

The International Financial Institutions Act of 1977, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), probably means the International Financial Institutions Act, Pub. L. 95-118, Oct. 3, 1977, 91 Stat. 1067, as amended, which enacted sections 262c, 262d, 262e to 262g-3, 262m to 262p-12, 262r to 262t, 282i, 284n, 285s, 285t, 286e-1f, and 290g-10 of this title, repealed sections 283y, 284m, and 290g-9 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 262c and 282i of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1977 Amendment note set out under section 261 of this title and Tables.

SHORT TITLE OF 2011 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-75, § 1, Dec. 23, 2011, 125 Stat. 1272, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 6431, 6432b, 6435, 6435a, and 6436 of this title and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 6432b of this title] may be cited as the ‘United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2011.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 105-292, § 1(a), Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2787, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter and section 4028 of this title, amending sections 262d, 2151n, 2304, 2452, 3965, 4013, 4028, and 6202 of this title, sections 1157 and 1182 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality, and section 402 of Title 50, War and National Defense, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 2151n of this title and section 1182 of Title 8] may be cited as the ‘International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.’”

**§ 6402. Definitions**

In this chapter:

**(1) Ambassador at Large**

The term “Ambassador at Large” means the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under section 6411(b) of this title.

**(2) Annual Report**

The term “Annual Report” means the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom described in section 6412(b) of this title.

**(3) Appropriate congressional committees**

The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) in the case of any determination made with respect to the taking of President<sup>1</sup> action under paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 6445(a) of this title, the term includes the committees described in subparagraph (A) and, where appropriate, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

**(4) Commensurate action**

The term “commensurate action” means action taken by the President under section 6445(b) of this title.

**(5) Commission**

The term “Commission” means the United States Commission on International Religious

Freedom established in section 6431(a) of this title.

**(6) Country Reports on Human Rights Practices**

The term “Country Reports on Human Rights Practices” means the annual reports required to be submitted by the Department of State to Congress under sections 2151n(d) and 2304(b) of this title.

**(7) Executive Summary**

The term “Executive Summary” means the Executive Summary to the Annual Report, as described in section 6412(b)(1)(F) of this title.

**(8) Government or foreign government**

The term “government” or “foreign government” includes any agency or instrumentality of the government.

**(9) Human Rights Reports**

The term “Human Rights Reports” means all reports submitted by the Department of State to Congress under sections 2151n and 2304 of this title.

**(10) Office**

The term “Office” means the Office on International Religious Freedom established in section 6411(a) of this title.

**(11) Particularly severe violations of religious freedom**

The term “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” means systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including violations such as—

- (A) torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (B) prolonged detention without charges;
- (C) causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction or clandestine detention of those persons; or
- (D) other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of persons.

**(12) Special Adviser**

The term “Special Adviser” means the Special Adviser to the President on International Religious Freedom described in section 402(i) of title 50.<sup>2</sup>

**(13) Violations of religious freedom**

The term “violations of religious freedom” means violations of the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion and religious belief and practice, as set forth in the international instruments referred to in section 6401(a)(2) of this title and as described in section 6401(a)(3) of this title, including violations such as—

- (A) arbitrary prohibitions on, restrictions of, or punishment for—
  - (i) assembling for peaceful religious activities such as worship, preaching, and prayer, including arbitrary registration requirements;
  - (ii) speaking freely about one’s religious beliefs;
  - (iii) changing one’s religious beliefs and affiliation;

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “Presidential”.

<sup>2</sup> See References in Text note below.

(iv) possession and distribution of religious literature, including Bibles; or

(v) raising one's children in the religious teachings and practices of one's choice; or

(B) any of the following acts if committed on account of an individual's religious belief or practice: detention, interrogation, imposition of an onerous financial penalty, forced labor, forced mass resettlement, imprisonment, forced religious conversion, beating, torture, mutilation, rape, enslavement, murder, and execution.

(Pub. L. 105-292, §3, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2790.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 105-292, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2787, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6401 of this title and Tables.

Section 402(i) of title 50, referred to in par. (12), was redesignated section 402(k) by Pub. L. 110-53, title XVIII, §1841(g)(1), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 500.

#### 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.

Committee on Banking and Financial Services of House of Representatives abolished and replaced by Committee on Financial Services of House of Representatives, and jurisdiction over matters relating to securities and exchanges and insurance generally transferred from Committee on Energy and Commerce of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Seventh Congress, Jan. 3, 2001.

#### SUBCHAPTER I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

### § 6411. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom

#### (a) Establishment of Office

There is established within the Department of State an Office on International Religious Freedom that shall be headed by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom appointed under subsection (b) of this section.

#### (b) Appointment

The Ambassador at Large shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

#### (c) Duties

The Ambassador at Large shall have the following responsibilities:

##### (1) In general

The primary responsibility of the Ambassador at Large shall be to advance the right to freedom of religion abroad, to denounce the violation of that right, and to recommend appropriate responses by the United States Government when this right is violated.

##### (2) Advisory role

The Ambassador at Large shall be a principal adviser to the President and the Secretary of State regarding matters affecting re-

ligious freedom abroad and, with advice from the Commission on International Religious Freedom, shall make recommendations regarding—

(A) the policies of the United States Government toward governments that violate freedom of religion or that fail to ensure the individual's right to religious belief and practice; and

(B) policies to advance the right to religious freedom abroad.

#### (3) Diplomatic representation

Subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, the Ambassador at Large is authorized to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom abroad in—

(A) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations of which the United States is a member; and

(B) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to religious freedom abroad.

#### (4) Reporting responsibilities

The Ambassador at Large shall have the reporting responsibilities described in section 6412 of this title.

#### (d) Funding

The Secretary of State shall provide the Ambassador at Large with such funds as may be necessary for the hiring of staff for the Office, for the conduct of investigations by the Office, and for necessary travel to carry out the provisions of this section.

(Pub. L. 105-292, title I, §101, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2791.)

### § 6412. Reports

#### (a) Portions of annual Human Rights Reports

The Ambassador at Large shall assist the Secretary of State in preparing those portions of the Human Rights Reports that relate to freedom of religion and freedom from discrimination based on religion and those portions of other information provided Congress under sections 2151n and 2304 of this title that relate to the right to freedom of religion.

#### (b) Annual Report on International Religious Freedom

##### (1) Deadline for submission

On September 1 of each year or the first day thereafter on which the appropriate House of Congress is in session, the Secretary of State, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Commission, shall prepare and transmit to Congress an Annual Report on International Religious Freedom supplementing the most recent Human Rights Reports by providing additional detailed information with respect to matters involving international religious freedom. Each Annual Report shall contain the following:

##### (A) Status of religious freedom

A description of the status of religious freedom in each foreign country, including—