

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 81 of title 14, referred to in text, was redesignated section 541 of title 14 by Pub. L. 115-282, title I, §105(b), Dec. 4, 2018, 132 Stat. 4200, and references to section 81 of title 14 deemed to refer to such redesignated section, see section 123(b)(1) of Pub. L. 115-282, set out as a References to Sections of Title 14 as Redesignated by Pub. L. 115-282 note preceding section 101 of Title 14, Coast Guard.

AMENDMENTS

2020—Pub. L. 116-260 substituted “Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation” for “Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation”.

§ 2283. Transportation of explosive, biological, chemical, or radioactive or nuclear materials

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly transports aboard any vessel within the United States and on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or any vessel outside the United States and on the high seas or having United States nationality an explosive or incendiary device, biological agent, chemical weapon, or radioactive or nuclear material, knowing that any such item is intended to be used to commit an offense listed under section 2332b(g)(5)(B), shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

(b) CAUSING DEATH.—Any person who causes the death of a person by engaging in conduct prohibited by subsection (a) may be punished by death.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BIOLOGICAL AGENT.—The term “biological agent” means any biological agent, toxin, or vector (as those terms are defined in section 178).

(2) BY-PRODUCT MATERIAL.—The term “by-product material” has the meaning given that term in section 11(e) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014(e)).

(3) CHEMICAL WEAPON.—The term “chemical weapon” has the meaning given that term in section 229F(1).

(4) EXPLOSIVE OR INCENDIARY DEVICE.—The term “explosive or incendiary device” has the meaning given the term in section 232(5) and includes explosive materials, as that term is defined in section 841(c) and explosive as defined in section 844(j).

(5) NUCLEAR MATERIAL.—The term “nuclear material” has the meaning given that term in section 831(f)(1).¹

(6) RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL.—The term “radioactive material” means—

(A) source material and special nuclear material, but does not include natural or depleted uranium;

(B) nuclear by-product material;

(C) material made radioactive by bombardment in an accelerator; or

(D) all refined isotopes of radium.

(8)² SOURCE MATERIAL.—The term “source material” has the meaning given that term in section 11(z) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014(z)).

(9) SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIAL.—The term “special nuclear material” has the meaning

given that term in section 11(aa) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014(aa)).

(Added Pub. L. 109-177, title III, §305(a), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 236.)

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REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 831(f)(1), referred to in subsec. (c)(5), was redesignated section 831(g)(1) by Pub. L. 114-23, title VIII, §812(d), June 2, 2015, 129 Stat. 312.

§ 2284. Transportation of terrorists

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever knowingly and intentionally transports any terrorist aboard any vessel within the United States and on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States or any vessel outside the United States and on the high seas or having United States nationality, knowing that the transported person is a terrorist, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

(b) DEFINED TERM.—In this section, the term “terrorist” means any person who intends to commit, or is avoiding apprehension after having committed, an offense listed under section 2332b(g)(5)(B).

(Added Pub. L. 109-177, title III, §305(a), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 237.)

§ 2285. Operation of submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel without nationality

(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly operates, or attempts or conspires to operate, by any means, or embarks in any submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel that is without nationality and that is navigating or has navigated into, through, or from waters beyond the outer limit of the territorial sea of a single country or a lateral limit of that country’s territorial sea with an adjacent country, with the intent to evade detection, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 15 years, or both.

(b) EVIDENCE OF INTENT TO EVADE DETECTION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the presence of any of the indicia described in paragraph (1)(A), (E), (F), or (G), or in paragraph (4), (5), or (6), of section 70507(b) of title 46 may be considered, in the totality of the circumstances, to be prima facie evidence of intent to evade detection.

(c) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial Federal jurisdiction over an offense under this section, including an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense.

(d) CLAIM OF NATIONALITY OR REGISTRY.—A claim of nationality or registry under this section includes only—

(1) possession on board the vessel and production of documents evidencing the vessel’s nationality as provided in article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas;

(2) flying its nation’s ensign or flag; or

(3) a verbal claim of nationality or registry by the master or individual in charge of the vessel.

(e) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for a violation of subsection

¹ See References in Text note below.

² So in original. No par. (7) has been enacted.

(a), which the defendant has the burden to prove by a preponderance of the evidence, that the submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel involved was, at the time of the offense—

(A) a vessel of the United States or lawfully registered in a foreign nation as claimed by the master or individual in charge of the vessel when requested to make a claim by an officer of the United States authorized to enforce applicable provisions of United States law;

(B) classed by and designed in accordance with the rules of a classification society;

(C) lawfully operated in government-regulated or licensed activity, including commerce, research, or exploration; or

(D) equipped with and using an operable automatic identification system, vessel monitoring system, or long range identification and tracking system.

(2) PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS.—The affirmative defenses provided by this subsection are proved conclusively by the production of—

(A) government documents evidencing the vessel's nationality at the time of the offense, as provided in article 5 of the 1958 Convention on the High Seas;

(B) a certificate of classification issued by the vessel's classification society upon completion of relevant classification surveys and valid at the time of the offense; or

(C) government documents evidencing licensure, regulation, or registration for commerce, research, or exploration.

(f) FEDERAL ACTIVITIES EXCEPTED.—Nothing in this section applies to lawfully authorized activities carried out by or at the direction of the United States Government.

(g) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER PROVISIONS.—Sections 70504 and 70505 of title 46 apply to offenses under this section in the same manner as they apply to offenses under section 70503 of such title.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “submersible vessel”, “semi-submersible vessel”, “vessel of the United States”, and “vessel without nationality” have the meaning given those terms in section 70502 of title 46.

(Added Pub. L. 110-407, title I, §102(a), Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4296.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS

Pub. L. 110-407, title I, §101, Oct. 13, 2008, 122 Stat. 4296, provided that: “Congress finds and declares that operating or embarking in a submersible vessel or semi-submersible vessel without nationality and on an international voyage is a serious international problem, facilitates transnational crime, including drug trafficking, and terrorism, and presents a specific threat to the safety of maritime navigation and the security of the United States.”

CHAPTER 111A—DESTRUCTION OF, OR INTERFERENCE WITH, VESSELS OR MARITIME FACILITIES

Sec.
2290. Jurisdiction and scope.

Sec.
2291. Destruction of vessel or maritime facility.
2292. Imparting or conveying false information.
2293. Bar to prosecution.¹

§ 2290. Jurisdiction and scope

(a) JURISDICTION.—There is jurisdiction, including extraterritorial jurisdiction, over an offense under this chapter if the prohibited activity takes place—

(1) within the United States and within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or

(2) outside United States and—

(A) an offender or a victim is a national of the United States (as that term is defined under section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22));¹

(B) the activity involves a vessel in which a national of the United States was on board; or

(C) the activity involves a vessel of the United States (as that term is defined under section 2² of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act (46 U.S.C. App. 1903)).¹

(b) SCOPE.—Nothing in this chapter shall apply to otherwise lawful activities carried out by or at the direction of the United States Government.

(Added Pub. L. 109-177, title III, §306(a), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 237.)

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REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 2 of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2)(C), probably means section 3 of the Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act, Pub. L. 96-350, which was classified to section 1903 of former Title 46, Appendix, Shipping, and was repealed and restated in sections 70502 to 70506 of Title 46, Shipping, by Pub. L. 109-304, §§10(2), 19, Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1683, 1710. Section 70502(b) of Title 46 defines “vessel of the United States”.

§ 2291. Destruction of vessel or maritime facility

(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly—

(1) sets fire to, damages, destroys, disables, or wrecks any vessel;

(2) places or causes to be placed a destructive device, as defined in section 921(a)(4), destructive substance, as defined in section 31(a)(3), or an explosive, as defined in section 844(j) in, upon, or near, or otherwise makes or causes to be made unworkable or unusable or hazardous to work or use, any vessel, or any part or other materials used or intended to be used in connection with the operation of a vessel;

(3) sets fire to, damages, destroys, or disables or places a destructive device or substance in, upon, or near, any maritime facility, including any aid to navigation, lock, canal, or vessel traffic service facility or equipment;

(4) interferes by force or violence with the operation of any maritime facility, including

¹ Editorially supplied. Section 2293 added by Pub. L. 109-177 without corresponding amendment of chapter analysis.

² So in original. There probably should be an additional closing parenthesis.

² See References in Text note below.