

substantive changes are intended, see section 7(a) of the bill.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Par. (1). Pub. L. 109-435 substituted “Postal Regulatory Commission” for “Postal Rate Commission”.

2004—Par. (2). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

1970—Par. (1). Pub. L. 91-375 inserted “(other than the United States Postal Service or the Postal Rate Commission)” after “executive branch”.

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.

§ 105. Executive agency

For the purpose of this title, “Executive agency” means an Executive department, a Government corporation, and an independent establishment.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 379.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

The section is supplied to avoid the necessity for defining “Executive agency” each time it is used in this title.

CHAPTER 3—POWERS

- Sec. 301. Departmental regulations.
- 302. Delegation of authority.
- 303. Oaths to witnesses.
- 304. Subpenas.
- 305. Systematic agency review of operations.
- 306. Agency strategic plans.

AMENDMENTS

2011—Pub. L. 111-352, §13(a), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3882, added item 306 and struck out former item 306 “Strategic plans”.

1993—Pub. L. 103-62, §11(a), Aug. 3, 1993, 107 Stat. 295, added item 306.

§ 301. Departmental regulations

The head of an Executive department or military department may prescribe regulations for the government of his department, the conduct of its employees, the distribution and performance of its business, and the custody, use, and preservation of its records, papers, and property. This section does not authorize withholding information from the public or limiting the availability of records to the public.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 379.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| <i>Derivation</i> | <i>U.S. Code</i> | <i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|---|
| | 5 U.S.C. 22. | R.S. §161. Aug. 12, 1958, Pub. L. 85-619, 72 Stat. 547. |

The words “Executive department” are substituted for “department” as the definition of “department” applicable to this section is coextensive with the definition of “Executive department” in section 101. The

words “not inconsistent with law” are omitted as surplusage as a regulation which is inconsistent with law is invalid.

The words “or military department” are inserted to preserve the application of the source law. Before enactment of the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 578), the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force were Executive departments. The National Security Act Amendments of 1949 established the Department of Defense as an Executive Department including the Department of the Army, the Department of the Navy, and the Department of the Air Force as military departments, not as Executive departments. However, the source law for this section, which was in effect in 1949, remained applicable to the Secretaries of the military departments by virtue of section 12(g) of the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 (63 Stat. 591), which provided:

“All laws, orders, regulations, and other actions relating to the National Military Establishment, the Departments of the Army, the Navy, or the Air Force, or to any officer or activity of such establishment or such departments, shall, except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, have the same effect as if this Act had not been enacted; but, after the effective date of this Act, any such law, order, regulation, or other action which vested functions in or otherwise related to any officer, department, or establishment, shall be deemed to have vested such function in or relate to the officer, or department, executive or military, succeeding the officer, department, or establishment in which such function was vested. For purposes of this subsection the Department of Defense shall be deemed the department succeeding the National Military Establishment, and the military departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force shall be deemed the departments succeeding the Executive Departments of Army, Navy, and Air Force.”

This section was part of title IV of the Revised Statutes. The Act of July 26, 1947, ch. 343, §201(d), as added Aug. 10, 1949, ch. 412, §4, 63 Stat. 579 (former 5 U.S.C. 171-1), which provides “Except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this Act [National Security Act of 1947], the provisions of title IV of the Revised Statutes as now or hereafter amended shall be applicable to the Department of Defense” is omitted from this title but is not repealed.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

PLAIN WRITING IN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Pub. L. 111-274, Oct. 13, 2010, 124 Stat. 2861, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Plain Writing Act of 2010’.

“SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

“The purpose of this Act is to improve the effectiveness and accountability of Federal agencies to the public by promoting clear Government communication that the public can understand and use.

“SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ means an Executive agency, as defined under section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) COVERED DOCUMENT.—The term ‘covered document’—

“(A) means any document that—

“(i) is necessary for obtaining any Federal Government benefit or service or filing taxes;

“(ii) provides information about any Federal Government benefit or service; or

“(iii) explains to the public how to comply with a requirement the Federal Government administers or enforces;