

AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF STATE

Except as otherwise provided, Secretary of State to have and exercise any authority vested by law in any official or office of Department of State and references to such officials or offices deemed to refer to Secretary of State or Department of State, as appropriate, see section 2651a of this title and section 161(d) of Pub. L. 103-236, set out as a note under section 2651a of this title.

§ 4354. Declassification of State Department records

(a) Deadline for declassification

(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, each classified record of permanent historical value (as determined by the Secretary of State and the Archivist of the United States) which was published, issued, or otherwise prepared by the Department of State (or any officer or employee thereof acting in an official capacity) shall be declassified not later than 30 years after the record was prepared, shall be transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration, and shall be made available at the National Archives for public inspection and copying.

(2) Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require the declassification of a record wholly prepared by a foreign government.

(b) Exempted records

Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any record (or portion thereof) the publication of which the Secretary of State, in coordination with any agency that originated information in the records, determines—

(1) would compromise weapons technology important to the national defense of the United States or reveal sensitive information relating to the design of United States or foreign military equipment or relating to United States cryptologic systems or activities;

(2) would disclose the names or identities of living persons who provided confidential information to the United States and would pose a substantial risk of harm to such persons;

(3) would demonstrably impede current diplomatic negotiations or other ongoing official activities of the United States Government or would demonstrably impair the national security of the United States; or

(4) would disclose matters that are related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Department of State or are contained in personnel, medical, or similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

(c) Review

(1) The Advisory Committee shall review—

(A) the State Department's declassification procedures,

(B) all guidelines used in declassification, including those guidelines provided to the National Archives and Records Administration which are in effect on October 28, 1991, and

(C) by random sampling, records representative of all Department of State records published, issued, or otherwise prepared by the Department of State that remain classified after 30 years.

(2) In the event that the Secretary of State considers it necessary to deny access to records under paragraph (1)(C), the Secretary shall notify the Advisory Committee in writing, describing the nature of the records in question and the justification for withholding them.

(d) Annual reports by the Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee shall annually submit to the Secretary of State and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives a report setting forth its findings from the review conducted under subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Annual reports by the Secretary

(1) In general

Not later than March 1 of each year, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives on the compliance of the Department of State with the provisions of this chapter, including—

(A) the volumes published in the previous calendar year;

(B) the degree to which the Department is not in compliance with the deadline set forth in section 4351(c) of this title; and

(C) the factors relevant to the inability of the Department to comply with the provisions of this chapter, including section 4351(c) of this title.

(2) Form of reports

Each report required to be submitted by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, together with a classified annex if necessary.

(Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 841, title IV, § 404, as added Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(a), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 687; amended Pub. L. 107-228, div. A, title II, § 205, Sept. 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 1363.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 107-228, § 205(a), substituted “Annual reports by the Advisory Committee” for “Reporting requirement” in heading and inserted “and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives” after “Secretary of State” in text.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107-228, § 205(b), substituted “Annual reports by the Secretary” for “Report to Congress” in heading and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Not later than 180 days after October 28, 1991, the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit a written report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on factors relevant to compliance with this section, and the procedures to be used for implementing the requirements of this section.”

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on International Relations of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Foreign Affairs of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Tenth Congress, Jan. 5, 2007.

COMPLIANCE WITH DECLASSIFICATION OF STATE DEPARTMENT RECORDS; NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES ON INABILITY TO COMPLY; FINAL DEADLINE

Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(c)(1), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 691, provided that: “The Secretary of State shall

ensure that the requirements of section 404 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 [22 U.S.C. 4354] (as amended by this section) are met not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 28, 1991]. If the Secretary cannot reasonably meet the requirements of such section, he shall so notify the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and describe how the Department of State intends to meet the requirements of that section. In no event shall full compliance with the requirements of such section take place later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.”

§ 4355. Relationship to Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act

(a) Privacy Act

Nothing in this chapter may be construed as requiring the public disclosure of records or portions of records protected under section 552a of title 5 (relating to the privacy of personal records).

(b) Freedom of Information Act

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no record (or portion thereof) shall be excluded from publication in the FRUS series under section 4353 of this title, or exempted from the declassification requirement of section 4354 of this title, solely by virtue of the application of section 552(b) of title 5 (relating to the exemption of certain matters from freedom of information requirements).

(2) Records described in section 1202(f) of title 8 (relating to visa records) shall be excluded from publication in the FRUS series under section 4353 of this title and, to the extent applicable, exempted from the declassification requirement of section 4354 of this title.

(Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 841, title IV, § 405, as added Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 198(a), Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 688.)

§ 4356. Advisory Committee

(a) Establishment

(1) There is established on a permanent basis the Advisory Committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation for the Department of State. The activities of the Advisory Committee shall be coordinated by the Office of the Historian of the Department of State.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 9 members and an executive secretary. The Historian shall serve as executive secretary.

(3)(A) The members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary of State from among distinguished historians, political scientists, archivists, international lawyers, and other social scientists who have a demonstrable record of substantial research pertaining to the foreign relations of the United States. No officer or employee of the United States Government shall be appointed to the Advisory Committee.

(B)(i) Six members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed from lists of individuals nominated by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Political Science Association, Society of American Archivists, the American Society of International Law, and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. One member shall be appointed from each list.

(ii) If an organization does not submit a list of nominees under clause (i) in a timely fashion, the Secretary of State shall make an appointment from among the nominees on other lists.

(b) Terms of service for appointments

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for terms of three years.

(2) Of the members first appointed, as designated by the Secretary of State at the time of their appointment (after consultation with the appropriate organizations) three shall be appointed for terms of one year, three shall be appointed for terms of two years, and three shall be appointed for terms of three years.

(3) Each term of service under paragraph (1) shall begin on September 1 of the year in which the appointment is made.

(4) A vacancy in the membership of the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as provided under this subsection to make the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term shall serve for the remainder of that term. A member may continue to serve when his or her term expires until a successor is appointed. A member may be appointed to a new term upon the expiration of his or her term.

(c) Selection of chairperson

The Advisory Committee shall select, from among its members, a chairperson to serve a term of 1 year. A chairperson may be reelected upon expiration of his or her term as chairperson.

(d) Meetings

A majority of the members of the Advisory Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Advisory Committee shall meet at least quarterly or as frequently as may be necessary to carry out its duties.

(e) Security clearances

(1) All members of the Advisory Committee shall be granted the necessary security clearances, subject to the standard procedures for granting such clearances.

(2) For purposes of any law or regulation governing access to classified records, a member of the Advisory Committee seeking access under this paragraph to a record shall be deemed to have a need to know.

(f) Compensation

(1) Members of the Advisory Committee—

(A) shall each receive compensation at a rate of not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay payable for positions at GS-15 of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5 for each day such member is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the Advisory Committee; and

(B) shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services of the Advisory Committee.

(2) The Secretary of State is authorized to provide for necessary secretarial and staff assistance for the Advisory Committee.