

(c) COMPLAINTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish and maintain a database of complaints received by the Board.

(2) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—The Board shall post a quarterly report of formal and informal service complaints received by the Board during the previous quarter that includes—

(A) the date on which the complaint was received by the Board;

(B) a list of the type of each complaint;

(C) the geographic region of each complaint; and

(D) the resolution of each complaint, if appropriate.

(3) WRITTEN CONSENT.—The quarterly report may identify a complainant that submitted an informal complaint only upon the written consent of the complainant.

(4) WEBSITE POSTING.—Each quarterly report shall be posted on the Board's public website.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title II, §201(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 934, §704; renumbered §1304 and amended Pub. L. 114-110, §§3(a)(3), 6, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228, 2231.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110, §6, substituted “Reports” for “Annual report” in section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and inserted heading, substituted “on its activities, including each instance in which the Board has initiated an investigation on its own initiative under this chapter or subtitle IV.” for “on its activities.”, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

Pub. L. 114-110, §3(a)(3), renumbered section 704 of this title as this section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Pub. L. 114-110, §15(b), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2238, provided that: “Beginning not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 18, 2015], the Surface Transportation Board shall submit quarterly reports to the congressional committees referred to in section 14(b) [Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives] that describes the Surface Transportation Board's progress toward addressing the issues raised in each unfinished regulatory proceeding, regardless of whether the proceeding is subject to a statutory or regulatory deadline.”

§ 1305. Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated for the activities of the Board—

(1) \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2016;

(2) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2017;

(3) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2018;

(4) \$35,500,000 for fiscal year 2019; and

(5) \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2020.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title II, §201(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 934, §705; renumbered §1305 and amended Pub. L. 114-110, §§3(a)(3), 7, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228, 2232.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110, §3(a)(3), renumbered section 705 of this title as this section.

Pars. (1) to (5). Pub. L. 114-110, §7, added pars. (1) to (5) and struck out former pars. (1) to (3) which related to appropriations for fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998, respectively.

§ 1306. Reporting official action

(a) REPORTS ON PROCEEDINGS.—The Board shall make a written report of each proceeding conducted on complaint or on its own initiative and furnish a copy to each party to that proceeding. The report shall include the findings, conclusions, and the order of the Board and, if damages are awarded, the findings of fact supporting the award. The Board may have its reports published for public use. A published report of the Board is competent evidence of its contents.

(b) SPECIAL RULES FOR MATTERS RELATED TO RAIL CARRIERS.—(1) When action of the Board in a matter related to a rail carrier is taken by the Board, an individual member of the Board, or another individual or group of individuals designated to take official action for the Board, the written statement of that action (including a report, order, decision and order, vote, notice, letter, policy statement, or regulation) shall indicate—

(A) the official designation of the individual or group taking the action;

(B) the name of each individual taking, or participating in taking, the action; and

(C) the vote or position of each participating individual.

(2) If an individual member of a group taking an official action referred to in paragraph (1) does not participate in it, the written statement of the action shall indicate that the member did not participate. An individual participating in taking an official action is entitled to express the views of that individual as part of the written statement of the action. In addition to any publication of the written statement, it shall be made available to the public under section 552(a) of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title II, §201(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 934, §706; renumbered §1306, Pub. L. 114-110, §3(a)(3), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110 renumbered section 706 of this title as this section.

SUBCHAPTER II—ADMINISTRATIVE

§ 1321. Powers

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall carry out this chapter and subtitle IV. Enumeration of a power of the Board in this chapter or subtitle IV does not exclude another power the Board may have in carrying out this chapter or subtitle IV. The Board may prescribe regulations in carrying out this chapter and subtitle IV.

(b) INQUIRIES, REPORTS, AND ORDERS.—The Board may—

(1) inquire into and report on the management of the business of carriers providing transportation and services subject to subtitle IV;

(2) inquire into and report on the management of the business of a person controlling,

controlled by, or under common control with those carriers to the extent that the business of that person is related to the management of the business of that carrier;

(3) obtain from those carriers and persons information the Board decides is necessary to carry out subtitle IV; and

(4) when necessary to prevent irreparable harm, issue an appropriate order without regard to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5.

(c) SUBPOENA WITNESSES.—(1) The Board may subpoena witnesses and records related to a proceeding of the Board from any place in the United States, to the designated place of the proceeding. If a witness disobeys a subpoena, the Board, or a party to a proceeding before the Board, may petition a court of the United States to enforce that subpoena.

(2) The district courts of the United States have jurisdiction to enforce a subpoena issued under this section. Trial is in the district in which the proceeding is conducted. The court may punish a refusal to obey a subpoena as a contempt of court.

(d) DEPOSITIONS.—(1) In a proceeding, the Board may take the testimony of a witness by deposition and may order the witness to produce records. A party to a proceeding pending before the Board may take the testimony of a witness by deposition and may require the witness to produce records at any time after a proceeding is at issue on petition and answer.

(2) If a witness fails to be deposed or to produce records under paragraph (1), the Board may subpoena the witness to take a deposition, produce the records, or both.

(3) A deposition may be taken before a judge of a court of the United States, a United States magistrate judge, a clerk of a district court, or a chancellor, justice, or judge of a supreme or superior court, mayor or chief magistrate of a city, judge of a county court, or court of common pleas of any State, or a notary public who is not counsel or attorney of a party or interested in the proceeding.

(4) Before taking a deposition, reasonable notice must be given in writing by the party or the attorney of that party proposing to take a deposition to the opposing party or the attorney of record of that party, whoever is nearest. The notice shall state the name of the witness and the time and place of taking the deposition.

(5) The testimony of a person deposed under this subsection shall be taken under oath. The person taking the deposition shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, a transcript of the testimony taken. The transcript shall be subscribed by the deponent.

(6) The testimony of a witness who is in a foreign country may be taken by deposition before an officer or person designated by the Board or agreed on by the parties by written stipulation filed with the Board. A deposition shall be filed with the Board promptly.

(e) WITNESS FEES.—Each witness summoned before the Board or whose deposition is taken under this section and the individual taking the deposition are entitled to the same fees and mileage paid for those services in the courts of the United States.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title II, §201(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 935, §721; renumbered §1321, Pub. L. 114-110, §3(a)(5), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110 renumbered section 721 of this title as this section.

§ 1322. Board action

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE OF ACTIONS.—Unless otherwise provided in subtitle IV, the Board may determine, within a reasonable time, when its actions, other than an action ordering the payment of money, take effect.

(b) TERMINATING AND CHANGING ACTIONS.—An action of the Board remains in effect under its own terms or until superseded. The Board may change, suspend, or set aside any such action on notice. Notice may be given in a manner determined by the Board. A court of competent jurisdiction may suspend or set aside any such action.

(c) RECONSIDERING ACTIONS.—The Board may, at any time on its own initiative because of material error, new evidence, or substantially changed circumstances—

- (1) reopen a proceeding;
- (2) grant rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration of an action of the Board; or
- (3) change an action of the Board.

An interested party may petition to reopen and reconsider an action of the Board under this subsection under regulations of the Board.

(d) FINALITY OF ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding subtitle IV, an action of the Board under this section is final on the date on which it is served, and a civil action to enforce, enjoin, suspend, or set aside the action may be filed after that date.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title II, §201(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 936, §722; renumbered §1322, Pub. L. 114-110, §3(a)(5), Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2228.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2015—Pub. L. 114-110 renumbered section 722 of this title as this section.

§ 1323. Service of notice in Board proceedings

(a) DESIGNATION OF AGENT.—A carrier providing transportation subject to the jurisdiction of the Board under subtitle IV shall designate an agent on whom service of notices in a proceeding before, and of actions of, the Board may be made.

(b) FILING AND CHANGING DESIGNATIONS.—A designation under subsection (a) shall be in writing and filed with the Board. The designation may be changed at any time in the same manner as originally made.

(c) SERVICE OF NOTICE.—Except as otherwise provided, notices of the Board shall be served on its designated agent at the office or usual place of residence of that agent. A notice of action of the Board shall be served immediately on the agent or in another manner provided by law. If that carrier does not have a designated agent, service may be made by posting the notice in the office of the Board.