

Ethics in Government Act of 1978. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 101 of this Appendix and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 707 of Title 2, The Congress.

AMENDMENTS

1989—Pub. L. 101-194 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to confidential reports and other additional requirements for provisions setting forth definitions for purposes of title I of Pub. L. 95-521. See section 109 of this Appendix.

1979—Par. (1). Pub. L. 96-19, §9(d), substituted “gross income derived from business (and net income if the individual elects to include it)” for “net and gross income derived from business”.

Par. (16). Pub. L. 96-19, §9(g), inserted quotation marks after “designated committee of the House of Representatives” and before “designated committee of the Senate”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-194 effective Jan. 1, 1991, see section 204 of Pub. L. 101-194, set out as a note under section 101 of this Appendix.

§ 108. Authority of Comptroller General

(a) The Comptroller General shall have access to financial disclosure reports filed under this title for the purposes of carrying out his statutory responsibilities.

(b) No later than December 31, 1992, and regularly thereafter, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study to determine whether the provisions of this title are being carried out effectively.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title I, §108, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1835; Pub. L. 96-19, §9(t), June 13, 1979, 93 Stat. 44; Pub. L. 101-194, title II, §202, Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1741.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 708 of Title 2, The Congress.

AMENDMENTS

1989—Pub. L. 101-194 amended section generally, substituting provisions relating to authority of Comptroller General for provision relating to preemption of State laws.

1979—Pub. L. 96-19 inserted “holding the office of Member or” after “financial disclosure by reason of”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-194 effective Jan. 1, 1991, see section 204 of Pub. L. 101-194, set out as a note under section 101 of this Appendix.

§ 109. Definitions

For the purposes of this title, the term—

(1) “congressional ethics committees” means the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate and the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives;

(2) “dependent child” means, when used with respect to any reporting individual, any individual who is a son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter and who—

(A) is unmarried and under age 21 and is living in the household of such reporting individual; or

(B) is a dependent of such reporting individual within the meaning of section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 [26 U.S.C. 152];

(3) “designated agency ethics official” means an officer or employee who is designated to administer the provisions of this title within an agency;

(4) “executive branch” includes each Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code), other than the Government Accountability Office, and any other entity or administrative unit in the executive branch;

(5) “gift” means a payment, advance, forbearance, rendering, or deposit of money, or any thing of value, unless consideration of equal or greater value is received by the donor, but does not include—

(A) bequest and other forms of inheritance;

(B) suitable mementos of a function honoring the reporting individual;

(C) food, lodging, transportation, and entertainment provided by a foreign government within a foreign country or by the United States Government, the District of Columbia, or a State or local government or political subdivision thereof;

(D) food and beverages which are not consumed in connection with a gift of overnight lodging;

(E) communications to the offices of a reporting individual, including subscriptions to newspapers and periodicals; or

(F) consumable products provided by home-State businesses to the offices of a reporting individual who is an elected official, if those products are intended for consumption by persons other than such reporting individual;

(6) “honoraria” has the meaning given such term in section 505 of this Act;

(7) “income” means all income from whatever source derived, including but not limited to the following items: compensation for services, including fees, commissions, and similar items; gross income derived from business (and net income if the individual elects to include it); gains derived from dealings in property; interest; rents; royalties; dividends; annuities; income from life insurance and endowment contracts; pensions; income from discharge of indebtedness; distributive share of partnership income; and income from an interest in an estate or trust;

(8) “judicial employee” means any employee of the judicial branch of the Government, of the United States Sentencing Commission, of the Tax Court, of the Court of Federal Claims, of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, or of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, who is not a judicial officer and who is authorized to perform adjudicatory functions with respect to proceedings in the judicial branch, or who occupies a position for which the rate of basic pay is equal to or greater than 120 percent of the minimum rate of basic pay payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule;

(9) “Judicial Conference” means the Judicial Conference of the United States; or