this title, no Government authority may have access to or obtain copies of, or the information contained in the financial records of any customer from a financial institution unless the financial records are reasonably described and—

(1) such customer has authorized such disclosure in accordance with section 3404 of this title;

(2) such financial records are disclosed in response to an administrative subpoena or summons which meets the requirements of section 3405 of this title;

(3) such financial records are disclosed in response to a search warrant which meets the requirements of section 3406 of this title;

(4) such financial records are disclosed in response to a judicial subpoena which meets the requirements of section 3407 of this title; or

(5) such financial records are disclosed in response to a formal written request which meets the requirements of section 3408 of this title.

(Pub. L. 95-630, title XI, §1102, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3697.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 3404, 3405, 3406, 3407, 3408, 3413 of this title; title 42 section 1383.

§ 3403. Confidentiality of financial records

(a) Release of records by financial institutions prohibited

No financial institution, or officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution, may provide to any Government authority access to or copies of, or the information contained in, the financial records of any customer except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Release of records upon certification of compliance with chapter

A financial institution shall not release the financial records of a customer until the Government authority seeking such records certifies in writing to the financial institution that it has complied with the applicable provisions of this chapter.

(c) Notification to Government authority of existence of relevant information in records

Nothing in this chapter shall preclude any financial institution, or any officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution, from notifying a Government authority that such institution, or officer, employee, or agent has information which may be relevant to a possible violation of any statute or regulation. Such information may include only the name or other identifying information concerning any individual, corporation, or account involved in and the nature of any suspected illegal activity. Such information may be disclosed notwithstanding any constitution, law, or regulation of any State or political subdivision thereof to the contrary. Any financial institution, or officer, employee, or agent thereof, making a disclosure of information pursuant to this subsection, shall not be liable to the customer under any law or regulation of the United States or any constitution, law, or regulation of any State or political subdivision thereof, for such disclosure or for any failure to notify the customer of such disclosure.