

Sec.

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## SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL

## § 1301. Definitions

## (a) In general

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, as used in this chapter:

## (1) Board

The term “Board” means the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

## (2) Chair

The term “Chair” means the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

## (3) Covered employee

The term “covered employee” means any employee of—

- (A) the House of Representatives;  
 (B) the Senate;  
 (C) the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services;  
 (D) the Capitol Police;  
 (E) the Congressional Budget Office;  
 (F) the Office of the Architect of the Capitol;  
 (G) the Office of the Attending Physician;  
 (H) the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights;  
 (I) the Office of Technology Assessment;  
 (J) the Library of Congress, except for section 1351 of this title; or  
 (K) the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

## (4) Employee

The term “employee” includes an applicant for employment and a former employee.

## (5) Employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol

The term “employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol” includes any employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or the Botanic Garden.

## (6) Employee of the Capitol Police

The term “employee of the Capitol Police” includes any member or officer of the Capitol Police.

## (7) Employee of the House of Representatives

The term “employee of the House of Representatives” includes an individual occupying a position the pay for which is disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, or another official designated by the House of Representatives, or any employment position in an entity that is paid with funds derived from the clerk-hire allowance of the House of Representatives but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs (C) through (K) of paragraph (3).

## (8) Employee of the Senate

The term “employee of the Senate” includes any employee whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate, but not any such individual employed by any entity listed in subparagraphs (C) through (K) of paragraph (3).

## (9) Employing office

The term “employing office” means—

- (A) the personal office of a Member of the House of Representatives or of a Senator;  
 (B) a committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate or a joint committee;  
 (C) any other office headed by a person with the final authority to appoint, hire, discharge, and set the terms, conditions, or privileges of the employment of an employee of the House of Representatives or the Senate;  
 (D) the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the United States Capitol Police, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Office of the Attending Physician, the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, the Office of Technology Assessment, and the John C.

Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development; or

(E) the Library of Congress, except for section 1351 of this title.

**(10) Executive Director**

The term “Executive Director” means the Executive Director of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

**(11) General Counsel**

The term “General Counsel” means the General Counsel of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

**(12) Office**

The term “Office” means the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

**(b) Clarification of coverage of employees of certain commissions**

**(1) Coverage**

With respect to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

(A) any individual who is an employee of such Commission shall be considered a covered employee for purposes of this chapter; and

(B) the Commission shall be considered an employing office for purposes of this chapter.

**(2) Authority to provide legal assistance and representation**

(A) Subject to paragraph (3), legal assistance and representation under this chapter, including assistance and representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this chapter, shall be provided to the China Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

(i) by the Office of House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under subchapter IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such subchapter in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Member of the House, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under subchapter IV related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties; or

(ii) by the Office of Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under subchapter IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such subchapter in connection with the claim) at a time when the chair of the Commission is a Senator, and in the case of assistance and representation in connection with any subsequent claim under subchapter IV related to the initial claim where the subsequent claim involves the same parties.

(B) Legal assistance and representation under this chapter, including assistance and

representation with respect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition of a claim under this chapter, shall be provided to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom by the Office of Senate Chief Counsel for Employment of the Senate, in the case of assistance and representation in connection with a claim filed under subchapter IV (including all subsequent proceedings under such subchapter in connection with such claim).

**(3) Definitions**

In this subsection—

(A) the term “China Review Commission” means the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission established under section 7002 of title 22, as enacted into law by section 1 of Public Law 106-398;

(B) the term “Congressional-Executive China Commission” means the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China established under title III of the U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.);

(C) the term “Helsinki Commission” means the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe established under the Act entitled “An Act to establish a Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe”, approved June 3, 1976 (Public Law 94-304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.); and

(D) the term “United States Commission on International Religious Freedom” means the Commission established under section 6431 of title 22.

(Pub. L. 104-1, title I, § 101, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 4; Pub. L. 110-279, § 1(g)(1), July 17, 2008, 122 Stat. 2609; Pub. L. 110-437, title IV, § 422(b)(1), (2), Oct. 20, 2008, 122 Stat. 4996; Pub. L. 111-145, § 2(a)(5)(A), Mar. 4, 2010, 124 Stat. 50; Pub. L. 115-141, div. I, title I, § 153(a)(1)(A), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 785; Pub. L. 115-397, title III, §§ 302(b), 305(a)–(c), 308(b)(1)–(7), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5321, 5323, 5324, 5326; Pub. L. 116-94, div. J, title VIII, § 805(b), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 3077.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 104-1, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 3, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

The U.S.–China Relations Act of 2000, referred to in subsec. (b)(3)(B), is div. B of Pub. L. 106-286, Oct. 10, 2000, 114 Stat. 891. Title III of the Act is classified to subchapter II (§ 6911 et seq.) of chapter 77 of Title 22, Foreign Relations and Intercourse. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6901 of Title 22 and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 116-94, § 805(b)(1), inserted “the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom,” after “With respect to” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 116-94, § 805(b)(2), inserted subpar. (A) designation before “Subject to paragraph (3),”, redesignated former subpars. (A) and (B) as cls. (i) and (ii), respectively, of subpar. (A), and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (b)(3)(D). Pub. L. 116-94, § 805(b)(3), added subpar. (D).

2018—Pub. L. 115–397, §305(a), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115–397, §308(b)(1)–(7), substituted “Office of Congressional Workplace Rights” for “Office of Compliance” wherever appearing.

Par. (3)(J). Pub. L. 115–141, §153(a)(1)(A)(i), added subpar. (J). Par. (3)(J) subsequently redesignated subsec. (a)(3)(J).

Subsec. (a)(3)(K). Pub. L. 115–397, §305(b)(1), added subpar. (K).

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 115–397, §305(c), substituted “subparagraphs (C) through (K)” for “subparagraphs (C) through (I)”.

Pub. L. 115–397, §302(b), substituted “disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives” for “disbursed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives”. Amendment, which was directed to par. (7), was executed to subsec. (a)(7) to reflect the intervening redesignation made by section 305(a) of Pub. L. 115–397. See above.

Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 115–397, §305(c), substituted “subparagraphs (C) through (K)” for “subparagraphs (C) through (I)”.

Subsec. (a)(9)(D). Pub. L. 115–397, §305(b)(2), substituted “the Office of Technology Assessment, and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development” for “and the Office of Technology Assessment”.

Par. (9)(E). Pub. L. 115–141, §153(a)(1)(A)(ii), added subpar. (E). Par. (9)(E) subsequently redesignated subsec. (a)(9)(E).

2010—Par. (9)(D). Pub. L. 111–145 substituted “the United States Capitol Police,” for “the Capitol Police Board,”.

2008—Par. (3)(C). Pub. L. 110–437, §422(b)(1), substituted “the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services;” for “the Capitol Guide Service;”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 110–279, which directed substitution of “or the Botanic Garden” for “, the Botanic Garden, or the Senate Restaurant”, was executed by making the substitution for “, the Botanic Garden, or the Senate Restaurants” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Par. (9)(D). Pub. L. 110–437, §422(b)(2), substituted “the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services,” for “the Capitol Guide Board,”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115–397, title III, §305(d), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5324, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 [Pub. L. 104–1].”

Amendment by section 308(b) of Pub. L. 115–397 effective Dec. 21, 2018, and any reference to the Office of Compliance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper in effect as of such date to be considered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights, see section 308(d) of Pub. L. 115–397, set out as a note under section 1381 of this title.

Pub. L. 115–397, title IV, §401, Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5327, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act [See Short Title of 2018 Amendment note below], this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which begins on the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 21, 2018].

“(b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to affect any proceeding or payment of an award or settlement relating to a claim under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) which is pending as of the date after that 180-day period. If, as of that date, an employee has begun any of the proceedings under that title that were available to the employee prior to that date, the employee may complete, or initiate and complete, all such proceedings, and such proceedings shall remain in ef-

fect with respect to, and provide the exclusive proceedings for, the claim involved until the completion of all such proceedings.”

Pub. L. 115–141, div. I, title I, §153(c), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 787, provided that: “This section [amending this section and sections 1314 to 1316, 1331, 1341, 1351, 1401, 1404, and 1415 of this title] and the amendments made by this section—

“(1) shall take effect on the date of enactment of this section [Mar. 23, 2018]; and

“(2) shall apply to any charge, complaint, or claim, that is made on or after the date of enactment of this section, of a violation of—

“(A) section 201, 202, 203, 207, or 210 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1311 et seq.) [2 U.S.C. 1311, 1312, 1313, 1317, 1331]; or

“(B) a direct provision as defined in section 404(a) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1404[a]) (as added by subsection (b)).”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110–437, title IV, §422(d), Oct. 20, 2008, 122 Stat. 4997, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 1331 and 1341 of this title and section 2107 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and repealing section 2166 of this title] shall take effect on the transfer date [first day of first pay period (applicable to employees transferred under section 2241 of this title) on or after 30 days after Oct. 20, 2008, see section 2261 of this title].”

Amendment by Pub. L. 110–279 effective July 17, 2008, and applicable to remainder of fiscal year in which enacted and each fiscal year thereafter, see section 2051(i) of this title.

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115–397, §1(a), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5297, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 1362, 1388, 1402a, 1417, 1437a, and 1437b of this title, amending this section and sections 1302, 1311, 1331, 1341, 1351, 1361, 1381, 1382, 1384, 1401 to 1405, 1408, 1414 to 1416, 1431, and 1438 of this title and section 8437 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 1331, 1381, and 1415 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act.’”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114–6, §1, Mar. 20, 2015, 129 Stat. 81, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 1403, 1404, and 1416 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 1381 and 1403 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Office of Compliance Administrative and Technical Corrections Act of 2015.’”

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104–1, §1(a), Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 3, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 1201, 1202, 1219, 1220, and 1831 of this title, section 6381 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, sections 203, 633a, 2611, and 2617 of Title 29, Labor, and sections 2000e–16 and 12209 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, repealing sections 60m, 60n, 1203 to 1218, 1221, 1223, and 1224 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 751 of Title 31, Money and Finance] may be cited as the ‘Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.’”

#### CONSTRUCTION OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111–145, §2(a)(5)(B), Mar. 4, 2010, 124 Stat. 50, provided that: “Nothing in the amendment made by subparagraph (A) [amending this section] may be construed to affect any procedure initiated under title IV of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 [2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.] prior to the date of the enactment of this Act [Mar. 4, 2010].”

## § 1302. Application of laws

### (a) Laws made applicable

The following laws shall apply, as prescribed by this chapter, to the legislative branch of the Federal Government:

- (1) The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).
- (2) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.).
- (3) The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).
- (4) The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).
- (5) The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2611 et seq.).
- (6) The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.).
- (7) Chapter 71 (relating to Federal service labor-management relations) of title 5.
- (8) The Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.).
- (9) The Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2101 et seq.).
- (10) The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).
- (11) Chapter 43 (relating to veterans' employment and reemployment) of title 38.
- (12) Section 9202 of title 5.<sup>1</sup>

### (b) Laws which may be made applicable

#### (1) In general

The Board shall review provisions of Federal law (including regulations) relating to (A) the terms and conditions of employment (including hiring, promotion, demotion, termination, salary, wages, overtime compensation, benefits, work assignments or reassignments, grievance and disciplinary procedures, protection from discrimination in personnel actions, occupational health and safety, and family and medical and other leave) of employees, and (B) access to public services and accommodations.

#### (2) Board report

Beginning on December 31, 1996, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall report on (A) whether or to what degree the provisions described in paragraph (1) are applicable or inapplicable to the legislative branch, and (B) with respect to provisions inapplicable to the legislative branch, whether such provisions should be made applicable to the legislative branch. The presiding officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate shall cause each such report to be printed in the Congressional Record and each such report shall be referred to the committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate with jurisdiction.

#### (3) Reports of congressional committees

Each report accompanying any bill or joint resolution relating to terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations reported by a committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate shall—

- (A) describe the manner in which the provisions of the bill or joint resolution apply to the legislative branch; or

(B) in the case of a provision not applicable to the legislative branch, include a statement of the reasons the provision does not apply.

On the objection of any Member, it shall not be in order for the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any such bill or joint resolution if the report of the committee on such bill or joint resolution does not comply with the provisions of this paragraph. This paragraph may be waived in either House by majority vote of that House.

### (c) Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

#### (1) In general

The provisions of this chapter that apply to a violation of section 1311(a)(1) of this title shall be considered to apply to a violation of title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq.), consistent with section 207(c) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2000ff-6(c)).

#### (2) Construction

##### (A) No limitation on other laws

Nothing in this section limits the provisions of this chapter that apply to a violation of a law described in subparagraph (B).

##### (B) Other laws

A law described in this subparagraph is a law (even if not listed in subsection (a) or this subsection) that explicitly applies one or more provisions of this chapter to a violation.

(Pub. L. 104-1, title I, § 102, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 5; Pub. L. 115-397, title III, § 301, Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5320; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title XI, § 1122(d)(1)(A), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1608.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 104-1, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 3, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1301 of this title and Tables.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is act June 25, 1938, ch. 676, 52 Stat. 1060, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 8 (§ 201 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 201 of Title 29 and Tables.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is Pub. L. 88-352, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 252, as amended. Title VII of the Act is classified generally to subchapter VI (§ 2000e et seq.) of chapter 21 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000a of Title 42 and Tables.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is Pub. L. 101-336, July 26, 1990, 104 Stat. 327, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 126 (§ 12101 et seq.) of Title 42. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 12101 of Title 42 and Tables.

The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), is Pub. L. 90-202, Dec. 15, 1967, 81 Stat. 602, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 14 (§ 621 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 621 of Title 29 and Tables.

<sup>1</sup> See Effective Date of 2019 Amendment note below.