

**§ 4702. Research programs**

The Office of Personnel Management shall—

(1) establish and maintain (and assist in the establishment and maintenance of) research programs to study improved methods and technologies in Federal personnel management;

(2) evaluate the research programs established under paragraph (1) of this section;

(3) establish and maintain a program for the collection and public dissemination of information relating to personnel management research and for encouraging and facilitating the exchange of information among interested persons and entities; and

(4) carry out the preceding functions directly or through agreement or contract.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title VI, §601(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1185.)

**§ 4703. Demonstration projects**

(a) Except as provided in this section, the Office of Personnel Management may, directly or through agreement or contract with one or more agencies and other public and private organizations, conduct and evaluate demonstration projects. Subject to the provisions of this section, the conducting of demonstration projects shall not be limited by any lack of specific authority under this title to take the action contemplated, or by any provision of this title or any rule or regulation prescribed under this title which is inconsistent with the action, including any law or regulation relating to—

(1) the methods of establishing qualification requirements for, recruitment for, and appointment to positions;

(2) the methods of classifying positions and compensating employees;

(3) the methods of assigning, reassigning, or promoting employees;

(4) the methods of disciplining employees;

(5) the methods of providing incentives to employees, including the provision of group or individual incentive bonuses or pay;

(6) the hours of work per day or per week;

(7) the methods of involving employees, labor organizations, and employee organizations in personnel decisions; and

(8) the methods of reducing overall agency staff and grade levels.

(b) Before conducting or entering into any agreement or contract to conduct a demonstration project, the Office shall—

(1) develop a plan for such project which identifies—

(A) the purposes of the project;

(B) the types of employees or eligibles, categorized by occupational series, grade, or organizational unit;

(C) the number of employees or eligibles to be included, in the aggregate and by category;

(D) the methodology;

(E) the duration;

(F) the training to be provided;

(G) the anticipated costs;

(H) the methodology and criteria for evaluation;

(I) a specific description of any aspect of the project for which there is a lack of specific authority; and

(J) a specific citation to any provision of law, rule, or regulation which, if not waived under this section, would prohibit the conducting of the project, or any part of the project as proposed;

(2) publish the plan in the Federal Register;

(3) submit the plan so published to public hearing;

(4) provide notification of the proposed project, at least 180 days in advance of the date any project proposed under this section is to take effect—

(A) to employees who are likely to be affected by the project; and

(B) to each House of the Congress;

(5) obtain approval from each agency involved of the final version of the plan; and

(6) provide each House of the Congress with a report at least 90 days in advance of the date the project is to take effect setting forth the final version of the plan as so approved.

(c) No demonstration project under this section may provide for a waiver of—

(1) any provision of chapter 63 or subpart G of this title;

(2)(A) any provision of law referred to in section 2302(b)(1) of this title; or

(B) any provision of law implementing any provision of law referred to in section 2302(b)(1) of this title by—

(i) providing for equal employment opportunity through affirmative action; or

(ii) providing any right or remedy available to any employee or applicant for employment in the civil service;

(3) any provision of chapter 15 or subchapter III of chapter 73 of this title;

(4) any rule or regulation prescribed under any provision of law referred to in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of this subsection; or

(5) any provision of chapter 23 of this title, or any rule or regulation prescribed under this title, if such waiver is inconsistent with any merit system principle or any provision thereof relating to prohibited personnel practices.

(d)(1) Each demonstration project shall—

(A) involve not more than 5,000 individuals other than individuals in any control groups necessary to validate the results of the project; and

(B) terminate before the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the project takes effect, except that the project may continue beyond the date to the extent necessary to validate the results of the project.

(2) Not more than 10 active demonstration projects may be in effect at any time.

(e) Subject to the terms of any written agreement or contract between the Office and an agency, a demonstration project involving the agency may be terminated by the Office, or the agency, if either determines that the project creates a substantial hardship on, or is not in the best interests of, the public, the Federal Government, employees, or eligibles.

(f) Employees within a unit with respect to which a labor organization is accorded exclusive recognition under chapter 71 of this title shall not be included within any project under subsection (a) of this section—

(1) if the project would violate a collective bargaining agreement (as defined in section 7103(8) of this title) between the agency and the labor organization, unless there is another written agreement with respect to the project between the agency and the organization permitting the inclusion; or

(2) if the project is not covered by such a collective bargaining agreement, until there has been consultation or negotiation, as appropriate, by the agency with the labor organization.

(g) Employees within any unit with respect to which a labor organization has not been accorded exclusive recognition under chapter 71 of this title shall not be included within any project under subsection (a) of this section unless there has been agency consultation regarding the project with the employees in the unit.

(h) The Office shall provide for an evaluation of the results of each demonstration project and its impact on improving public management.

(i) Upon request of the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Office, to the extent practicable, in any evaluation undertaken under subsection (h) of this section and provide the Office with requested information and reports relating to the conducting of demonstration projects in their respective agencies.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title VI, §601(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1186.)

**AUTHORITY OF EXPORT-IMPORT BANK TO CONDUCT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

Pub. L. 104-97, §2, Jan. 11, 1996, 109 Stat. 984, provided that: "Notwithstanding section 4701(a)(1)(A) of title 5, United States Code, the Export-Import Bank of the United States may conduct a demonstration project in accordance with section 4703 of such title."

**§ 4704. Allocation of funds**

Funds appropriated to the Office of Personnel Management for the purpose of this chapter may be allocated by the Office to any agency conducting demonstration projects or assisting the Office in conducting such projects. Funds so allocated shall remain available for such period as may be specified in appropriation Acts. No contract shall be entered into under this chapter unless the contract has been provided for in advance in appropriation Acts.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title VI, §601(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1188.)

**§ 4705. Regulations**

The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purpose of this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title VI, §601(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1188, §4706; renumbered §4705, Pub. L. 105-362, title XIII, §1302(b)(2)(B)(i), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3293.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 4705, added Pub. L. 95-454, title VI, §601(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1188, required annual report on research programs and demonstration projects, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-362, title XIII, §1302(b)(2)(B)(i), Nov. 10, 1998, 112 Stat. 3293.

**[§ 4706. Renumbered § 4705]**

**CHAPTER 48—AGENCY PERSONNEL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

Sec.  
4801. Nonapplicability of chapter 47.  
4802. Securities and Exchange Commission.

**§ 4801. Nonapplicability of chapter 47**

Chapter 47 shall not apply to this chapter.

(Added Pub. L. 107-123, §8(a), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2398.)

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Chapter effective Oct. 1, 2001, see section 11 of Pub. L. 107-123, set out as an Effective Date of 2002 Amendment note under section 78ee of Title 15, Commerce and Trade.

**§ 4802. Securities and Exchange Commission**

(a) In this section, the term "Commission" means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(b) The Commission may appoint and fix the compensation of such officers, attorneys, economists, examiners, and other employees as may be necessary for carrying out its functions under the securities laws as defined under section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c).

(c) Rates of basic pay for all employees of the Commission may be set and adjusted by the Commission without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 or subchapter III of chapter 53.

(d) The Commission may provide additional compensation and benefits to employees of the Commission if the same type of compensation or benefits are then being provided by any agency referred to under section 1206 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1833b) or, if not then being provided, could be provided by such an agency under applicable provisions of law, rule, or regulation. In setting and adjusting the total amount of compensation and benefits for employees, the Commission shall consult with, and seek to maintain comparability with, the agencies referred to under section 1206 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1833b).

(e) The Commission shall consult with the Office of Personnel Management in the implementation of this section.

(f) This section shall be administered consistently with merit system principles.

(Added Pub. L. 107-123, §8(a), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2398.)

**EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED BY LABOR ORGANIZATIONS**

Pub. L. 107-123, §8(b), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2398, provided that: "To the extent that any employee of the Securities and Exchange Commission is represented by a labor organization with exclusive recognition in accordance with chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code, no reduction in base pay of such employee shall be