

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.

PART B—STRENGTHENING EXISTING LAW

§ 6461. Exports of certain items used in particularly severe violations of religious freedom

(a) Mandatory licensing

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall include on the list of crime control and detection instruments or equipment controlled for export and reexport under section 2405(n) of title 50, Appendix, or under any other provision of law, items being exported or reexported to countries of particular concern for religious freedom that the Secretary of Commerce, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with appropriate officials including the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Ambassador at Large, determines are being used or are intended for use directly and in significant measure to carry out particularly severe violations of religious freedom.

(b) Licensing ban

The prohibition on the issuance of a license for export of crime control and detection instruments or equipment under section 2304(a)(2) of this title shall apply to the export and reexport of any item included pursuant to subsection (a) of this section on the list of crime control instruments.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title IV, § 423, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2810.)

SUBCHAPTER IV—REFUGEE, ASYLUM, AND CONSULAR MATTERS

§ 6471. Use of Annual Report

The Annual Report, together with other relevant documentation, shall serve as a resource for immigration judges and consular, refugee, and asylum officers in cases involving claims of persecution on the grounds of religion. Absence of reference by the Annual Report to conditions described by the alien shall not constitute the sole grounds for a denial of the alien's claim.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title VI, § 601, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2812.)

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 6472. Reform of refugee policy

(a), (b) Omitted

(c) Guidelines for refugee-processing posts

(1) Guidelines for addressing hostile biases

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop and implement guidelines that address potential biases in personnel of

the Immigration and Naturalization Service and of the Department of State that are hired abroad and involved with duties which could constitute an effective barrier to a refugee claim if such personnel carries a bias against the claimant on the grounds of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The subject matter of this training should be culturally sensitive and tailored to provide a nonbiased, non-adversarial atmosphere for the purpose of refugee adjudications.

(2) Guidelines for refugee-processing posts in establishing agreements with United States Government-designated refugee processing entities

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop and implement guidelines to ensure uniform procedures for establishing agreements with United States Government-designated refugee processing entities and personnel, and uniform procedures for such entities and personnel responsible for preparing refugee case files for use by the Immigration and Naturalization Service during refugee adjudications. These procedures should ensure, to the extent practicable, that case files prepared by such entities accurately reflect information provided by the refugee applicants and that genuine refugee applicants are not disadvantaged or denied refugee status due to faulty case file preparation.

(3) Guidelines for preventing persons with potential biases from participating in determinations

Not later than 120 days after November 29, 1999, the Secretary of State (after consultation with the Attorney General) shall issue guidelines to ensure that persons with potential biases against any refugee applicant, including persons employed by, or otherwise subject to influence by, governments known to be involved in persecution on account of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, shall not in any way be used in processing determinations of refugee status, including interpretation of conversations or examination of documents presented by such applicants.

(d) Annual consultation

The President shall include in each annual report on proposed refugee admissions under section 1157(d) of title 8 information about religious persecution of refugee populations eligible for consideration for admission to the United States. The Secretary of State shall include information on religious persecution of refugee populations in the formal testimony presented to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate during the consultation process under section 1157(e) of title 8.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title VI, § 602, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2812; Pub. L. 106–113, div. B, § 1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, § 253], Nov. 29, 1999, 113 Stat. 1536, 1501A–432.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 602 of Pub. L. 105–292. Subsec. (a) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105–292 amended

section 1157 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. Subsec. (b) of section 602 of Pub. L. 105–292 amended section 4028 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

1999—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 106–113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, §253(a)], inserted “and of the Department of State” after “Service”.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 106–113, §1000(a)(7) [div. A, title II, §253(b)], added par. (3).

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 6473. Reform of asylum policy

(a) Guidelines

The Attorney General and the Secretary of State shall develop guidelines to ensure that persons with potential biases against individuals on the grounds of religion, race, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, including interpreters and personnel of airlines owned by governments known to be involved in practices which would meet the definition of persecution under international refugee law, shall not in any manner be used to interpret conversations between aliens and inspection or asylum officers.

(b) Training for asylum and immigration officers

The Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Ambassador at Large, and other relevant officials such as the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall provide training to all officers adjudicating asylum cases, and to immigration officers performing duties under section 1225(b) of title 8, on the nature of religious persecution abroad, including country-specific conditions, instruction on the internationally recognized right to freedom of religion, instruction on methods of religious persecution practiced in foreign countries, and applicable distinctions within a country in the treatment of various religious practices and believers.

(c) Training for immigration judges

The Executive Office of Immigration Review of the Department of Justice shall incorporate into its initial and ongoing training of immigration judges training on the extent and nature of religious persecution internationally, including country-specific conditions, and including use of the Annual Report. Such training shall include governmental and nongovernmental methods of persecution employed, and differences in the treatment of religious groups by such persecuting entities.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title VI, §603, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2813; Pub. L. 107–132, §1(b), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2412.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107–132 substituted “George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center” for “National Foreign Affairs Training Center”.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

§ 6474. Studies on effect of expedited removal provisions on asylum claims

(a) Studies

(1) Commission request for participation by experts on refugee and asylum issues

If the Commission so requests, the Attorney General shall invite experts designated by the Commission, who are recognized for their expertise and knowledge of refugee and asylum issues, to conduct a study, in cooperation with the Comptroller General of the United States, to determine whether immigration officers described in paragraph (2) are engaging in any of the conduct described in such paragraph.

(2) Duties of Comptroller General

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study alone or, upon request by the Commission, in cooperation with experts designated by the Commission, to determine whether immigration officers performing duties under section 1225(b) of title 8 with respect to aliens who may be eligible to be granted asylum are engaging in any of the following conduct:

(A) Improperly encouraging such aliens to withdraw their applications for admission.

(B) Incorrectly failing to refer such aliens for an interview by an asylum officer for a determination of whether they have a credible fear of persecution (within the meaning of section 1225(b)(1)(B)(v) of title 8).

(C) Incorrectly removing such aliens to a country where they may be persecuted.

(D) Detaining such aliens improperly or in inappropriate conditions.

(b) Reports

(1) Participation by experts

In the case of a Commission request under subsection (a) of this section, the experts designated by the Commission under that subsection may submit a report to the committees described in paragraph (2). Such report may be submitted with the Comptroller General’s report under subsection (a)(2) of this section or independently.

(2) Duties of Comptroller General

Not later than September 1, 2000, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committees on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a)(2) of this section. If the Commission requests designated experts to participate with the Comptroller General in the preparation and submission of the report, the Comptroller General shall grant the request.