TITLE 21 - FOOD AND DRUGS  
CHAPTER 13 - DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONTROL  
SUBCHAPTER I - CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT  
Part D - Offenses and Penalties  

§ 862a. Denial of assistance and benefits for certain drug-related convictions  

(a) In general  
An individual convicted (under Federal or State law) of any offense which is classified as a felony by the law of the jurisdiction involved and which has as an element the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance (as defined in section 802 (6) of this title) shall not be eligible for—  

(1) assistance under any State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.], or  
(2) benefits under the food stamp program (as defined in section 3(l) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2012 (l)]) or any State program carried out under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.].  

(b) Effects on assistance and benefits for others  
(1) Program of temporary assistance for needy families  
The amount of assistance otherwise required to be provided under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.] to the family members of an individual to whom subsection (a) of this section applies shall be reduced by the amount which would have otherwise been made available to the individual under such part.  
(2) Benefits under the Food Stamp Act of 1977  
The amount of benefits otherwise required to be provided to a household under the food stamp program (as defined in section 3(l) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2012 (l)]), or any State program carried out under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.], shall be determined by considering the individual to whom subsection (a) of this section applies not to be a member of such household, except that the income and resources of the individual shall be considered to be income and resources of the household.  

(c) Enforcement  
A State that has not exercised its authority under subsection (d)(1)(A) of this section shall require each individual applying for assistance or benefits referred to in subsection (a) of this section, during the application process, to state, in writing, whether the individual, or any member of the household of the individual, has been convicted of a crime described in subsection (a) of this section.  

(d) Limitations  
(1) State elections  
(A) Opt out  
A State may, by specific reference in a law enacted after August 22, 1996, exempt any or all individuals domiciled in the State from the application of subsection (a) of this section.  
(B) Limit period of prohibition  
A State may, by law enacted after August 22, 1996, limit the period for which subsection (a) of this section shall apply to any or all individuals domiciled in the State.  

(2) Inapplicability to convictions occurring on or before August 22, 1996  
Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a conviction if the conviction is for conduct occurring on or before August 22, 1996.  

(e) “State” defined  
For purposes of this section, the term “State” has the meaning given it—
(1) in section 419(5) of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 619 (5)], when referring to assistance provided under a State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.], and

(2) in section 3(s) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2012 (s)], when referring to the food stamp program (as defined in section 3(l) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2012 (l)]) or any State program carried out under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.].

(f) Rule of interpretation

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deny the following Federal benefits:

(1) Emergency medical services under title XIX of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.].

(2) Short-term, noncash, in-kind emergency disaster relief.

(3) (A) Public health assistance for immunizations.

(B) Public health assistance for testing and treatment of communicable diseases if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that it is necessary to prevent the spread of such disease.

(4) Prenatal care.

(5) Job training programs.

(6) Drug treatment programs.


References in Text

The Social Security Act, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1), (b)(1), (e)(1), and (f)(1), is act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, 49 Stat. 620, as amended. Part A of title IV of the Act is classified generally to part A (§ 601 et seq.) of subchapter IV of chapter 7 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. Title XIX of the Act is classified generally to subchapter XIX (§ 1396 et seq.) of chapter 7 of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1305 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Food Stamp Act of 1977, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2), (b)(2), and (e)(2), subsequently renamed the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, is Pub. L. 88–525, Aug. 31, 1964, 78 Stat. 703, which is classified generally to chapter 51 (§ 2011 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of Title 7 and Tables.

Codification


Section was enacted as part of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, and not as part of the Controlled Substances Act which comprises this subchapter.

Amendments


Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 110–246, § 4115(c)(2)(C), substituted “section 3 (s)” for “section 3 (m)” and “section 3 (i)” for “section 3 (h)”.

1997—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 105–33 substituted “a conviction if the conviction is for conduct” for “convictions”.

Change of Name

References to the food stamp program established under the Food Stamp Act of 1977, now known as the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, considered to refer to the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under that Act, see section 4002(c) of Pub. L. 110–246, set out as a note under section 2012 of Title 7, Agriculture.
Effective Date of 2008 Amendment


Effective Date of 1997 Amendment

Section 5518(d) of title V of Pub. L. 105–33 provided that: “The amendments made by this chapter to a provision of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 [Pub. L. 104–193] that have not become part of another statute [chapter 1 (§§ 5501–5518) of subtitle F of title V of Pub. L. 105–33, amending this section, sections 601 to 603, 604 to 608, 609 to 611, and 612 to 617 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and provisions set out as notes under section 612c of Title 7, Agriculture, and sections 601 and 613 of Title 42] shall take effect as if the amendments had been included in the provision at the time the provision became law.”

Effective Date

Section effective July 1, 1997, with transition rules relating to State options to accelerate such date, rules relating to claims, actions, and proceedings commenced before such date, rules relating to closing out of accounts for terminated or substantially modified programs and continuance in office of Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and provisions relating to termination of entitlement under AFDC program, see section 116 of Pub. L. 104–193, as amended, set out as an Effective Date note under section 601 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.