

**CHAPTER 77—PEONAGE, SLAVERY, AND  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

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HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

It was felt that further revision of this chapter should be considered at an opportune time for the same reasons stated with respect to chapter 81, "Piracy and Privateering".

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-457, title II, §§222(d)(2), 223(b), Dec. 23, 2008, 122 Stat. 5070, 5072, added items 1593A and 1596.

2003—Pub. L. 108-193, §§4(a)(4)(B), 5(c)(1), Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2878, 2879, substituted "PEONAGE, SLAVERY, AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS" for "PEONAGE AND SLAVERY" as chapter heading and added item 1595.

2000—Pub. L. 106-386, div. A, §112(a)(3), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1489, added items 1589 to 1594.

1949—Act May 24, 1949, ch. 139, §36, 63 Stat. 95, substituted a semicolon for comma after "Peonage" in item 1581.

**§ 1581. Peonage; obstructing enforcement**

(a) Whoever holds or returns any person to a condition of peonage, or arrests any person with the intent of placing him in or returning him to a condition of peonage, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both. If death results from the violation of this section, or if the violation includes kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or the attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, the defendant shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for any term of years or life, or both.

(b) Whoever obstructs, or attempts to obstruct, or in any way interferes with or prevents the enforcement of this section, shall be liable to the penalties prescribed in subsection (a).

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 772; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147; Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title II, §218(a), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-573; Pub. L. 106-386, div. A, §112(a)(1), Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1486.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §§444, 445 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §§269, 270, 35 Stat. 1142).

Section consolidates sections 444 and 445 of said title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., with changes in phraseology to amplify and clarify their provisions.

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

AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 106-386 substituted "20 years" for "10 years" and inserted at end "If death results from the violation of this section, or if the violation includes kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse or the attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, the defendant shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for any term of years or life, or both."

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-208 substituted "10 years" for "five years".

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted "fined under this title" for "fined not more than \$5,000".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Section 218(d) of div. C of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that: "This section [amending this section and sections 1583, 1584, and 1588 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 994 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure] and the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to offenses occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996]."

**§ 1582. Vessels for slave trade**

Whoever, whether as master, factor, or owner, builds, fits out, equips, loads, or otherwise prepares or sends away any vessel, in any port or place within the United States, or causes such vessel to sail from any such port or place, for the purpose of procuring any person from any foreign kingdom or country to be transported and held, sold, or otherwise disposed of as a slave, or held to service or labor, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than seven years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 772; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §424 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §249, 35 Stat. 1139).

Words "within the United States" were substituted for "within the jurisdiction of the United States". See section 5 of this title defining "United States".

Provision for division of the fine and its recovery by private person was omitted. (See reviser's note under section 1585 of this title.)

Mandatory-punishment provisions were rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted "fined under this title" for "fined not more than \$5,000".

**§ 1583. Enticement into slavery**

(a) Whoever—

(1) kidnaps or carries away any other person, with the intent that such other person be sold into involuntary servitude, or held as a slave;

(2) entices, persuades, or induces any other person to go on board any vessel or to any other place with the intent that he or she may be made or held as a slave, or sent out of the country to be so made or held; or