

Secretary be used in determining who is an air traffic controller.

1980—Pub. L. 96-347 substituted “controller; Secretary” for “controller” in section catchline, and in text included employees of the Department of Defense within the meaning of air traffic controller or controller and defined “Secretary” to mean Secretary of Transportation with respect to controllers in the Department of Transportation and Secretary of Defense with respect to controllers in the Department of Defense.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1986 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 99-335 effective Jan. 1, 1987, see section 702(a) of Pub. L. 99-335, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8401 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Section 3 of Pub. L. 96-347 provided that: “This Act [amending this section and sections 3307, 3381 to 3385, and 8335 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 8335 of this title] shall take effect on the later of—

- “(1) October 1, 1980, or
- “(2) the ninetieth day after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 12, 1980].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on 90th day after May 16, 1972, see, section 10 of Pub. L. 92-297, set out as a note under section 3381 of this title.

### CHAPTER 23—MERIT SYSTEM PRINCIPLES

Sec.	
2301.	Merit system principles.
2302.	Prohibited personnel practices.
2303.	Prohibited personnel practices in the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
2304.	Responsibility of the Government Accountability Office.
2305.	Coordination with certain other provisions of law.

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814, substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in item 2304.

#### § 2301. Merit system principles

- (a) This section shall apply to—
  - (1) an Executive agency; and
  - (2) the Government Printing Office.

(b) Federal personnel management should be implemented consistent with the following merit system principles:

(1) Recruitment should be from qualified individuals from appropriate sources in an endeavor to achieve a work force from all segments of society, and selection and advancement should be determined solely on the basis of relative ability, knowledge, and skills, after fair and open competition which assures that all receive equal opportunity.

(2) All employees and applicants for employment should receive fair and equitable treatment in all aspects of personnel management without regard to political affiliation, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age, or handicapping condition, and with proper regard for their privacy and constitutional rights.

(3) Equal pay should be provided for work of equal value, with appropriate consideration of both national and local rates paid by employ-

ers in the private sector, and appropriate incentives and recognition should be provided for excellence in performance.

(4) All employees should maintain high standards of integrity, conduct, and concern for the public interest.

(5) The Federal work force should be used efficiently and effectively.

(6) Employees should be retained on the basis of the adequacy of their performance, inadequate performance should be corrected, and employees should be separated who cannot or will not improve their performance to meet required standards.

(7) Employees should be provided effective education and training in cases in which such education and training would result in better organizational and individual performance.

(8) Employees should be—

(A) protected against arbitrary action, personal favoritism, or coercion for partisan political purposes, and

(B) prohibited from using their official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for election.

(9) Employees should be protected against reprisal for the lawful disclosure of information which the employees reasonably believe evidences—

(A) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(B) mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

(c) In administering the provisions of this chapter—

(1) with respect to any agency (as defined in section 2302(a)(2)(C) of this title), the President shall, pursuant to the authority otherwise available under this title, take any action, including the issuance of rules, regulations, or directives; and

(2) with respect to any entity in the executive branch which is not such an agency or part of such an agency, the head of such entity shall, pursuant to authority otherwise available, take any action, including the issuance of rules, regulations, or directives;

which is consistent with the provisions of this title and which the President or the head, as the case may be, determines is necessary to ensure that personnel management is based on and embodies the merit system principles.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1113; amended Pub. L. 101-474, §5(c), Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1099.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-474 redesignated par. (3) as (2) and struck out former par. (2) which provided that this section is applicable to Administrative Office of United States Courts.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

NOTIFICATION AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEE  
ANTIDISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

Pub. L. 107-174, May 15, 2002, 116 Stat. 566, as amended by Pub. L. 109-435, title VI, §604(f), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3242, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

“(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ‘Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002’.

“(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—[Omitted.]

“TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 101. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds that—

“(1) Federal agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination;

“(2) Congress has heard testimony from individuals, including representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Federation of Government Employees, that point to chronic problems of discrimination and retaliation against Federal employees;

“(3) in August 2000, a jury found that the Environmental Protection Agency had discriminated against a senior social scientist, and awarded that scientist \$600,000;

“(4) in October 2000, an Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigation found that the Environmental Protection Agency had retaliated against a senior scientist for disagreeing with that agency on a matter of science and for helping Congress to carry out its oversight responsibilities;

“(5) there have been several recent class action suits based on discrimination brought against Federal agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Department of Agriculture, the United States Information Agency, and the Social Security Administration;

“(6) notifying Federal employees of their rights under discrimination and whistleblower laws should increase Federal agency compliance with the law;

“(7) requiring annual reports to Congress on the number and severity of discrimination and whistleblower cases brought against each Federal agency should enable Congress to improve its oversight over compliance by agencies with the law; and

“(8) requiring Federal agencies to pay for any discrimination or whistleblower judgment, award, or settlement should improve agency accountability with respect to discrimination and whistleblower laws.

“SEC. 102. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

“It is the sense of Congress that—

“(1) Federal agencies should not retaliate for court judgments or settlements relating to discrimination and whistleblower laws by targeting the claimant or other employees with reductions in compensation, benefits, or workforce to pay for such judgments or settlements;

“(2) the mission of the Federal agency and the employment security of employees who are blameless in a whistleblower incident should not be compromised;

“(3) Federal agencies should not use a reduction in force or furloughs as means of funding a reimbursement under this Act;

“(4)(A) accountability in the enforcement of employee rights is not furthered by terminating—

“(i) the employment of other employees; or

“(ii) the benefits to which those employees are entitled through statute or contract; and

“(B) this Act is not intended to authorize those actions;

“(5)(A) nor is accountability furthered if Federal agencies react to the increased accountability under this Act by taking unfounded disciplinary actions

against managers or by violating the procedural rights of managers who have been accused of discrimination; and

“(B) Federal agencies should ensure that managers have adequate training in the management of a diverse workforce and in dispute resolution and other essential communication skills; and

“(6)(A) Federal agencies are expected to reimburse the General Fund of the Treasury within a reasonable time under this Act; and

“(B) a Federal agency, particularly if the amount of reimbursement under this Act is large relative to annual appropriations for that agency, may need to extend reimbursement over several years in order to avoid—

“(i) reductions in force;

“(ii) furloughs;

“(iii) other reductions in compensation or benefits for the workforce of the agency; or

“(iv) an adverse effect on the mission of the agency.

“SEC. 103. DEFINITIONS.

“For purposes of this Act—

“(1) the term ‘applicant for Federal employment’ means an individual applying for employment in or under a Federal agency;

“(2) the term ‘basis of alleged discrimination’ shall have the meaning given such term under section 303;

“(3) the term ‘Federal agency’ means an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code), the United States Postal Service, or the Postal Regulatory Commission;

“(4) the term ‘Federal employee’ means an individual employed in or under a Federal agency;

“(5) the term ‘former Federal employee’ means an individual formerly employed in or under a Federal agency; and

“(6) the term ‘issue of alleged discrimination’ shall have the meaning given such term under section 303.

“SEC. 104. EFFECTIVE DATE.

“This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st fiscal year beginning more than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [May 15, 2002].

“TITLE II—FEDERAL EMPLOYEE  
DISCRIMINATION AND RETALIATION

“SEC. 201. REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT.

“(a) APPLICABILITY.—This section applies with respect to any payment made in accordance with section 2414, 2517, 2672, or 2677 of title 28, United States Code, and under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code (relating to judgments, awards, and compromise settlements) to any Federal employee, former Federal employee, or applicant for Federal employment, in connection with any proceeding brought by or on behalf of such employee, former employee, or applicant under—

“(1) any provision of law cited in subsection (c); or

“(2) any other provision of law which prohibits any form of discrimination, as identified under rules issued under section 204.

“(b) REQUIREMENT.—An amount equal to the amount of each payment described in subsection (a) shall be reimbursed to the fund described in section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, out of any appropriation, fund, or other account (excluding any part of such appropriation, of such fund, or of such account available for the enforcement of any Federal law) available for operating expenses of the Federal agency to which the discriminatory conduct involved is attributable as determined under section 204.

“(c) SCOPE.—The provisions of law cited in this subsection are the following:

“(1) Section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code, as applied to discriminatory conduct described in paragraphs (1) and (8), or described in paragraph (9) of such section as applied to discriminatory conduct described in paragraphs (1) and (8), of such section.

“(2) The provisions of law specified in section 2302(d) of title 5, United States Code.

“SEC. 202. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Written notification of the rights and protections available to Federal employees, former Federal employees, and applicants for Federal employment (as the case may be) in connection with the respective provisions of law covered by paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 201(a) shall be provided to such employees, former employees, and applicants—

“(1) in accordance with otherwise applicable provisions of law; or

“(2) if, or to the extent that, no such notification would otherwise be required, in such time, form, and manner as shall under section 204 be required in order to carry out the requirements of this section.

“(b) POSTING ON THE INTERNET.—Any written notification under this section shall include, but not be limited to, the posting of the information required under paragraph (1) or (2) (as applicable) of subsection (a) on the Internet site of the Federal agency involved.

“(c) EMPLOYEE TRAINING.—Each Federal agency shall provide to the employees of such agency training regarding the rights and remedies applicable to such employees under the laws cited in section 201(c).

“SEC. 203. REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Subject to subsection (b), not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, each Federal agency shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Committee on Governmental Affairs [now Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs] of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform [now Committee on Oversight and Government Reform] of the House of Representatives, each committee of Congress with jurisdiction relating to the agency, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Attorney General an annual report which shall include, with respect to the fiscal year—

“(1) the number of cases arising under each of the respective provisions of law covered by paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 201(a) in which discrimination on the part of such agency was alleged;

“(2) the status or disposition of cases described in paragraph (1);

“(3) the amount of money required to be reimbursed by such agency under section 201 in connection with each of such cases, separately identifying the aggregate amount of such reimbursements attributable to the payment of attorneys’ fees, if any;

“(4) the number of employees disciplined for discrimination, retaliation, harassment, or any other infraction of any provision of law referred to in paragraph (1);

“(5) the final year-end data posted under section 301(c)(1)(B) for such fiscal year (without regard to section 301(c)(2));

“(6) a detailed description of—

“(A) the policy implemented by that agency relating to appropriate disciplinary actions against a Federal employee who—

“(i) discriminated against any individual in violation of any of the laws cited under section 201(a)(1) or (2); or

“(ii) committed another prohibited personnel practice that was revealed in the investigation of a complaint alleging a violation of any of the laws cited under section 201(a)(1) or (2); and

“(B) with respect to each of such laws, the number of employees who are disciplined in accordance with such policy and the specific nature of the disciplinary action taken;

“(7) an analysis of the information described under paragraphs (1) through (6) (in conjunction with data provided to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in compliance with part 1614 of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations) including—

“(A) an examination of trends;

“(B) causal analysis;

“(C) practical knowledge gained through experience; and

“(D) any actions planned or taken to improve complaint or civil rights programs of the agency; and

“(8) any adjustment (to the extent the adjustment can be ascertained in the budget of the agency) to comply with the requirements under section 201.

“(b) FIRST REPORT.—The 1st report submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each item under subsection (a) data for each of the 5 immediately preceding fiscal years (or, if data are not available for all 5 fiscal years, for each of those 5 fiscal years for which data are available).

“SEC. 204. RULES AND GUIDELINES.

“(a) ISSUANCE OF RULES AND GUIDELINES.—The President (or the designee of the President) shall issue—

“(1) rules to carry out this title;

“(2) rules to require that a comprehensive study be conducted in the executive branch to determine the best practices relating to the appropriate disciplinary actions against Federal employees who commit the actions described under clauses (i) and (ii) of section 203(a)(6)(A); and

“(3) based on the results of such study, advisory guidelines incorporating best practices that Federal agencies may follow to take such actions against such employees.

“(b) AGENCY NOTIFICATION REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF GUIDELINES.—Not later than 30 days after the issuance of guidelines under subsection (a), each Federal agency shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Attorney General a written statement specifying in detail—

“(1) whether such agency has adopted and will fully follow such guidelines;

“(2) if such agency has not adopted such guidelines; and the reasons for the failure to adopt such guidelines; and

“(3) if such agency will not fully follow such guidelines, the reasons for the decision not to fully follow such guidelines and an explanation of the extent to which such agency will not follow such guidelines.

“SEC. 205. CLARIFICATION OF REMEDIES.

“Consistent with Federal law, nothing in this title shall prevent any Federal employee, former Federal employee, or applicant for Federal employment from exercising any right otherwise available under the laws of the United States.

“SEC. 206. STUDIES BY GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE [now GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE] ON EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES AND ON ASCERTAINMENT OF CERTAIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COSTS.

“(a) STUDY ON EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES.—

“(1) STUDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [May 15, 2002], the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall conduct a study relating to the effects of eliminating the requirement that Federal employees aggrieved by violations of any of the laws specified under section 201(c) exhaust administrative remedies before filing complaints with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

“(B) CONTENTS.—The study shall include a detailed summary of matters investigated, information collected, and conclusions formulated that lead to determinations of how the elimination of such requirement will—

“(i) expedite handling of allegations of such violations within Federal agencies and will streamline the complaint-filing process;

“(ii) affect the workload of the Commission;

“(iii) affect established alternative dispute resolution procedures in such agencies; and

“(iv) affect any other matters determined by the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] to be appropriate for consideration.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completion of the study required by paragraph (1), the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Attorney General a report containing the information required to be included in such study.

“(b) STUDY ON ASCERTAINMENT OF CERTAIN COSTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN DEFENDING DISCRIMINATION AND WHISTLEBLOWER CASES.—

“(1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [May 15, 2002], the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall conduct a study of the methods that could be used for, and the extent of any administrative burden that would be imposed on, the Department of Justice to ascertain the personnel and administrative costs incurred in defending in each case arising from a proceeding identified under section 201(a)(1) and (2).

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after completion of the study required by paragraph (1), the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate a report containing the information required to be included in the study.

“(c) STUDIES ON STATUTORY EFFECTS ON AGENCY OPERATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act [May 15, 2002], the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall conduct—

“(A) a study on the effects of section 201 on the operations of Federal agencies; and

“(B) a study on the effects of section 13 of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 612) [now 41 U.S.C. 7108] on the operations of Federal agencies.

“(2) CONTENTS.—Each study under paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the applicable statutes of the study—

“(A) a summary of the number of cases in which a payment was made in accordance with section 2414, 2517, 2672, or 2677 of title 28, United States Code, and under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code;

“(B) a summary of the length of time Federal agencies used to complete reimbursements of payments described under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) conclusions that assist in making determinations on how the reimbursements of payments described under subparagraph (A) will affect—

“(i) the operations of Federal agencies;

“(ii) funds appropriated on an annual basis;

“(iii) employee relations and other human capital matters;

“(iv) settlements; and

“(v) any other matter determined by the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] to be appropriate for consideration.

“(3) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of each study under paragraph (1), the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall submit a report on each study, respectively, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Committee on Governmental Affairs [now Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs] of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform [now Committee on Oversight and Government Reform] of the House of Representatives, and the Attorney General.

“(d) STUDY ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL COSTS INCURRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [May 15, 2002], the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall conduct a study on the extent of any administrative and personnel costs incurred by the Department of the Treasury to account for payments made in accordance with section 2414, 2517, 2672, or 2677 of title 28, United States Code, and under section 1304 of title 31, United States Code, as a result of—

“(A) this Act; and

“(B) the Contracts Dispute [Contract Disputes] Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601 note [see 41 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.]; Public Law 95-563).

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the study under paragraph (1), the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] shall submit a report on the study to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Committee on Governmental Affairs [now Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs] of the Senate, the Committee on Government Reform [now Committee on Oversight and Government Reform] of the House of Representatives, and the Attorney General.

### “TITLE III—EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLAINT DATA DISCLOSURE

#### “SEC. 301. DATA TO BE POSTED BY EMPLOYING FEDERAL AGENCIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency shall post on its public Web site, in the time, form, and manner prescribed under section 303 (in conformance with the requirements of this section), summary statistical data relating to equal employment opportunity complaints filed with such agency by employees or former employees of, or applicants for employment with, such agency.

“(b) CONTENT REQUIREMENTS.—The data posted by a Federal agency under this section shall include, for the then current fiscal year, the following:

“(1) The number of complaints filed with such agency in such fiscal year.

“(2) The number of individuals filing those complaints (including as the agent of a class).

“(3) The number of individuals who filed 2 or more of those complaints.

“(4) The number of complaints (described in paragraph (1)) in which each of the various bases of alleged discrimination is alleged.

“(5) The number of complaints (described in paragraph (1)) in which each of the various issues of alleged discrimination is alleged.

“(6) The average length of time, for each step of the process, it is taking such agency to process complaints (taking into account all complaints pending for any length of time in such fiscal year, whether first filed in such fiscal year or earlier). Average times under this paragraph shall be posted—

“(A) for all such complaints,

“(B) for all such complaints in which a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is not requested, and

“(C) for all such complaints in which a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is requested.

“(7) The total number of final agency actions rendered in such fiscal year involving a finding of discrimination and, of that number—

“(A) the number and percentage that were rendered without a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and

“(B) the number and percentage that were rendered after a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

“(8) Of the total number of final agency actions rendered in such fiscal year involving a finding of discrimination—

“(A) the number and percentage involving a finding of discrimination based on each of the respective bases of alleged discrimination, and

“(B) of the number specified under subparagraph (A) for each of the respective bases of alleged discrimination—

“(i) the number and percentage that were rendered without a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and

“(ii) the number and percentage that were rendered after a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

“(9) Of the total number of final agency actions rendered in such fiscal year involving a finding of discrimination—

“(A) the number and percentage involving a finding of discrimination in connection with each of the respective issues of alleged discrimination, and

“(B) of the number specified under subparagraph (A) for each of the respective issues of alleged discrimination—

“(i) the number and percentage that were rendered without a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and

“(ii) the number and percentage that were rendered after a hearing before an administrative judge of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

“(10)(A) Of the total number of complaints pending in such fiscal year (as described in the parenthetical matter in paragraph (6)), the number that were first filed before the start of the then current fiscal year.

“(B) With respect to those pending complaints that were first filed before the start of the then current fiscal year—

“(i) the number of individuals who filed those complaints, and

“(ii) the number of those complaints which are at the various steps of the complaint process.

“(C) Of the total number of complaints pending in such fiscal year (as described in the parenthetical matter in paragraph (6)), the total number of complaints with respect to which the agency violated the requirements of section 1614.106(e)(2) of title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on July 1, 2000, and amended from time to time) by failing to conduct within 180 days of the filing of such complaints an impartial and appropriate investigation of such complaints.

“(c) TIMING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) CURRENT YEAR DATA.—Data posted under this section for the then current fiscal year shall include both—

“(A) interim year-to-date data, updated quarterly, and

“(B) final year-end data.

“(2) DATA FOR PRIOR YEARS.—The data posted by a Federal agency under this section for a fiscal year (both interim and final) shall include, for each item under subsection (b), such agency’s corresponding year-end data for each of the 5 immediately preceding fiscal years (or, if not available for all 5 fiscal years, for however many of those 5 fiscal years for which data are available).

“SEC. 302. DATA TO BE POSTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall post on its public Web site, in the time, form, and manner prescribed under section 303 for purposes of this section, summary statistical data relating to—

“(1) hearings requested before an administrative judge of the Commission on complaints described in section 301, and

“(2) appeals filed with the Commission from final agency actions on complaints described in section 301.

“(b) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.—The data posted under this section shall, with respect to the hearings and appeals described in subsection (a), include summary statistical data corresponding to that described in paragraphs (1) through (10) of section 301(b), and shall be subject to the same timing and other requirements as set forth in section 301(c).

“(c) COORDINATION.—The data required under this section shall be in addition to the data the Commission is required to post under section 301 as an employing Federal agency.

“SEC. 303. RULES.

“The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall issue any rules necessary to carry out this title.”

[For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.]

[For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, including the related functions of the Secretary of the Treasury, to the Department of Justice, see section 531(c) of Title 6, Domestic Security, and section 599A(c)(1) of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.]

[Memorandum of President of the United States, July 8, 2003, 68 F.R. 45155, delegated to Director of Office of Personnel Management authority of President under section 204(a) of Public Law 107-174, set out above.]

### § 2302. Prohibited personnel practices

(a)(1) For the purpose of this title, “prohibited personnel practice” means any action described in subsection (b).

(2) For the purpose of this section—

(A) “personnel action” means—

(i) an appointment;

(ii) a promotion;

(iii) an action under chapter 75 of this title or other disciplinary or corrective action;

(iv) a detail, transfer, or reassignment;

(v) a reinstatement;

(vi) a restoration;

(vii) a reemployment;

(viii) a performance evaluation under chapter 43 of this title;

(ix) a decision concerning pay, benefits, or awards, or concerning education or training if the education or training may reasonably be expected to lead to an appointment, promotion, performance evaluation, or other action described in this subparagraph;

(x) a decision to order psychiatric testing or examination; and

(xi) any other significant change in duties, responsibilities, or working conditions;

with respect to an employee in, or applicant for, a covered position in an agency, and in the case of an alleged prohibited personnel practice described in subsection (b)(8), an employee or applicant for employment in a Government corporation as defined in section 9101 of title 31;

(B) “covered position” means, with respect to any personnel action, any position in the competitive service, a career appointee position in the Senior Executive Service, or a position in the excepted service, but does not include any position which is, prior to the personnel action—

(i) excepted from the competitive service because of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character; or

(ii) excluded from the coverage of this section by the President based on a determination by the President that it is necessary and warranted by conditions of good administration; and

(C) “agency” means an Executive agency and the Government Printing Office, but does not include—

(i) a Government corporation, except in the case of an alleged prohibited personnel practice described under subsection (b)(8);

(ii) the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and, as determined by the President, any Executive agency or unit thereof the principal function of which is the conduct of foreign intelligence or counter-intelligence activities; or

(iii) the Government Accountability Office.

(b) Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority—

(1) discriminate for or against any employee or applicant for employment—

(A) on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, as prohibited under section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-16);

(B) on the basis of age, as prohibited under sections 12 and 15 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 631, 633a);

(C) on the basis of sex, as prohibited under section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d));

(D) on the basis of handicapping condition, as prohibited under section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791); or

(E) on the basis of marital status or political affiliation, as prohibited under any law, rule, or regulation;

(2) solicit or consider any recommendation or statement, oral or written, with respect to any individual who requests or is under consideration for any personnel action unless such recommendation or statement is based on the personal knowledge or records of the person furnishing it and consists of—

(A) an evaluation of the work performance, ability, aptitude, or general qualifications of such individual; or

(B) an evaluation of the character, loyalty, or suitability of such individual;

(3) coerce the political activity of any person (including the providing of any political contribution or service), or take any action against any employee or applicant for employment as a reprisal for the refusal of any person to engage in such political activity;

(4) deceive or willfully obstruct any person with respect to such person’s right to compete for employment;

(5) influence any person to withdraw from competition for any position for the purpose of improving or injuring the prospects of any other person for employment;

(6) grant any preference or advantage not authorized by law, rule, or regulation to any employee or applicant for employment (including defining the scope or manner of competition or the requirements for any position) for the purpose of improving or injuring the prospects of any particular person for employment;

(7) appoint, employ, promote, advance, or advocate for appointment, employment, promotion, or advancement, in or to a civilian position any individual who is a relative (as defined in section 3110(a)(3) of this title) of such employee if such position is in the agency in which such employee is serving as a public official (as defined in section 3110(a)(2) of this title) or over which such employee exercises jurisdiction or control as such an official;

(8) take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action with respect to any employee or applicant for employment because of—

(A) any disclosure of information by an employee or applicant which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

(i) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety,

if such disclosure is not specifically prohibited by law and if such information is not specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs; or

(B) any disclosure to the Special Counsel, or to the Inspector General of an agency or another employee designated by the head of the agency to receive such disclosures, of information which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

(i) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(ii) gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety;

(9) take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, any personnel action against any employee or applicant for employment because of—

(A) the exercise of any appeal, complaint, or grievance right granted by any law, rule, or regulation;

(B) testifying for or otherwise lawfully assisting any individual in the exercise of any right referred to in subparagraph (A);

(C) cooperating with or disclosing information to the Inspector General of an agency, or the Special Counsel, in accordance with applicable provisions of law; or

(D) for<sup>1</sup> refusing to obey an order that would require the individual to violate a law;

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The word “for” probably should not appear.

(10) discriminate for or against any employee or applicant for employment on the basis of conduct which does not adversely affect the performance of the employee or applicant or the performance of others; except that nothing in this paragraph shall prohibit an agency from taking into account in determining suitability or fitness any conviction of the employee or applicant for any crime under the laws of any State, of the District of Columbia, or of the United States;

(11)(A) knowingly take, recommend, or approve any personnel action if the taking of such action would violate a veterans' preference requirement; or

(B) knowingly fail to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action if the failure to take such action would violate a veterans' preference requirement; or

(12) take or fail to take any other personnel action if the taking of or failure to take such action violates any law, rule, or regulation implementing, or directly concerning, the merit system principles contained in section 2301 of this title.

This subsection shall not be construed to authorize the withholding of information from the Congress or the taking of any personnel action against an employee who discloses information to the Congress.

(c) The head of each agency shall be responsible for the prevention of prohibited personnel practices, for the compliance with and enforcement of applicable civil service laws, rules, and regulations, and other aspects of personnel management, and for ensuring (in consultation with the Office of Special Counsel) that agency employees are informed of the rights and remedies available to them under this chapter and chapter 12 of this title. Any individual to whom the head of an agency delegates authority for personnel management, or for any aspect thereof, shall be similarly responsible within the limits of the delegation.

(d) This section shall not be construed to extinguish or lessen any effort to achieve equal employment opportunity through affirmative action or any right or remedy available to any employee or applicant for employment in the civil service under—

(1) section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-16), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin;

(2) sections 12 and 15 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 631, 633a), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age;

(3) under section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(d)), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex;

(4) section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of handicapping condition; or

(5) the provisions of any law, rule, or regulation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of marital status or political affiliation.

(e)(1) For the purpose of this section, the term "veterans' preference requirement" means any of the following provisions of law:

(A) Sections 2108, 3305(b), 3309, 3310, 3311, 3312, 3313, 3314, 3315, 3316, 3317(b), 3318, 3320, 3351, 3352, 3363, 3501, 3502(b), 3504, and 4303(e) and (with respect to a preference eligible referred to in section 7511(a)(1)(B)) subchapter II of chapter 75 and section 7701.

(B) Sections 943(c)(2) and 1784(c) of title 10.

(C) Section 1308(b) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

(D) Section 301(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980.

(E) Sections 106(f),<sup>2</sup> 7281(e), and 7802(5)<sup>2</sup> of title 38.

(F) Section 1005(a) of title 39.

(G) Any other provision of law that the Director of the Office of Personnel Management designates in regulations as being a veterans' preference requirement for the purposes of this subsection.

(H) Any regulation prescribed under subsection (b) or (c) of section 1302 and any other regulation that implements a provision of law referred to in any of the preceding subparagraphs.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, no authority to order corrective action shall be available in connection with a prohibited personnel practice described in subsection (b)(11). Nothing in this paragraph shall be considered to affect any authority under section 1215 (relating to disciplinary action).

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1114; amended Pub. L. 101-12, §4, Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 32; Pub. L. 101-474, §5(d), Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1099; Pub. L. 102-378, §2(5), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1346; Pub. L. 103-94, §8(c), Oct. 6, 1993, 107 Stat. 1007; Pub. L. 103-359, title V, §501(c), Oct. 14, 1994, 108 Stat. 3429; Pub. L. 103-424, §5, Oct. 29, 1994, 108 Stat. 4363; Pub. L. 104-197, title III, §315(b)(2), Sept. 16, 1996, 110 Stat. 2416, Pub. L. 104-201, div. A, title XI, §1122(a)(1), title XVI, §1615(b), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2687, 2741; Pub. L. 105-339, §6(a), (b), (c)(2), Oct. 31, 1998, 112 Stat. 3187, 3188; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title IX, §931(a)(1), Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4575.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1308(b) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, referred to in subsec. (e)(1)(C), is classified to section 3198(b) of Title 16, Conservation.

Section 301(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, referred to in subsec. (e)(1)(D), is classified to section 3941(c) of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse.

Section 106(f) of title 38, referred to in subsec. (e)(1)(E), was enacted subsequent to the enactment of subsec. (e) of this section.

Section 7802(5) of title 38, referred to in subsec. (e)(1)(E), was redesignated section 7802(e) of title 38 by Pub. L. 108-170, title III, §304(b)(3), Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2059.

#### AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(2)(C)(ii). Pub. L. 110-417 substituted "National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency" for "National Imagery and Mapping Agency".

2004—Subsec. (a)(2)(C)(iii). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted "Government Accountability Office" for "General Accounting Office".

<sup>2</sup> See References in Text note below.

1998—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 105-339, §6(c)(2), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: “For purposes of this title, ‘prohibited personnel practice’ means the following:

“(A) Any action described in subsection (b) of this section.

“(B) Any action or failure to act that is designated as a prohibited personnel action under section 1599c(a) of title 10.”

Subsec. (b)(10) to (12). Pub. L. 105-339, §6(a), struck out “or” at end of par. (10), added par. (11), and redesignated former par. (11) as (12).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 105-339, §6(b), added subsec. (e).

1996—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 104-201, §1615(b), amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: “For the purpose of this title, ‘prohibited personnel practice’ means any action described in subsection (b) of this section.”

Subsec. (a)(2)(C)(ii). Pub. L. 104-201, §1122(a)(1), substituted “National Imagery and Mapping Agency” for “Central Imagery Office”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 104-197 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “solicit or consider any recommendation or statement, oral or written, with respect to any individual who requests or is under consideration for any personnel action except as provided under section 3303(f);”

1994—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 103-424, §5(a)(3), in concluding provisions, inserted before semicolon “, and in the case of an alleged prohibited personnel practice described in subsection (b)(8), an employee or applicant for employment in a Government corporation as defined in section 9101 of title 31”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(A)(x), (xi). Pub. L. 103-424, §5(a)(1), (2), added cls. (x) and (xi) and struck out former cl. (x) which read as follows: “any other significant change in duties or responsibilities which is inconsistent with the employee’s salary or grade level;”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(B). Pub. L. 103-424, §5(b), amended subpar. (B) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (B) read as follows: “‘covered position’ means any position in the competitive service, a career appointee position in the Senior Executive Service, or a position in the excepted service, but does not include—

“(i) a position which is excepted from the competitive service because of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character; or

“(ii) any position excluded from the coverage of this section by the President based on a determination by the President that it is necessary and warranted by conditions of good administration.”

Subsec. (a)(2)(C)(i). Pub. L. 103-424, §5(c), inserted before semicolon “, except in the case of an alleged prohibited personnel practice described under subsection (b)(8)”.

Subsec. (a)(2)(C)(ii). Pub. L. 103-359 inserted “the Central Imagery Office,” after “Defense Intelligence Agency.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-424, §5(d), inserted before period at end of first sentence “, and for ensuring (in consultation with the Office of Special Counsel) that agency employees are informed of the rights and remedies available to them under this chapter and chapter 12 of this title”.

1993—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 103-94 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “solicit or consider any recommendation or statement, oral or written, with respect to any individual who requests or is under consideration for any personnel action unless such recommendation or statement is based on the personal knowledge or records of the person furnishing it and consists of—

“(A) an evaluation of the work performance, ability, aptitude, or general qualifications of such individual; or

“(B) an evaluation of the character, loyalty, or suitability of such individual;”.

1992—Subsec. (b)(8)(B). Pub. L. 102-378 substituted “Special Counsel” for “Special Counsel of the Merit Systems Protection Board”.

1990—Subsec. (a)(2)(C). Pub. L. 101-474 struck out “, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts,” after “means an Executive agency”.

1989—Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 101-12, §4(a), in introductory provision inserted “, or threaten to take or fail to take,” after “fail to” and substituted “because of” for “as a reprisal for”, in subpar. (A) substituted “any disclosure” for “a disclosure”, in subpar. (A)(ii) inserted “gross” before “mismanagement”, in subpar. (B) substituted “any disclosure” for “a disclosure”, and in subpar. (B)(ii) inserted “gross” before “mismanagement”.

Subsec. (b)(9). Pub. L. 101-12, §4(b), amended par. (9) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (9) read as follows: “take or fail to take any personnel action against any employee or applicant for employment as a reprisal for the exercise of any appeal right granted by any law, rule, or regulation;”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by section 1122(a)(1) of Pub. L. 104-201 effective Oct. 1, 1996, see section 1124 of Pub. L. 104-201, set out as a note under section 193 of Title 10, Armed Forces.

Section 315(c) of Pub. L. 104-197 provided that: “This section [amending this section and section 3303 of this title] shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 16, 1996].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT; SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-94 effective 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, but not to release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under amended provision, which is to be treated as remaining in force for purpose of sustaining any proper proceeding or action for enforcement of that penalty, forfeiture, or liability, and no provision of Pub. L. 103-94 to affect any proceedings with respect to which charges were filed on or before 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, with orders to be issued in such proceedings and appeals taken therefrom as if Pub. L. 103-94 had not been enacted, see section 12 of Pub. L. 103-94, set out as an Effective Date; Savings Provision note under section 7321 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-12 effective 90 days following Apr. 10, 1989, see section 11 of Pub. L. 101-12, set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

#### SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 105-339, §6(d), Oct. 31, 1998, 112 Stat. 3188, provided that: “This section [amending this section and repealing section 1599c of Title 10, Armed Forces] shall be treated as if it had never been enacted for purposes of any personnel action (within the meaning of section 2302 of title 5, United States Code) preceding the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 31, 1998].”

#### FEDERAL BENEFITS AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

Memorandum of President of the United States, June 17, 2009, 74 F.R. 29393, provided:

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Millions of hard-working, dedicated, and patriotic public servants are employed by the Federal Government as part of the civilian workforce, and many of these devoted Americans have same-sex domestic partners. Leading companies in the private sector are free to provide to same-sex domestic partners the same benefits they provide to married people of the opposite sex. Executive departments and agencies, however, may only provide benefits on that basis if they have legal authorization to do so. My Administration is not authorized by Federal law to extend a number of available Federal benefits to the same-sex partners of Federal employees. Within existing law, however, my Administration, in consultation with the Secretary of State, who oversees our Foreign Service employees, and the



Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who oversees human resource management for our civil service employees, has identified areas in which statutory authority exists to achieve greater equality for the Federal workforce through extension to same-sex domestic partners of benefits currently available to married people of the opposite sex. Extending available benefits will help the Federal Government compete with the private sector to recruit and retain the best and the brightest employees.

I hereby request the following:

**SECTION 1. *Extension of Identified Benefits.*** The Secretary of State and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall, in consultation with the Department of Justice, extend the benefits they have respectively identified to qualified same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees where doing so can be achieved and is consistent with Federal law.

**SEC. 2. *Review of Governmentwide Benefits.*** The heads of all other executive departments and agencies, in consultation with the Office of Personnel Management, shall conduct a review of the benefits provided by their respective departments and agencies to determine what authority they have to extend such benefits to same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees. The results of this review shall be reported within 90 days to the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who, in consultation with the Department of Justice, shall recommend to me any additional measures that can be taken, consistent with existing law, to provide benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of Federal Government employees.

**SEC. 3. *Promoting Compliance with Existing Law Requiring Federal Workplaces to be Free of Discrimination Based on Non-Merit Factors.*** The Office of Personnel Management shall issue guidance within 90 days to all executive departments and agencies regarding compliance with, and implementation of, the civil service laws, rules, and regulations, including 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(10), which make it unlawful to discriminate against Federal employees or applicants for Federal employment on the basis of factors not related to job performance.

**SEC. 4. *General Provisions.*** (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) Authority granted by law or Executive Order to an agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) Functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

**SEC. 5. *Publication.*** The Director of the Office of Personnel Management is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA.

EXTENSION OF BENEFITS TO SAME-SEX DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Memorandum of President of the United States, June 2, 2010, 75 F.R. 32247, provided:

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

For far too long, many of our Government's hard-working, dedicated LGBT employees have been denied equal access to the basic rights and benefits their colleagues enjoy. This kind of systemic inequality undermines the health, well-being, and security not just of our Federal workforce, but also of their families and communities. That is why, last June, I directed the heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies), in consultation with the Office of Personnel Man-

agement (OPM), to conduct a thorough review of the benefits they provide and to identify any that could be extended to LGBT employees and their partners and families. Although legislative action is necessary to provide full equality to LGBT Federal employees, the agencies have identified a number of benefits that can be extended under existing law. OPM, in consultation with the Department of Justice, has provided me with a report recommending that all of the identified benefits be extended.

Accordingly, I hereby direct the following:

**SECTION 1. *Immediate Actions To Extend Benefits.*** Agencies should immediately take the following actions, consistent with existing law, in order to extend benefits to the same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees, and, where applicable, to the children of same-sex domestic partners of Federal employees:

(a) The Director of OPM should take appropriate action to:

(i) clarify that the children of employees' same-sex domestic partners fall within the definition of "child" for purposes of Federal child-care subsidies, and, where appropriate, for child-care services;

(ii) clarify that, for purposes of employee assistance programs, same-sex domestic partners and their children qualify as "family members";

(iii) issue a proposed rule that would clarify that employees' same-sex domestic partners qualify as "family members" for purposes of noncompetitive appointments made pursuant to Executive Order 12721 of July 30, 1990;

(iv) issue a proposed rule that would add a Federal retiree's same-sex domestic partner to the list of individuals presumed to have an insurable interest in the employee pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8339(k)(1), 8420;

(v) clarify that under appropriate circumstances, employees' same-sex domestic partners and their children qualify as dependents for purposes of evacuation payments made under 5 U.S.C. 5522-5523; Folio: 1632 [sic]

(vi) amend its guidance on implementing President Clinton's April 11, 1997, memorandum to heads of executive departments and agencies on "Expanded Family and Medical Leave Policies" to specify that the 24 hours of unpaid leave made available to Federal employees in connection with (i) school and early childhood educational activities; (ii) routine family medical purposes; and (iii) elderly relatives' health or care needs, may be used to meet the needs of an employee's same-sex domestic partner or the same-sex domestic partner's children; and

(vii) clarify that employees' same-sex domestic partners qualify as dependents for purposes of calculating the extra allowance payable under 5 U.S.C. 5942a to assist employees stationed on Johnston Island, subject to any limitations applicable to spouses.

(b) The Administrator of General Services should take appropriate action to amend the definitions of "immediate family" and "dependent" appearing in the Federal Travel Regulations, 41 C.F.R. Chs. 300-304, to include same-sex domestic partners and their children, so that employees and their domestic partners and children can obtain the full benefits available under applicable law, including certain travel, relocation, and subsistence payments.

(c) All agencies offering any of the benefits specified by OPM in implementing guidance under section 3 of this memorandum, including credit union membership, access to fitness facilities, and access to planning and counseling services, should take all appropriate action to provide the same level of benefits that is provided to employees' spouses and their children to employees' same-sex domestic partners and their children.

(d) All agencies with authority to provide benefits to employees outside of the context of title 5, United States Code should take all appropriate actions to ensure that the benefits being provided to employees' spouses and their children are also being provided, at an equivalent level wherever permitted by law, to their employees' same-sex domestic partners and their children.

SEC. 2. *Continuing Obligation To Provide New Benefits.* In the future, all agencies that provide new benefits to the spouses of Federal employees and their children should, to the extent permitted by law, also provide them to the same-sex domestic partners of their employees and those same-sex domestic partners' children. This section applies to appropriated and non-appropriated fund instrumentalities of such agencies.

SEC. 3. *Monitoring and Guidance.* The Director of OPM shall monitor compliance with this memorandum, and may instruct agencies to provide the Director with reports on the status of their compliance, and prescribe the form Folio: 1633 [sic] and manner of such reports. The Director of OPM shall also issue guidance to ensure consistent and appropriate implementation.

SEC. 4. *Reporting.* By April 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the Director of OPM shall provide the President with a report on the progress of the agencies in implementing this memorandum until such time as all recommendations have been appropriately implemented.

SEC. 5. *General Provisions.* (a) Except as expressly stated herein, nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) authority granted by law or Executive Order to an agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

SEC. 6. *Publication.* The Director of OPM is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

BARACK OBAMA.

### § 2303. Prohibited personnel practices in the Federal Bureau of Investigation

(a) Any employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action, shall not, with respect to such authority, take or fail to take a personnel action with respect to any employee of the Bureau as a reprisal for a disclosure of information by the employee to the Attorney General (or an employee designated by the Attorney General for such purpose) which the employee or applicant reasonably believes evidences—

(1) a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or

(2) mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

For the purpose of this subsection, “personnel action” means any action described in clauses (i) through (x) of section 2302(a)(2)(A) of this title with respect to an employee in, or applicant for, a position in the Bureau (other than a position of a confidential, policy-determining, policymaking, or policy-advocating character).

(b) The Attorney General shall prescribe regulations to ensure that such a personnel action shall not be taken against an employee of the Bureau as a reprisal for any disclosure of information described in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The President shall provide for the enforcement of this section in a manner consistent with

applicable provisions of sections 1214 and 1221 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1117; amended Pub. L. 101-12, §9(a)(1), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 34.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1989—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-12 substituted “applicable provisions of sections 1214 and 1221” for “the provisions of section 1206”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-12 effective 90 days following Apr. 10, 1989, see section 11 of Pub. L. 101-12, set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

#### DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES CONCERNING FBI EMPLOYEES UNDER THE CIVIL SERVICE REFORM ACT OF 1978

Memorandum of President of the United States, Apr. 14, 1997, 62 F.R. 23123, provided:

Memorandum for the Attorney General

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Attorney General the functions concerning employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation vested in the President by section 101(a) of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-454), as amended by the Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989 (Public Law 101-12), and codified at section 2303(c) of title 5, United States Code, and direct the Attorney General to establish appropriate processes within the Department of Justice to carry out these functions. Not later than March 1 of each year, the Attorney General shall provide a report to the President stating the number of allegations of reprisal received during the preceding calendar year, the disposition of each allegation resolved during the preceding calendar year, and the number of unresolved allegations pending as of the end of the calendar year.

All of the functions vested in the President by section 2303(c) of title 5, United States Code, and delegated to the Attorney General, may be redelegated, as appropriate, provided that such functions may not be redelegated to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

### § 2304. Responsibility of the Government Accountability Office

If requested by either House of the Congress (or any committee thereof), or if considered necessary by the Comptroller General, the Government Accountability Office shall conduct audits and reviews to assure compliance with the laws, rules, and regulations governing employment in the executive branch and in the competitive service and to assess the effectiveness and soundness of Federal personnel management.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1118; amended Pub. L. 102-378, §2(6), Oct. 2, 1992, 106 Stat. 1346; Pub. L. 104-66, title II, §2181(e), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 732; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in section catchline and text.

1995—Pub. L. 104-66 struck out subsec. (a) designation before “If requested by” and struck out subsec. (b) which read as follows: “The General Accounting Office

shall prepare and submit an annual report to the President and the Congress on the activities of the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Office of Personnel Management. The report shall include a description of—

“(1) significant actions taken by the Board to carry out its functions under this title; and

“(2) significant actions of the Office of Personnel Management, including an analysis of whether or not the actions of the Office are in accord with merit system principles and free from prohibited personnel practices.”

1992—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 102-378 substituted “The” for “the” at beginning of first sentence.

**§ 2305. Coordination with certain other provisions of law**

No provision of this chapter, or action taken under this chapter, shall be construed to impair the authorities and responsibilities set forth in section 102 of the National Security Act of 1947 (61 Stat. 495; 50 U.S.C. 403), the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 208; 50 U.S.C. 403a and following), the Act entitled “An Act to provide certain administrative authorities for the National Security Agency, and for other purposes”, approved May 29, 1959 (73 Stat. 63; 50 U.S.C. 402 note), and the Act entitled “An Act to amend the Internal Security Act of 1950”, approved March 26, 1964 (78 Stat. 168; 50 U.S.C. 831-835).

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1118.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 208; 50 U.S.C. 403a and following), referred to in text, is act June 20, 1949, ch. 227, 63 Stat. 208, as amended, which is classified generally to section 403a et seq. of Title 50, War and National Defense. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 403a of Title 50 and Tables.

The Act entitled “An Act to provide certain administrative authorities for the National Security Agency, and for other purposes”, approved May 29, 1959 (73 Stat. 63; 50 U.S.C. 402 note), referred to in text, is Pub. L. 86-36, May 29, 1959, 73 Stat. 63, as amended, and is set out as a note under section 402 of Title 50. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The Act entitled “An Act to amend the Internal Security Act of 1950”, approved March 26, 1964 (78 Stat. 168; 50 U.S.C. 831-835), referred to in text, is act Sept. 23, 1950, ch. 1024, title III, as added Mar. 26, 1964, Pub. L. 88-290, 78 Stat. 168, which is classified principally to subchapter III (§831 et seq.) of chapter 23 of Title 50. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

**CHAPTER 29—COMMISSIONS, OATHS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS**

**SUBCHAPTER I—COMMISSIONS, OATHS, AND RECORDS**

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AMENDMENTS

1978—Pub. L. 95-454, title IX, §906(a)(16), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1226, substituted “Office of Personnel Management” for “Civil Service Commission” in item 2951.

**SUBCHAPTER I—COMMISSIONS, OATHS, AND RECORDS**

**§ 2901. Commission of an officer**

The President may make out and deliver, after adjournment of the Senate, the commission of an officer whose appointment has been confirmed by the Senate.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 411.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
.....	5 U.S.C. 10.	R.S. §1773.

The words “confirmed by” are substituted for “advised and consented to”.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

**§ 2902. Commission; where recorded**

(a) Except as provided by subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Secretary of State shall make out and record, and affix the seal of the United States to, the commission of an officer appointed by the President. The seal of the United States may not be affixed to the commission before the commission has been signed by the President.

(b) The commission of an officer in the civil service or uniformed services under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the Secretary of the Treasury shall be made out and recorded in the department in which he is to serve under the seal of that department. The departmental seal may not be affixed to the commission before the commission has been signed by the President.

(c) The commissions of judicial officers and United States attorneys and marshals, appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and other commissions which before August 8, 1888, were prepared at the Department of State on the requisition of the Attorney General, shall be made out and recorded in the Department of Justice under the seal of that department and countersigned by the Attorney General. The departmental seal may not be affixed to the commission before the commission has been signed by the President.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 411; Pub. L. 94-183, §2(3), Dec. 31, 1975, 89 Stat. 1057; Pub. L. 109-241, title IX, §902(a)(2), July 11, 2006, 120 Stat. 566.)