

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §338b (July 8, 1932, ch. 464, §2, 47 Stat. 649; May 15, 1939, ch. 133, §1, 53 Stat. 742).

Reference to persons causing or procuring was omitted as unnecessary in view of definition of “principal” in section 2 of this title.

Provisions as to district of trial were omitted as covered by sections 3237 and 3239 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, §330021(2), substituted “kidnapped” for “kidnaped” in first par.

Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(K), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000” in first and second pars.

Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(H), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000” in third par.

Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(G), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$500” in fourth par.

1970—Pub. L. 91-375 substituted “Postal Service” for “Post Office Department of the United States” in two places in first par.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1970 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 91-375 effective within 1 year after Aug. 12, 1970, on date established therefor by Board of Governors of United States Postal Service and published by it in Federal Register, see section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as an Effective Date note preceding section 101 of Title 39, Postal Service.

§ 878. Threats and extortion against foreign officials, official guests, or internationally protected persons

(a) Whoever knowingly and willfully threatens to violate section 112, 1116, or 1201 shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, except that imprisonment for a threatened assault shall not exceed three years.

(b) Whoever in connection with any violation of subsection (a) or actual violation of section 112, 1116, or 1201 makes any extortionate demand shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

(c) For the purpose of this section “foreign official”, “internationally protected person”, “national of the United States”, and “official guest” shall have the same meanings as those provided in section 1116(a) of this title.

(d) If the victim of an offense under subsection (a) is an internationally protected person outside the United States, the United States may exercise jurisdiction over the offense if (1) the victim is a representative, officer, employee, or agent of the United States, (2) an offender is a national of the United States, or (3) an offender is afterwards found in the United States. As used in this subsection, the United States includes all areas under the jurisdiction of the United States including any of the places within the provisions of sections 5 and 7 of this title and section 46501(2) of title 49.

(Added Pub. L. 94-467, §8, Oct. 8, 1976, 90 Stat. 2000; amended Pub. L. 95-163, §17(b)(1), Nov. 9, 1977, 91 Stat. 1286; Pub. L. 95-504, §2(b), Oct. 24, 1978, 92 Stat. 1705; Pub. L. 103-272, §5(e)(2), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1373; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), (N), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147, 2148; Pub. L. 104-132, title VII, §§705(a)(4), 721(e), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1295, 1299.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-132, §705(a)(4), struck out “by killing, kidnapping, or assaulting a foreign official, official guest, or internationally protected person” before “shall be fined”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-132, §721(e)(1), inserted “‘national of the United States,’” before “and ‘official guest’”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 104-132, §721(e)(2), inserted first sentence and struck out former first sentence which read as follows: “If the victim of an offense under subsection (a) is an internationally protected person, the United States may exercise jurisdiction over the offense if the alleged offender is present within the United States, irrespective of the place where the offense was committed or the nationality of the victim or the alleged offender.”

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(K), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(N), substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$20,000”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 103-272 substituted “section 46501(2) of title 49” for “section 101(38) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, as amended (49 U.S.C. 1301(38))”.

1978—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 95-504 substituted reference to section 101(38) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 for reference to section 101(35) of such Act.

1977—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 95-163 substituted reference to section 101(35) of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 for reference to section 101(34) of such Act.

§ 879. Threats against former Presidents and certain other persons

(a) Whoever knowingly and willfully threatens to kill, kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon—

(1) a former President or a member of the immediate family of a former President;

(2) a member of the immediate family of the President, the President-elect, the Vice President, or the Vice President-elect;

(3) a major candidate for the office of President or Vice President, or a member of the immediate family of such candidate; or

(4) a person protected by the Secret Service under section 3056(a)(6);

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(b) As used in this section—

(1) the term “immediate family” means—

(A) with respect to subsection (a)(1) of this section, the wife of a former President during his lifetime, the widow of a former President until her death or remarriage, and minor children of a former President until they reach sixteen years of age; and

(B) with respect to subsection (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section, a person to whom the President, President-elect, Vice President, Vice President-elect, or major candidate for the office of President or Vice President—

(i) is related by blood, marriage, or adoption; or

(ii) stands in loco parentis;

(2) the term “major candidate for the office of President or Vice President” means a candidate referred to in subsection (a)(7) of section 3056 of this title; and

(3) the terms “President-elect” and “Vice President-elect” have the meanings given those terms in section 871(b) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 97-297, §1(a), Oct. 12, 1982, 96 Stat. 1317; amended Pub. L. 98-587, §3(a), Oct. 30, 1984,

98 Stat. 3111; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(H), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147; Pub. L. 106-544, §2(a), (b)(1), Dec. 19, 2000, 114 Stat. 2715.)

AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-544, §2(b)(1), struck out “protected by the Secret Service” after “other persons” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-544, §2(a)(1)–(4), in par. (3), substituted “a member of the immediate family” for “the spouse”, added par. (4), and, in concluding provisions, struck out “who is protected by the Secret Service as provided by law,” before “shall be fined” and substituted “5 years” for “three years”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(B). Pub. L. 106-544, §2(a)(5), in introductory provisions, inserted “and (a)(3)” after “subsection (a)(2)” and substituted “Vice President-elect, or major candidate for the office of President or Vice President” for “or Vice President-elect”.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$1,000” in concluding provisions.

1984—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 98-587 substituted “subsection (a)(7) of section 3056 of this title” for “the first section of the joint resolution entitled ‘Joint resolution to authorize the United States Secret Service to furnish protection to major Presidential or Vice Presidential candidates’, approved June 6, 1968 (18 U.S.C. 3056 note)”.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of the functions, personnel, assets, and obligations of the United States Secret Service, including the functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 381, 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

§ 880. Receiving the proceeds of extortion

A person who receives, possesses, conceals, or disposes of any money or other property which was obtained from the commission of any offense under this chapter that is punishable by imprisonment for more than 1 year, knowing the same to have been unlawfully obtained, shall be imprisoned not more than 3 years, fined under this title, or both.

(Added Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXII, §320601(a)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2115.)

CHAPTER 42—EXTORTIONATE CREDIT TRANSACTIONS

Sec.	
891.	Definitions and rules of construction.
892.	Making extortionate extensions of credit.
893.	Financing extortionate extensions of credit.
894.	Collection of extensions of credit by extortionate means.
[895.	Repealed.]
896.	Effect on State laws.

AMENDMENTS

1970—Pub. L. 91-452, title II, §223(b), Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 929, struck out item 895 “Immunity of witnesses”.
 1968—Pub. L. 90-321, title II, §202(a), May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 159, added chapter 42 and items 891 to 896.

§ 891. Definitions and rules of construction

For the purposes of this chapter:

(1) To extend credit means to make or renew any loan, or to enter into any agreement, tacit

or express, whereby the repayment or satisfaction of any debt or claim, whether acknowledged or disputed, valid or invalid, and however arising, may or will be deferred.

(2) The term “creditor”, with reference to any given extension of credit, refers to any person making that extension of credit, or to any person claiming by, under, or through any person making that extension of credit.

(3) The term “debtor”, with reference to any given extension of credit, refers to any person to whom that extension of credit is made, or to any person who guarantees the repayment of that extension of credit, or in any manner undertakes to indemnify the creditor against loss resulting from the failure of any person to whom that extension of credit is made to repay the same.

(4) The repayment of any extension of credit includes the repayment, satisfaction, or discharge in whole or in part of any debt or claim, acknowledged or disputed, valid or invalid, resulting from or in connection with that extension of credit.

(5) To collect an extension of credit means to induce in any way any person to make repayment thereof.

(6) An extortionate extension of credit is any extension of credit with respect to which it is the understanding of the creditor and the debtor at the time it is made that delay in making repayment or failure to make repayment could result in the use of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to the person, reputation, or property of any person.

(7) An extortionate means is any means which involves the use, or an express or implicit threat of use, of violence or other criminal means to cause harm to the person, reputation, or property of any person.

(8) The term “State” includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and territories and possessions of the United States.

(9) State law, including conflict of laws rules, governing the enforceability through civil judicial processes of repayment of any extension of credit or the performance of any promise given in consideration thereof shall be judicially noticed. This paragraph does not impair any authority which any court would otherwise have to take judicial notice of any matter of State law.

(Added Pub. L. 90-321, title II, §202(a), May 29, 1968, 82 Stat. 160.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Chapter effective May 29, 1968, see section 504(a) of Pub. L. 90-321.

CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

Section 201 of Pub. L. 90-321 provided that:
 “(a) The Congress makes the following findings:
 “(1) Organized crime is interstate and international in character. Its activities involve many billions of dollars each year. It is directly responsible for murders, willful injuries to person and property, corruption of officials, and terrorization of countless citizens. A substantial part of the income of organized crime is generated by extortionate credit transactions.