

§ 610. Coercion of political activity

It shall be unlawful for any person to intimidate, threaten, command, or coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, command, or coerce, any employee of the Federal Government as defined in section 7322(1) of title 5, United States Code, to engage in, or not to engage in, any political activity, including, but not limited to, voting or refusing to vote for any candidate or measure in any election, making or refusing to make any political contribution, or working or refusing to work on behalf of any candidate. Any person who violates this section shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 103-94, §4(c)(1), Oct. 6, 1993, 107 Stat. 1005; amended Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §601(a)(1), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3497.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 610, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 723; May 24, 1949, ch. 139, §10, 63 Stat. 90; Oct. 31, 1951, ch. 655, §20(c), 65 Stat. 718; Feb. 7, 1972, Pub. L. 92-225, title II, §205, 86 Stat. 10; Oct. 15, 1974, Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(e)(1), 88 Stat. 1267, prohibited campaign contributions or expenditures by national banks, corporations, and labor organizations, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 94-283, title II, §201(a), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 496. See section 30118 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-294 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**EFFECTIVE DATE; SAVINGS PROVISION**

Section effective 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, 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 a note under section 7321 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§ 611. Voting by aliens

(a) It shall be unlawful for any alien to vote in any election held solely or in part for the purpose of electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice President, Presidential elector, Member of the Senate, Member of the House of Representatives, Delegate from the District of Columbia, or Resident Commissioner, unless—

(1) the election is held partly for some other purpose;

(2) aliens are authorized to vote for such other purpose under a State constitution or statute or a local ordinance; and

(3) voting for such other purpose is conducted independently of voting for a candidate for such Federal offices, in such a manner that an alien has the opportunity to vote for such other purpose, but not an opportunity to vote for a candidate for any one or more of such Federal offices.

(b) Any person who violates this section shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

(c) Subsection (a) does not apply to an alien if—

(1) each natural parent of the alien (or, in the case of an adopted alien, each adoptive parent of the alien) is or was a citizen (whether by birth or naturalization);

(2) the alien permanently resided in the United States prior to attaining the age of 16; and

(3) the alien reasonably believed at the time of voting in violation of such subsection that he or she was a citizen of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title II, §216(a), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-572; amended Pub. L. 106-395, title II, §201(d)(1), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1635.)

Editorial Notes**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 611, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 724; Feb. 7, 1972, Pub. L. 92-225, title II, §206, 86 Stat. 10; Oct. 15, 1974, Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(e)(2), 103, 88 Stat. 1267, 1272, prohibited campaign contributions by government contractors, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 94-283, title II, §201(a), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 496. See section 30119 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 106-395 added subsec. (c).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 106-395, title II, §201(d)(3), Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1636, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall be effective as if included in the enactment of section 216 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-572). The amendment made by paragraph (2) [amending section 1015 of this title] shall be effective as if included in the enactment of section 215 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-572). The amendments made by paragraphs (1) and (2) shall apply to an alien prosecuted on or after September 30, 1996, except in the case of an alien whose criminal proceeding (including judicial review thereof) has been finally concluded before the date of the enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 2000].”

[§§ 612 to 617. Repealed. Pub. L. 94-283, title II, § 201(a), May 11, 1976, 90 Stat. 496]

Section 612, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 724; Aug. 25, 1950, ch. 784, §2, 64 Stat. 475; Aug. 12, 1970, Pub. L. 91-375, §6(j)(7), 84 Stat. 777, regulated publication and distribution of political statements. See section 30120 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

Section 613, added Pub. L. 89-486, §8(a), July 4, 1966, 80 Stat. 248; amended Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(d)(1)-(3), (4)(A), (e)(3), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1267, prohibited campaign contributions by foreign nationals. See section 30121 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

Section 614, added Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(f)(1), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1268, prohibited making of campaign contributions in the name of another. See section 30122 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

Section 615, added Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(f)(1), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1268, placed limitations on contributions of currency. See section 30123 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

Section 616, added Pub. L. 93-443, title I, §101(f)(1), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1268, prohibited acceptance of excessive honorariums.