

CHAPTER 117—TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES

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AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-164, title I, §103(d)(2), Jan. 10, 2006, 119 Stat. 3563, added item 2428.

1998—Pub. L. 105-314, title I, §§101(b), 104(b), 105(b), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2975-2977, added items 2425, 2426, and 2427.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7071, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4405, substituted “individual” for “female” in item 2424.

1986—Pub. L. 99-628, §5(a)(1), (b)(2), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3511, substituted “TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLEGAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY AND RELATED CRIMES” for “WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC” as chapter heading and substituted “and enticement” for “or enticement of female” in item 2422.

1978—Pub. L. 95-225, §3(b), Feb. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 9, substituted “Transportation of minors” for “Coercion or enticement of minor female” in item 2423.

§ 2421. Transportation generally

Whoever knowingly transports any individual in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 812; May 24, 1949, ch. 139, §47, 63 Stat. 96; Pub. L. 99-628, §5(b)(1), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3511; Pub. L. 105-314, title I, §106, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2977.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

1948 ACT

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §§397, 398, 401, 404 (June 25, 1910, ch. 395, §§1, 2, 5, 8, 36 Stat. 825-827).

Section consolidates sections 397, 398, 401, and 404 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed.

Section 397 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., containing a definition of the terms “interstate commerce” and “foreign commerce” was omitted as unnecessary in view of the definition of those terms in section 10 of this title.

Section 401 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., prescribing venue was omitted as unnecessary in view of section 3237 of this title.

Section 403 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., was omitted. No definition of “Territory” is necessary to the revised section as it is phrased. Construction therein of “person” is covered by section 1 of title 1, U.S.C., 1940 ed., General Provisions, as amended. Last paragraph of said section relating to construction of this chapter was omitted as surplusage.

Words “Possession of the United States” were inserted in three places in view of mission of said section

403 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., and, reference in that section to the Canal Zone is covered by those words. This chapter applies to the Territory of Hawaii. (See *Sun Chong Lee v. United States*, C.C.A. Hawaii, 1942, 125 F. 2d 95.)

Section 404 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., containing the short title was omitted as not appropriate in a revision.

Reference to persons causing, procuring, aiding or assisting was deleted as unnecessary because such persons are made principals by section 2 of this title.

Words “and upon conviction thereof” were also deleted as surplusage since punishment cannot be imposed until a conviction is secured.

Words “deemed guilty of a felony” were deleted as unnecessary in view of the definition of a felony in section 1 of this title. (See reviser’s note under section 550 of this title.)

Minor changes were also made in translations and phraseology.

1949 ACT

This section [section 47] corrects a typographical error in section 2421 of title 18, U.S.C.

AMENDMENTS

1998—Pub. L. 105-314 inserted “or attempts to do so,” before “shall be fined” and substituted “10 years” for “five years”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-628 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows:

“Whoever knowingly transports in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose, or with the intent and purpose to induce, entice, or compel such woman or girl to become a prostitute or to give herself up to debauchery, or to engage in any other immoral practice; or

“Whoever knowingly procures or obtains any ticket or tickets, or any form of transportation or evidence of the right thereto, to be used by any woman or girl in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or any Territory or Possession of the United States, in going to any place for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose, or with the intent or purpose on the part of such person to induce, entice, or compel her to give herself up to the practice of prostitution, or to give herself up to debauchery, or any other immoral practice, whereby any such woman or girl shall be transported in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or any Territory or Possession of the United States—

“Shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

1949—Act May 24, 1949, corrected spelling of “induce”.

§ 2422. Coercion and enticement

(a) Whoever knowingly persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any individual to travel in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, to engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both.

(b) Whoever, using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States knowingly persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years, to engage in prostitution or any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined

under this title and imprisoned not less than 10 years or for life.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 812; Pub. L. 99-628, §5(b)(1), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3511; Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7070, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4405; Pub. L. 104-104, title V, §508, Feb. 8, 1996, 110 Stat. 137; Pub. L. 105-314, title I, §102, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2975; Pub. L. 108-21, title I, §103(a)(2)(A), (B), (b)(2)(A), Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 652, 653; Pub. L. 109-248, title II, §203, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 613.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §399 (June 25, 1910, ch. 395, §3, 36 Stat. 825).

Words “deemed guilty of a felony” were deleted as unnecessary in view of definition of felony in section 1 of this title. (See reviser’s note under section 550 of this title.)

Words “and on conviction thereof shall be” were deleted as surplusage since punishment cannot be imposed until a conviction is secured.

The references to persons causing, procuring, aiding or assisting were omitted as unnecessary as such persons are made principals by section 2 of this title.

Words “Possession of the United States” were inserted twice. (See reviser’s note under section 2421 of this title.)

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-248 substituted “not less than 10 years or for life” for “not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years”.

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-21, §103(a)(2)(A), substituted “20 years” for “10 years”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-21, §103(a)(2)(B), (b)(2)(A), substituted “and imprisoned not less than 5 years and” for “, imprisoned” and “30 years” for “15 years, or both”.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-314, §102(1), inserted “or attempts to do so,” before “shall be fined” and substituted “10 years” for “five years”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-314, §102(2), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: “Whoever, using any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, including the mail, or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, knowingly persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any individual who has not attained the age of 18 years to engage in prostitution or any sexual act for which any person may be criminally prosecuted, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.”

1996—Pub. L. 104-104 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsec. (b).

1988—Pub. L. 100-690 substituted “or” for “of” before “foreign commerce”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-628 substituted “and enticement” for “or enticement of female” in section catchline and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Whoever knowingly persuades, induces, entices, or coerces any woman or girl to go from one place to another in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose, or with the intent and purpose on the part of such person that such woman or girl shall engage in the practice of prostitution or debauchery, or any other immoral practice, whether with or without her consent, and thereby knowingly causes such woman or girl to go and to be carried or transported as a passenger upon the line or route of any common carrier or carriers in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.”

§ 2423. Transportation of minors

(a) TRANSPORTATION WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY.—A person who knowingly transports an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, with intent that the individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned not less than 10 years or for life.

(b) TRAVEL WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT.—A person who travels in interstate commerce or travels into the United States, or a United States citizen or an alien admitted for permanent residence in the United States who travels in foreign commerce, for the purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual conduct with another person shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(c) ENGAGING IN ILLICIT SEXUAL CONDUCT IN FOREIGN PLACES.—Any United States citizen or alien admitted for permanent residence who travels in foreign commerce, and engages in any illicit sexual conduct with another person shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(d) ANCILLARY OFFENSES.—Whoever, for the purpose of commercial advantage or private financial gain, arranges, induces, procures, or facilitates the travel of a person knowing that such a person is traveling in interstate commerce or foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both.

(e) ATTEMPT AND CONSPIRACY.—Whoever attempts or conspires to violate subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) shall be punishable in the same manner as a completed violation of that subsection.

(f) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term “illicit sexual conduct” means (1) a sexual act (as defined in section 2246) with a person under 18 years of age that would be in violation of chapter 109A if the sexual act occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States; or (2) any commercial sex act (as defined in section 1591) with a person under 18 years of age.

(g) DEFENSE.—In a prosecution under this section based on illicit sexual conduct as defined in subsection (f)(2), it is a defense, which the defendant must establish by a preponderance of the evidence, that the defendant reasonably believed that the person with whom the defendant engaged in the commercial sex act had attained the age of 18 years.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 812; Pub. L. 95-225, §3(a), Feb. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 8; Pub. L. 99-628, §5(b)(1), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3511; Pub. L. 103-322, title XVI, §160001(g), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2037; Pub. L. 104-71, §5, Dec. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 774; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §§601(b)(4), 604(b)(33), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3499, 3508; Pub. L. 105-314, title I, §103, Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2976; Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title IV, §4002(c)(1), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1808; Pub. L. 108-21, title I,

§§ 103(a)(2)(C), (b)(2)(B), 105, Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 652, 653; Pub. L. 109-248, title II, § 204, July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 613.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 400 (June 25, 1910, ch. 395, § 4, 36 Stat. 826).

Words “deemed guilty of a felony” were deleted as unnecessary in view of definition of felony in section 1 of this title. (See reviser’s note under section 550 of this title.)

Words “and on conviction thereof shall be” were deleted as surplusage since punishment cannot be imposed until a conviction is secured.

Words “Possession of the United States” were inserted twice. (See reviser’s note under section 2421 of this title.)

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-248 substituted “10 years or for life” for “5 years and not more than 30 years”.
2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-21, § 105(b), struck out “or attempts to do so,” before “shall be fined”.

Pub. L. 108-21, § 103(a)(2)(C), (b)(2)(B), substituted “and imprisoned not less than 5 years and” for “, imprisoned” and “30 years” for “15 years, or both”.

Subsec. (b) to (g). Pub. L. 108-21, § 105(a), added subsecs. (b) to (g) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows:

“(b) TRAVEL WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACT WITH A JUVENILE.—A person who travels in interstate commerce, or conspires to do so, or a United States citizen or an alien admitted for permanent residence in the United States who travels in foreign commerce, or conspires to do so, for the purpose of engaging in any sexual act (as defined in section 2246) with a person under 18 years of age that would be in violation of chapter 109A if the sexual act occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both.”

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-273 repealed Pub. L. 104-294, § 601(b)(4). See 1996 Amendment note below.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-314, § 103(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a) which read as follows:

“(a) TRANSPORTATION WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY.—A person who knowingly transports any individual under the age of 18 years in interstate or foreign commerce, or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-314, § 103(2), substituted “15 years” for “10 years”.

1996—Pub. L. 104-294, § 604(b)(33), amended directory language of Pub. L. 103-322, § 160001(g). See 1994 Amendment note below.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-294, § 601(b)(4), which made amendment identical to that made by Pub. L. 104-71, was repealed by Pub. L. 107-273. See 1995 Amendment note below.

1995—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-71 substituted “2246” for “2245”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, as amended by Pub. L. 104-294, § 604(b)(33), added subsec. (b) and substituted “(a) TRANSPORTATION WITH INTENT TO ENGAGE IN CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY.—A person who” for “Whoever”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-628 amended section generally, revising and restating as one paragraph provisions formerly contained in subsec. (a) and striking out subsec. (b) which provided definitions.

1978—Pub. L. 95-225 substituted “Transportation of minors” for “Coercion or enticement of minor female” in section catchline, designated existing provision as subsec. (a), substituted provisions relating to conduct

prohibiting the transportation of minors for provisions relating to conduct prohibiting the coercion or enticement of a minor female, and added subsec. (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title IV, § 4002(c)(1), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1808, provided that the amendment made by section 4002(c)(1) is effective Oct. 11, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 604(b)(33) of Pub. L. 104-294 effective Sept. 13, 1994, see section 604(d) of Pub. L. 104-294, set out as a note under section 13 of this title.

§ 2424. Filing factual statement about alien individual

(a) Whoever keeps, maintains, controls, supports, or harbors in any house or place for the purpose of prostitution, or for any other immoral purpose, any individual, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the individual is an alien, shall file with the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization a statement in writing setting forth the name of such individual, the place at which that individual is kept, and all facts as to the date of that individual’s entry into the United States, the port through which that individual entered, that individual’s age, nationality, and parentage, and concerning that individual’s procurement to come to this country within the knowledge of such person; and

Whoever fails within five business days after commencing to keep, maintain, control, support, or harbor in any house or place for the purpose of prostitution, or for any other immoral purpose, any alien individual to file such statement concerning such alien individual with the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization; or

Whoever knowingly and willfully states falsely or fails to disclose in such statement any fact within that person’s knowledge or belief with reference to the age, nationality, or parentage of any such alien individual, or concerning that individual’s procurement to come to this country—

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

(b) In any prosecution brought under this section, if it appears that any such statement required is not on file in the office of the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, the person whose duty it is to file such statement shall be presumed to have failed to file said statement, unless such person or persons shall prove otherwise. No person shall be excused from furnishing the statement, as required by this section, on the ground or for the reason that the statement so required by that person, or the information therein contained, might tend to criminate that person or subject that person to a penalty or forfeiture, but no information contained in the statement or any evidence which is directly or indirectly derived from such information may be used against any person making such statement in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury, giving a false statement or otherwise failing to comply with this section.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 813; Pub. L. 91-452, title II, § 226, Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 930; Pub. L.

99-628, § 5(c), Nov. 7, 1986, 100 Stat. 3511; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(I), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147; Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, § 325, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-629.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., § 402(2), (3) (June 25, 1910, ch. 395, § 6, 36 Stat. 826).

First paragraph of section 402 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., was omitted from this section and recommended for transfer to Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

Words “shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor” were omitted as unnecessary in view of the definition of a misdemeanor in section 1 of this title. (See reviser’s note under section 212 of this title.)

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-208, § 325(1), in first par. substituted “individual, knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the individual is an alien” for “alien individual within three years after that individual has entered the United States from any country, party to the arrangement adopted July 25, 1902, for the suppression of the white-slave traffic” and struck out “alien” after “the name of such”.

Pub. L. 104-208, § 325(2), in second par. substituted “five business” for “thirty” and struck out “within three years after that individual has entered the United States from any country, party to the said arrangement for the suppression of the white-slave traffic,” after “any alien individual”.

Pub. L. 104-208, § 325(3), substituted “10” for “two” in last par.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$2,000” in last par.

1986—Pub. L. 99-628, § 5(c)(1), substituted “individual” for “female” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-628, § 5(c)(2)-(4), (6), substituted “individual” for “woman or girl”, “that individual” for “she”, “that individual’s” for “her”, and “that person’s” for “his” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 99-628, § 5(c)(5), substituted “that person” for “him” wherever appearing.

1970—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 91-452 substituted provisions that no information contained in the statement or any evidence directly or indirectly derived from such information be used against any person making such statement in any criminal case, except a prosecution for perjury, giving a false statement, or otherwise failing to comply with this section, for provisions that no person be prosecuted or subjected to any penalty or forfeiture under any law of the United States for or on account of any transaction, etc., truthfully reported in his statement.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-452 effective on sixtieth day following Oct. 15, 1970, and not to affect any immunity to which any individual is entitled under this section by reason of any testimony given before sixtieth day following Oct. 15, 1970, see section 260 of Pub. L. 91-452, set out as an Effective Date; Savings Provision note under section 6001 of this title.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

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.

§ 2425. Use of interstate facilities to transmit information about a minor

Whoever, using the mail or any facility or means of interstate or foreign commerce, or

within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, knowingly initiates the transmission of the name, address, telephone number, social security number, or electronic mail address of another individual, knowing that such other individual has not attained the age of 16 years, with the intent to entice, encourage, offer, or solicit any person to engage in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 105-314, title I, § 101(a), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2975.)

§ 2426. Repeat offenders

(a) MAXIMUM TERM OF IMPRISONMENT.—The maximum term of imprisonment for a violation of this chapter after a prior sex offense conviction shall be twice the term of imprisonment otherwise provided by this chapter, unless section 3559(e) applies.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “prior sex offense conviction” means a conviction for an offense—

(A) under this chapter, chapter 109A, chapter 110, or section 1591; or

(B) under State law for an offense consisting of conduct that would have been an offense under a chapter referred to in paragraph (1) if the conduct had occurred within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States; and

(2) the term “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 105-314, title I, § 104(a), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2976; amended Pub. L. 108-21, title I, § 106(b), Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 655; Pub. L. 110-457, title II, § 224(c), Dec. 23, 2008, 122 Stat. 5072.)

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 110-457 substituted “chapter 110, or section 1591” for “or chapter 110”.

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-21 inserted “, unless section 3559(e) applies” before period at end.

§ 2427. Inclusion of offenses relating to child pornography in definition of sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense

In this chapter, the term “sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense” includes the production of child pornography, as defined in section 2256(8).

(Added Pub. L. 105-314, title I, § 105(a), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2977.)

§ 2428. Forfeitures

(a) IN GENERAL.—The court, in imposing sentence on any person convicted of a violation of this chapter, shall order, in addition to any other sentence imposed and irrespective of any provision of State law, that such person shall forfeit to the United States—

(1) such person’s interest in any property, real or personal, that was used or intended to

be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of such violation; and

(2) any property, real or personal, constituting or derived from any proceeds that such person obtained, directly or indirectly, as a result of such violation.

(b) PROPERTY SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The following shall be subject to forfeiture to the United States and no property right shall exist in them:

(A) Any property, real or personal, used or intended to be used to commit or to facilitate the commission of any violation of this chapter.

(B) Any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to any violation of this chapter.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER 46.—The provisions of chapter 46 of this title relating to civil forfeitures shall apply to any seizure or civil forfeiture under this subsection.

(Added Pub. L. 109-164, title I, §103(d)(1), Jan. 10, 2006, 119 Stat. 3563.)

CHAPTER 118—WAR CRIMES

Sec.	
2441.	War crimes.
2442.	Recruitment or use of child soldiers.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-340, §2(a)(3)(A), Oct. 3, 2008, 122 Stat. 3736, added item 2442.

1996—Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §605(p)(2), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3510, redesignated item 2401 as 2441.

§ 2441. War crimes

(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever, whether inside or outside the United States, commits a war crime, in any of the circumstances described in subsection (b), shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for life or any term of years, or both, and if death results to the victim, shall also be subject to the penalty of death.

(b) CIRCUMSTANCES.—The circumstances referred to in subsection (a) are that the person committing such war crime or the victim of such war crime is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a national of the United States (as defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act).

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section the term “war crime” means any conduct—

(1) defined as a grave breach in any of the international conventions signed at Geneva 12 August 1949, or any protocol to such convention to which the United States is a party;

(2) prohibited by Article 23, 25, 27, or 28 of the Annex to the Hague Convention IV, Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, signed 18 October 1907;

(3) which constitutes a grave breach of common Article 3 (as defined in subsection (d)) when committed in the context of and in association with an armed conflict not of an international character; or

(4) of a person who, in relation to an armed conflict and contrary to the provisions of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended at Geneva on 3 May 1996

(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996), when the United States is a party to such Protocol, willfully kills or causes serious injury to civilians.

(d) COMMON ARTICLE 3 VIOLATIONS.—

(1) PROHIBITED CONDUCT.—In subsection (c)(3), the term “grave breach of common Article 3” means any conduct (such conduct constituting a grave breach of common Article 3 of the international conventions done at Geneva August 12, 1949), as follows:

(A) TORTURE.—The act of a person who commits, or conspires or attempts to commit, an act specifically intended to inflict severe physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions) upon another person within his custody or physical control for the purpose of obtaining information or a confession, punishment, intimidation, coercion, or any reason based on discrimination of any kind.

(B) CRUEL OR INHUMAN TREATMENT.—The act of a person who commits, or conspires or attempts to commit, an act intended to inflict severe or serious physical or mental pain or suffering (other than pain or suffering incidental to lawful sanctions), including serious physical abuse, upon another within his custody or control.

(C) PERFORMING BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—The act of a person who subjects, or conspires or attempts to subject, one or more persons within his custody or physical control to biological experiments without a legitimate medical or dental purpose and in so doing endangers the body or health of such person or persons.

(D) MURDER.—The act of a person who intentionally kills, or conspires or attempts to kill, or kills whether intentionally or unintentionally in the course of committing any other offense under this subsection, one or more persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including those placed out of combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause.

(E) MUTILATION OR MAIMING.—The act of a person who intentionally injures, or conspires or attempts to injure, or injures whether intentionally or unintentionally in the course of committing any other offense under this subsection, one or more persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including those placed out of combat by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, by disfiguring the person or persons by any mutilation thereof or by permanently disabling any member, limb, or organ of his body, without any legitimate medical or dental purpose.

(F) INTENTIONALLY CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.—The act of a person who intentionally causes, or conspires or attempts to cause, serious bodily injury to one or more persons, including lawful combatants, in violation of the law of war.

(G) RAPE.—The act of a person who forcibly or with coercion or threat of force wrongfully invades, or conspires or attempts to invade, the body of a person by penetrat-