

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 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.

#### (d) Release of records as incident to perfection of security interest, proving a claim in bankruptcy, collecting a debt, or processing an application with regard to a Government loan, loan guarantee, etc.

(1) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude a financial institution, as an incident to perfecting a security interest, proving a claim in bankruptcy, or otherwise collecting on a debt owing either to the financial institution itself or in its