

Public Law 94-519
94th Congress

An Act

To amend the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 to permit the donation of Federal surplus personal property to the States and local organizations for public purposes, and for other purposes.

Oct. 17, 1976
[H.R. 14451]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (j) is amended to read as follows:

“(j) (1) Under such regulations as he may prescribe, the Administrator is authorized in his discretion to transfer, without cost (except for costs of care and handling), any personal property under the control of any executive agency which has been determined to be surplus property to the State agency in each State designated under State law as the agency responsible for the fair and equitable distribution, through donation, of all property transferred in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection. In determining whether the property is to be transferred for donation under this subsection, no distinction shall be made between property capitalized in a working-capital fund established under section 2208 of title 10, United States Code, or any similar fund, and any other property.

“(2) In the case of surplus personal property under the control of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense shall determine whether such property is usable and necessary for educational activities which are of special interest to the armed services, such as maritime academies, or military, naval, Air Force, or Coast Guard preparatory schools. If the Secretary determines that such property is usable and necessary for said purposes, the Secretary shall allocate it for transfer by the Administrator to the appropriate State agency for distribution, through donation, to such educational activities. If the Secretary determines that such property is not usable and necessary for such purposes, it may be disposed of in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection.

“(3) Except for surplus personal property transferred pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Administrator shall, pursuant to criteria which are based on need and utilization and established after such consultation with State agencies as is feasible, allocate such property among the States in a fair and equitable basis (taking into account the condition of the property as well as the original acquisition cost thereof), and transfer to the State agency property selected by it for distribution through donation within the State—

“(A) to any public agency for use in carrying out or promoting for the residents of a given political area one or more public purposes, such as conservation, economic development, education, parks and recreation, public health, and public safety; or

“(B) to nonprofit educational or public health institutions or organizations, such as medical institutions, hospitals, clinics, health centers, schools, colleges, universities, schools for the mentally retarded, schools for the physically handicapped, child

Federal surplus
property.
Donation to
States and local
organizations.

26 USC 501.

care centers, radio and television stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as educational radio or educational television stations, museums attended by the public, and libraries serving free all residents of a community, district, State, or region, which are exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, for purposes of education or public health (including research for any such purpose).

The Administrator, in allocating and transferring property under this paragraph, shall give fair consideration, consistently with the established criteria, to expressions of need and interest on the part of public agencies and other eligible institutions within that State, and shall give special consideration to requests by eligible recipients, transmitted through the State agency, for specific items of property.

“(4) (A) Before property may be transferred to any State agency, such State shall develop, according to State law, a detailed plan of operation, developed in conformity with the provisions of this subsection, which shall include adequate assurance that the State agency has the necessary organizational and operational authority and capability, including staff, facilities, means and methods of financing, and procedures with respect to: accountability, internal and external audits, cooperative agreements, compliance and utilization reviews, equitable distribution and property disposal, determination of eligibility, and assistance through consultation with advisory bodies and public and private groups. The chief executive officer shall certify and submit the plan to the Administrator. In the event that a State legislature has not developed, according to State law, a State plan within two hundred and seventy calendar days after the date of enactment of this Act, the chief executive officer of the State shall approve, and submit to the Administrator, a temporary State plan. No such plan, and no major amendment thereof, shall be filed with the Administrator until sixty days after general notice of the proposed plan or amendment has been published and interested persons have been given at least thirty days during which to submit comments. In developing and implementing the State plan, the relative needs and resources of all public agencies and other eligible institutions within the State shall be taken into consideration. The Administrator may consult with interested Federal agencies for purposes of obtaining their views concerning the administration and operation of this subsection.

“(B) The State plan shall provide for the fair and equitable distribution of property within such State based on the relative needs and resources of interested public agencies and other eligible institutions within the State and their abilities to utilize the property.

“(C) (i) The State plan of operation shall require the State agency to utilize a management control system and accounting system for donable property transferred under this section of the same types as are required by State law for State-owned property, except that the State agency, with the approval of the chief executive officer of the State, may elect, in lieu of such systems, to utilize such other management control and accounting systems as are effective to govern the utilization, inventory control, accountability, and disposal of property under this subsection.

“(ii) The State plan of operation shall require the State agency to provide for the return of donable property for further distribution if such property, while still usable, has not been placed in use for the purpose for which it was donated within one year of donation or ceases to be used by the donee for such purposes within one year of being placed in use.

“(iii) The State plan shall require the State agency, insofar as practicable, to select property requested by a public agency or other eligible institution within the State and, if so requested by the recipient, to arrange shipment of that property, when acquired, directly to the recipient.

“(D) Where the State agency is authorized to assess and collect service charges from participating recipients to cover direct and reasonable indirect costs of its activities, the method of establishing such charges shall be set out in the State plan of operation. Such charges shall be fair and equitable and shall be based on services performed by the State agency, including, but not limited to, screening, packing, crating, removal, and transportation.

“(E) The State plan of operation shall provide that the State agency may impose reasonable terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions on the use of property to be donated under paragraph (3) of this subsection and shall impose such terms, conditions, reservations, and restrictions in the case of any passenger motor vehicle and any item of other property having a unit acquisition cost of \$3,000 or more. If the Administrator finds that an item or items have characteristics that require special handling or use limitations, he may impose appropriate conditions on the donation of such property.

“(F) The State plan of operation shall provide that surplus property which the State agency determines cannot be utilized by eligible recipients shall be disposed of—

“(i) subject to the disapproval of the Administrator within thirty days after notice to him, through transfer by the State agency to another State agency or through abandonment or destruction where the property has no commercial value or the estimated cost of its continued care and handling would exceed the estimated proceeds from its sale; or

“(ii) otherwise pursuant to the provisions of this Act under such terms and conditions and in such manner as may be prescribed by the Administrator.

Notwithstanding sections 204 and 402(c) of this Act, the Administrator, from the proceeds of sale of any such property, may reimburse the State agency for such expenses relating to the care and handling of such property as he shall deem appropriate.

40 USC 485,
512.

“(5) As used in this subsection, (A) the term ‘public agency’ means any State, political subdivision thereof (including any unit of local government or economic development district), or any department, agency, instrumentality thereof (including instrumentalities created by compact or other agreement between States or political subdivisions), or any Indian tribe, band, group, pueblo, or community located on a State reservation and (B) the term ‘State’ means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.”

“Public agency.”

“State.”

(2) Subsection (k) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), immediately following the word “subsection”, by adding “, except with respect to personal property transferred pursuant to subsection (j)”;

(B) in subparagraph (4) (C), by inserting “or” immediately after the semicolon;

(C) in subparagraph (4) (D), immediately following the words “armed forces”, by striking out “; or” and inserting in lieu thereof a period; and

(D) by striking out subparagraph (4) (E).

(3) Subsection (n) is amended to read as follows:

"(n) For the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of subsection (j), the Administrator or the head of any Federal agency designated by the Administrator, and, with respect to subsection (k) (1), the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare or the head of any Federal agency designated by the Secretary, are authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with State surplus property distribution agencies designated in conformity with subsection (j). Such cooperative agreements may provide for utilization by such Federal agency, with or without payment or reimbursement, of the property, facilities, personnel, and services of the State agency in carrying out any such program, and for making available to such State agency, with or without payment or reimbursement, property, facilities, personnel, or services of such Federal agency in connection with such utilization. Payment or reimbursement, if any, from the State agency shall be credited to the fund or appropriation against which charges would be made if no payment or reimbursement were received. In addition, under such cooperative agreements and subject to such other conditions as may be imposed by the Administrator, or with respect to subsection (k) (1) by the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, any surplus property transferred to the State agency for distribution pursuant to subsection (j) (3) may be retained by the State agency for use in performing its functions. Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, title to property so retained shall vest in the State agency."

(4) Subsection (o) is amended to read as follows:

Report to
Congress.

"(o) The Administrator with respect to personal property donated under subsection (j), and the head of each executive agency disposing of real property under subsection (k), shall submit during the calendar quarter following the close of each fiscal year a report to the Senate (or to the Secretary of the Senate if the Senate is not in session) and to the House of Representatives (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) showing the acquisition cost of all personal property so donated and of all real property so disposed of during the preceding fiscal year. Such reports shall also show donations and transfers of property according to State, and may include such other information and recommendations as the Administrator or other executive agency head concerned deems appropriate."

40 USC 484 note.

SEC. 2. Except to the extent that the Administrator of General Services, in the case of specific items or categories of property, has determined otherwise, no term, condition, reservation, or restriction imposed pursuant to subsection (j) (5) of section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (as in effect prior to the date of enactment of this Act), on the use of any item of personal property donated pursuant to subsection (j) (3) or (j) (4) of section 203 prior to the effective date of this Act as provided in section 9(a), shall remain in effect beyond the thirtieth day after such effective date. This section shall not be deemed to terminate any civil or criminal liability arising out of a violation of such a term, condition, reservation, or restriction which occurred prior to such effective date if a judicial proceeding to enforce such liability is pending on such effective date, or is commenced within one year after such date.

40 USC 484.

SEC. 3. Section 202 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 483) is amended by adding the following new subsections:

"(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, Federal agencies are prohibited from obtaining excess personal property for purposes of furnishing such property to grantees of such agencies, except as follows:

"(1) Under such regulations as the Administrator may prescribe, any Federal agency may obtain excess personal property for purposes of furnishing it to any institution or organization which is a public agency or is nonprofit and exempt from taxation under section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and which is conducting a federally sponsored project pursuant to a grant made for a specific purpose with a specific termination made: *Provided, That*—

Regulations.

26 USC 501.

"(A) such property is to be furnished for use in connection with the grant; and

"(B) the sponsoring Federal agency pays an amount equal to 25 per centum of the original acquisition cost (except for costs of care and handling) of the excess property furnished, such funds to be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Title to excess property obtained under this paragraph shall vest in the grantees and shall be accounted for and disposed of in accordance with procedures governing the accountability of personal property acquired under grant agreements.

"(2) Under such regulations and restrictions as the Administrator may prescribe, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the following:

Regulations.

"(A) property furnished under section 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, where and to the extent that the Administrator of General Services determines that the property to be furnished under such Act is not needed for donation pursuant to section 203(j) of this Act;

22 USC 2358.

Ante, p. 2451.

"(B) scientific equipment furnished under section 11(e) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1870(e));

"(C) property furnished under section 203 of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 580a), in connection with the Cooperative Forest Fire Control Program, where title is retained in the United States; or

"(D) property furnished in connection with grants to Indian tribes as defined in section 3(c) of the Indian Financing Act (25 U.S.C. 1452(c)).

This paragraph shall not preclude any Federal agency obtaining property and furnishing it to a grantee of that agency under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

"(e) Each executive agency shall submit during the calendar quarter following the close of each fiscal year a report to the Administrator showing, with respect to personal property—

Report to Administrator.

"(1) obtained as excess property or as personal property determined to be no longer required for the purposes of the appropriation from which it was purchased, and

"(2) furnished in any manner whatsoever within the United States to any recipient other than a Federal agency,

the acquisition cost, categories of equipment, recipient of all such property, and such other information as the Administrator may require. The Administrator shall submit a report to the Senate (or to the Secretary of the Senate if the Senate is not in session) and to the House of Representatives (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) summarizing and analyzing the reports of the executive agencies."

Report to Congress.

SEC. 4. Section 402(c) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 512(c)) is amended by striking out

"whenever the head of the executive agency concerned determines that it is in the interest of the United States to do so" and inserting in lieu thereof "whenever the head of the executive agency concerned, or the Administrator after consultation with such agency head, determines that return of the property to the United States for such handling is in the interest of the United States".

40 USC 483c.

SEC. 5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as the Administrator of General Services may otherwise provide on recommendation of the head of an affected Federal agency, excess personal property acquired by a Federal agency pursuant to the authority of section 202 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 483) and furnished to and held by a grantee of such agency prior to the effective date of this Act (as provided in section 9(b)) under grants made pursuant to programs established by law shall be regarded as surplus property. The Administrator of General Services upon receipt of a certification by the head of an agency that the property is being used by the grantee for the purposes for which it was furnished shall transfer title to the property to the grantee. The grantor agency shall survey Federal property acquired from excess sources in the possession of its grantees and shall notify the Administrator of General Services, not later than two hundred and forty days from the date of enactment of this Act, of those items of property which are being used by each grantee for the purpose for which it was furnished, and those items which are not being used by each grantee. If the property is not being so used, the Administrator shall transfer such property to an appropriate State agency, upon its request, for distribution in accordance with subsection 203(j) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484(j)). Property not so transferred shall be otherwise disposed of pursuant to the provisions of that Act."

Repeal.

42 USC 3193.

Transfer of
personnel,
records, etc.

40 USC 484c.

SEC. 6. Section 514 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (88 Stat. 1162) is repealed.

SEC. 7. (a) So much of the personnel, property, records, and unexpended balance of appropriations, allocations, and other funds as are, in the judgment of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in relation to those personal property functions which the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare was authorized to perform under section 203 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 484) immediately prior to the date of enactment of this Act and which under this Act become vested in the Administrator of General Services shall be transferred to the General Services Administration at such time or times as the Director shall direct.

(b) Such further measures and dispositions as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget deems necessary to effectuate transfers referred to in subsection (a) of this section shall be carried out in such manner as the Director shall direct.

SEC. 8. Title VI of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 is amended by adding after section 605 the following new section:

"SEX DISCRIMINATION

40 USC 476.

"SEC. 606. No individual shall on the ground of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity carried on or receiving Federal assistance under this Act. This provision shall be enforced through agency provisions and rules similar to those already estab-

lished with respect to racial and other discrimination under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, this remedy is not exclusive and will not prejudice or remove any other legal remedies available to any individual alleging discrimination.”

SEC. 9. The provisions of this Act shall become effective one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10. Not later than thirty months after the effective date of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Administrator and the Comptroller General of the United States shall each transmit to the Congress reports which cover the two-year period from such effective date and contain (1) a full and independent evaluation of the operation of this Act, (2) the extent to which the objectives of this Act have been fulfilled, (3) how the needs served by prior Federal personal property distribution programs have been met, (4) an assessment of the degree to which the distribution of surplus property has met the relative needs of the various public agencies and other eligible institutions, and (5) such recommendations as the Administrator and the Comptroller General, respectively, determine to be necessary or desirable.

42 USC 2000d.

Effective date.
40 USC 484 note.

Reports to
Congress.
40 USC 493.

Approved October 17, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-1429 (Comm. on Government Operations).

SENATE REPORT No. 94-1323 (Comm. on Government Operations).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):

Aug. 24, considered and passed House.

Sept. 28, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 29, House agreed to Senate amendments.