

# TITLE 3—THE PRESIDENT

*This title was enacted by act June 25, 1948, ch. 644, §1, 62 Stat. 672*

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### AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-331, §2(c), Oct. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 4068, added item for chapter 5.  
 1951—Act Oct. 31, 1951, ch. 655, §4, 65 Stat. 711, added item for chapter 4.

### POSITIVE LAW; CITATION

This title has been made positive law by section 1 of act June 25, 1948, ch. 644, 62 Stat. 672, which provided in part that: "Title 3 of the United States Code, entitled 'The President', is codified and enacted into positive law and may be cited as '3 U. S. C., §—.'"

### SAVINGS CLAUSE

Section 2 of act June 25, 1948, provided that: "The provisions of title 3, 'The President', set out in section 1 of this Act, shall be construed as a continuation of existing law and no loss of rights, interruption of jurisdiction, nor prejudice to matters pending on the effective date of this Act shall result from its enactment."

### REPEALS

Section 3 of act June 25, 1948, provided that the sections or parts thereof of the Statutes at Large or the Revised Statutes covering provisions codified in this Act are repealed insofar as the provisions appeared in former Title 3, and provided that any rights or liabilities now existing under the repealed sections or parts thereof shall not be affected by the repeal.

### PRIOR REPEALS

Former sections 21 and 22 relating to performance of presidential duties in absence of both the President and Vice President were repealed by act July 18, 1947, ch. 264, §1(g), 61 Stat. 381.

TABLE SHOWING DISPOSITION OF ALL SECTIONS OF FORMER TITLE 3

Title 3 Former Sections	Revised Statutes Statutes at Large	Title 3 New Sections
1 .....	R.S. §131 .....	1
2 .....	R.S. §132 .....	3
3 .....	R.S. §133 .....	4
4 .....	R.S. §134 .....	2
5 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §1, 24 Stat. 373 .....	7
5a .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §1, 45 Stat. 945 .....	7
	June 5, 1934, ch. 390, §6(a), 48 Stat. 879 .....	

<sup>1</sup>Chapter repealed by Pub. L. 109-177 without a corresponding amendment of chapter analysis.

TABLE SHOWING DISPOSITION OF ALL SECTIONS OF FORMER TITLE 3—Continued

Title 3 Former Sections	Revised Statutes Statutes at Large	Title 3 New Sections
6 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §2, 24 Stat. 373 .....	5
7 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §3, 24 Stat. 373 .....	6
7a .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §2, 45 Stat. 946 .....	6
8 .....	R.S. §137 .....	8
9 .....	R.S. §138 .....	9
9a .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §3, 45 Stat. 946 .....	9
10 .....	R.S. §139 .....	10
11 .....	R.S. §140 .....	11
	Oct. 19, 1888, ch. 1216, §1, 25 Stat. 613 .....	
11a .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §4, 45 Stat. 946 .....	11
11b .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §5, 45 Stat. 946 .....	12
	June 5, 1934, ch. 390, §6(b), 48 Stat. 879 .....	
11c .....	May 29, 1928, ch. 859, §6, 45 Stat. 946 .....	13
	June 5, 1934, ch. 390, §6(c), 48 Stat. 879 .....	
12 .....	Oct. 19, 1888, ch. 1216, §1, 25 Stat. 613 .....	11, 12
13 .....	R.S. §141 .....	13
	Oct. 19, 1888, ch. 1216, §2, 25 Stat. 613 .....	
14 .....	R.S. §143 .....	11
15 .....	R.S. §144 .....	11
16 .....	R.S. §145 .....	14
17 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §4, 24 Stat. 373 .....	15
	June 5, 1934, ch. 390, §7, 48 Stat. 879 .....	
18 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §5, 24 Stat. 374 .....	18
19 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §6, 24 Stat. 375 .....	17
20 .....	Feb. 3, 1887, ch. 90, §7, 24 Stat. 375 .....	16
21 .....	Jan. 19, 1886, ch. 4, §1, 24 Stat. 1 .....	19
22 .....	Jan. 19, 1886, ch. 4, §2, 24 Stat. 1 .....	19
23 .....	R.S. §151 .....	20
24 .....	July 18, 1947, ch. 264, §1(a-f), 61 Stat. 380, 381 .....	19
	July 26, 1947, ch. 343, §311, 61 Stat. 509 .....	
41 .....	R.S. §152 .....	101
	June 5, 1934, ch. 390, §1, 48 Stat. 879 .....	
42 .....	R.S. §153 .....	102
	Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 297, §1, 35 Stat. 859 .....	
43 .....	June 23, 1906, ch. 3523, 34 Stat. 454 .....	103
	Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 744, §17(c), 60 Stat. 811 .....	
44 .....	R.S. §154 .....	104
	Feb. 26, 1907, ch. 1635, §4, 34 Stat. 993 .....	
	Mar. 4, 1925, ch. 549, §4, 43 Stat. 1301 .....	
	Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 753, §601(a), 60 Stat. 850 .....	
45 .....	Apr. 22, 1926, ch. 171, §1, 44 Stat. 305 .....	105
45a .....	Apr. 3, 1939, ch. 36, §301, 53 Stat. 565 .....	106
46 .....	June 12, 1922, ch. 218, 42 Stat. 636 .....	107
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	June 7, 1924, ch. 292, §1, 43 Stat. 521 .....	
	Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 468, §1, 43 Stat. 1198, 1199 .....	
	Apr. 22, 1926, ch. 171, §1, 44 Stat. 305 .....	
	Feb. 11, 1927, ch. 104, §1, 44 Stat. 1069 .....	
	May 16, 1928, ch. 580, §1, 45 Stat. 573 .....	
	Feb. 20, 1929, ch. 270, §1, 45 Stat. 1230 .....	
	Apr. 19, 1930, ch. 201, §1, 46 Stat. 229 .....	
	Feb. 23, 1931, ch. 281, §1, 46 Stat. 1355 .....	
	June 30, 1932, ch. 330, §1, 47 Stat. 452 .....	
	June 16, 1933, ch. 101, §1, 48 Stat. 284 .....	
	Mar. 28, 1934, ch. 102, §1, 48 Stat. 509 .....	
	Feb. 2, 1935, ch. 3, §1, 49 Stat. 6 .....	
	Mar. 19, 1936, ch. 156, §1, 49 Stat. 1148 .....	
	June 28, 1937, ch. 396, §1, 50 Stat. 350 .....	
	May 23, 1938, ch. 259, §1, 52 Stat. 411 .....	
	Mar. 16, 1939, ch. 11, §1, 53 Stat. 524 .....	
	Apr. 8, 1940, ch. 107, §1, 54 Stat. 112 .....	
	Apr. 5, 1941, ch. 40, §1, 55 Stat. 93 .....	
	June 27, 1942, ch. 450, §1, 56 Stat. 392 .....	
	June 26, 1943, ch. 145, §101, 57 Stat. 169 .....	
	June 27, 1944, ch. 286, §101, 58 Stat. 361 .....	
	May 3, 1945, ch. 106, §101, 59 Stat. 106 .....	
	Mar. 28, 1946, ch. 113, §101, 60 Stat. 61 .....	
47 .....	Mar. 4, 1911, ch. 285, §1, 36 Stat. 1404 .....	108
48 .....	June 25, 1910, ch. 384, §9, 36 Stat. 773 .....	109
49 .....	R.S. §1829 .....	110
	Feb. 26, 1925, ch. 377, §§1, 2, 43 Stat. 1091 .....	
50 .....	R.S. §1832 .....	109
51 .....	R.S. §1833 .....	109
52 .....	R.S. §1834 .....	109
53 .....	June 23, 1913, ch. 3, §1, 38 Stat. 23 .....	201
54 .....	June 9, 1941, ch. 189, 55 Stat. 247 .....	Elim.
61 .....	Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, §1, 42 Stat. 841 .....	202

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62 .....	May 14, 1930, ch. 277, § 1, 46 Stat. 328. Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 2, 42 Stat. 841 .....	203
62a .....	May 14, 1930, ch. 277, § 2, 46 Stat. 328. May 28, 1935, ch. 154, 49 Stat. 304. Apr. 22, 1940, ch. 133, 54 Stat. 156. June 9, 1947, ch. 102, 61 Stat. 132.	205
62b .....	Oct. 9, 1942, ch. 582, § 1, 56 Stat. 778 .....	206
63 .....	Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 3, 42 Stat. 842 .....	204
64 .....	May 14, 1930, ch. 277, § 3, 46 Stat. 328. Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 4, 42 Stat. 842 .....	207
65 .....	Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 5, 42 Stat. 842 .....	Rep.
66 .....	Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 6, 42 Stat. 842 .....	Rep.
67 .....	Sept. 14, 1922, ch. 308, § 7, 42 Stat. 843 .....	208
	May 14, 1930, ch. 277, § 4, 46 Stat. 329.	

**CHAPTER 1—PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES**

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  20. Resignation or refusal of office.
  21. Definitions.

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-497, title I, §107(e)(3), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2292, substituted "Archivist of the United States" for "Administrator of General Services" in items 6 and 12.

1961—Pub. L. 87-389, §2(b), Oct. 4, 1961, 75 Stat. 820, added item 21.

1951—Act Oct. 31, 1951, ch. 655, §5, 65 Stat. 711, substituted "Administrator of General Services" for "Secretary of State" in items 6 and 12.

**§ 1. Time of appointing electors**

The electors of President and Vice President shall be appointed, in each State, on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, in every fourth year succeeding every election of a President and Vice President.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 644, 62 Stat. 672.)

SHORT TITLE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 111-283, §1, Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3045, provided that: "This Act [enacting provisions set out as a

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

note under section 102 of this title and amending provisions set out as notes under section 102 of this title, section 1101 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 435b of Title 50, War and National Defense] may be cited as the 'Pre-Election Presidential Transition Act of 2010'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-331, §1(a), Oct. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 4053, provided that: "This Act [enacting sections 401, 402, 411 to 417, 421, 425, 431, 435, 451 to 456, and 471 of this title and sections 1296, 1413, and 3901 to 3908 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, amending sections 1346 and 2402 of Title 28, repealing section 1219 of Title 2, The Congress, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 401 of this title, section 1219 of Title 2, and section 1296 of Title 28] may be cited as the 'Presidential and Executive Office Accountability Act'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-398, §1, Aug. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 985, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 3345, 3348, and 5723 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and enacting and amending provisions set out as notes under section 102 of this title] may be cited as the 'Presidential Transitions Effectiveness Act'."

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Time of choosing electors, see Const. Art. 2, §1, cl. 3.

**§ 2. Failure to make choice on prescribed day**

Whenever any State has held an election for the purpose of choosing electors, and has failed to make a choice on the day prescribed by law, the electors may be appointed on a subsequent day in such a manner as the legislature of such State may direct.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 644, 62 Stat. 672.)

**§ 3. Number of electors**

The number of electors shall be equal to the number of Senators and Representatives to which the several States are by law entitled at the time when the President and Vice President to be chosen come into office; except, that where no apportionment of Representatives has been made after any enumeration, at the time of choosing electors, the number of electors shall be according to the then existing apportionment of Senators and Representatives.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 644, 62 Stat. 672.)

**§ 4. Vacancies in electoral college**

Each State may, by law, provide for the filling of any vacancies which may occur in its college of electors when such college meets to give its electoral vote.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 644, 62 Stat. 673.)

**§ 5. Determination of controversy as to appointment of electors**

If any State shall have provided, by laws enacted prior to the day fixed for the appointment of the electors, for its final determination of any controversy or contest concerning the appointment of all or any of the electors of such State, by judicial or other methods or procedures, and such determination shall have been made at least six days before the time fixed for the meeting of the electors, such determination made pursuant to such law so existing on said day,