

**Executive Documents****TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS**

For transfer of certain functions from Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Chairman thereof, see Reorg. Plan No. 1 of 1980, 45 F.R. 40561, 94 Stat. 3585, set out as a note under section 5841 of this title.

**SUBCHAPTER XVII—ENFORCEMENT OF  
CHAPTER**

**§ 2271. General provisions****(a) Authority of President to utilize Government agencies**

To protect against the unlawful dissemination of Restricted Data and to safeguard facilities, equipment, materials, and other property of the Commission, the President shall have authority to utilize the services of any Government agency to the extent he may deem necessary or desirable.

**(b) Criminal violations**

The Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice shall investigate all alleged or suspected criminal violations of this chapter.

**(c) Violations of this chapter**

No action shall be brought against any individual or person for any violation under this chapter unless and until the Attorney General of the United States has advised the Commission with respect to such action and no such action shall be commenced except by the Attorney General of the United States: *Provided, however*, That nothing in this subsection shall be construed as applying to administrative action taken by the Commission.

(Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, § 221, as added Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, § 1, 68 Stat. 958; amended Pub. L. 91-161, § 5, Dec. 24, 1969, 83 Stat. 445; Pub. L. 101-647, title XII, § 1211, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4833; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, § 902(a)(8), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2944.)

**Editorial Notes****REFERENCES IN TEXT**

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (b) and (c), was in the original “this Act”, meaning act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, § 1, 68 Stat. 919, known as the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

**AMENDMENTS**

1990—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-647 struck out “That no action shall be brought under section 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, or 2276 of this title except by the express direction of the Attorney General: *And provided further*,” after “*Provided however*,”.

1969—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 91-161 provided that nothing in this subsection should be construed to apply to administrative action taken by the Commission.

**§ 2272. Violation of specific sections**

(a) Whoever willfully violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate, any provision of sections<sup>1</sup> 2077 or 2131 of this title, or whoever unlawfully interferes, attempts to interfere, or

conspires to interfere with any recapture or entry under section 2138 of this title, shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both, except that whoever commits such an offense with intent to injure the United States or with intent to secure an advantage to any foreign nation shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for life, or by imprisonment for any term of years or a fine of not more than \$20,000 or both.

(b) Any person who violates, or attempts or conspires to violate, section 2122 of this title shall be fined not more than \$2,000,000 and sentenced to a term of imprisonment not less than 25 years or to imprisonment for life. Any person who, in the course of a violation of section 2122 of this title, uses, attempts or conspires to use, or possesses and threatens to use, any atomic weapon shall be fined not more than \$2,000,000 and imprisoned for not less than 30 years or imprisoned for life. If the death of another results from a person's violation of section 2122 of this title, the person shall be fined not more than \$2,000,000 and punished by imprisonment for life.

(Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, § 222, as added Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, § 1, 68 Stat. 958; amended Pub. L. 91-161, §§ 2, 3(a), Dec. 24, 1969, 83 Stat. 444; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, § 902(a)(8), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2944; Pub. L. 108-458, title VI, § 6904(b), Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3771.)

**Editorial Notes****PRIOR PROVISIONS**

Provisions similar to this section were contained in section 1816(a), (b) of this title, prior to the general amendment and renumbering of act Aug. 1, 1946, by act Aug. 30, 1954.

**AMENDMENTS**

2004—Pub. L. 108-458 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), struck out “, 2122,” after “2077”, and added subsec. (b).

1969—Pub. L. 91-161 increased maximum term of imprisonment from five years to ten years for willful violation, or attempted violation of enumerated sections, and struck out applicability of death penalty for violation of same offenses committed with intent to injure the United States, or secure an advantage to any foreign nation.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries****EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1969 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 91-161, § 7, Dec. 24, 1969, 83 Stat. 445, provided that: “The amendments contained in sections 2 and 3 of this Act [amending this section and sections 2274 and 2276 of this title] shall apply only to offenses under sections 222, 224, 225, and 226 [this section and sections 2274, 2275, and 2276 of this title] which are committed on or after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 24, 1969]. Nothing in section 2 or 3 of this Act shall affect penalties authorized under existing law for offenses under section 222, 224, 225, or 226 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, committed prior to the date of enactment of this Act.”

**§ 2273. Violation of sections****(a) Generally**

Whoever willfully violates, attempts to violate, or conspires to violate, any provision of

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “section”.