

**§ 7237. Priority placement, job placement, retraining, and counseling programs for United States Department of Energy employees affected by reduction in force**

**(a) Definitions**

(1) For the purposes of this section, the term “agency” means the United States Department of Energy.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term “eligible employee” means any employee of the agency who—

(A) is scheduled to be separated from service due to a reduction in force under—

(i) regulations prescribed under section 3502 of title 5; or

(ii) procedures established under section 3595 of title 5; or

(B) is separated from service due to such a reduction in force, but does not include—

(i) an employee separated from service for cause on charges of misconduct or delinquency; or

(ii) an employee who, at the time of separation, meets the age and service requirements for an immediate annuity under subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5.

**(b) Priority placement and retraining program**

Not later than 30 days after September 30, 1996, the United States Department of Energy shall establish an agency-wide priority placement and retraining program for eligible employees.

**(c) Filling vacancy from outside agency**

The priority placement program established under subsection (b) of this section shall include provisions under which a vacant position shall not be filled by the appointment or transfer of any individual from outside of the agency if—

(1) there is then available any eligible employee who applies for the position within 30 days of the agency issuing a job announcement and is qualified (or can be trained or retrained to become qualified within 90 days of assuming the position) for the position; and

(2) the position is within the same commuting area as the eligible employee’s last-held position or residence.

**(d) Job placement and counseling services**

The head of the agency may establish a program to provide job placement and counseling services to eligible employees. A program established under subsection (d) of this section may include, but is not limited to, such services as—

(1) career and personal counseling;

(2) training and job search skills; and

(3) job placement assistance, including assistance provided through cooperative arrangements with State and local employment services offices.

(Pub. L. 104–206, title III, §301, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 2999.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1997, and not as part of the Department of Energy Organization Act which comprises this chapter.

**§ 7238. Temporary appointments for scientific and technical experts in Department of Energy research and development programs**

(a) The Secretary, utilizing authority under other applicable law and the authority of this section, may appoint for a limited term, or on a temporary basis, scientists, engineers, and other technical and professional personnel on leave of absence from academic, industrial, or research institutions to work for the Department.

(b) The Department may pay, to the extent authorized for certain other Federal employees by section 5723 of title 5, travel expenses for any individual appointed for a limited term or on a temporary basis and transportation expenses of his or her immediate family and his or her household goods and personal effects from that individual’s residence at the time of selection or assignment to his or her duty station. The Department may pay such travel expenses to the same extent for such an individual’s return to the former place of residence from his or her duty station, upon separation from the Federal service following an agreed period of service. The Department may also pay a per diem allowance at a rate not to exceed the daily amounts prescribed under section 5702 of title 5 to such an individual, in lieu of transportation expenses of the immediate family and household goods and personal effects, for the period of his or her employment with the Department. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the employer’s contribution to any retirement, life insurance, or health benefit plan for an individual appointed for a term of one year or less, which could be extended for no more than one additional year, may be made or reimbursed from appropriations available to the Department.

(Pub. L. 104–271, title III, §301, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3307.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Hydrogen Future Act of 1996, and not as part of the Department of Energy Organization Act which comprises this chapter.

DEFINITIONS

Pub. L. 104–271, §2, Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3304, provided that: “For purposes of titles II and III [enacting this section and provisions set out as a note under section 12403 of this title]—

“(1) the term ‘Department’ means the Department of Energy; and

“(2) the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of Energy.”

**§ 7239. Transferred**

CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 106–65, div. C, title XXXI, §3164, Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 946, which related to the whistleblower protection program, was renumbered section 4602 of Pub. L. 107–314, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, by Pub. L. 108–136, div. C, title XXXI, §3141(i)(3)(A)–(C), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1776, and is classified to section 2702 of Title 50, War and National Defense.

PART C—GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

**§ 7251. General authority**

To the extent necessary or appropriate to perform any function transferred by this chapter,

the Secretary or any officer or employee of the Department may exercise, in carrying out the function so transferred, any authority or part thereof available by law, including appropriation Acts, to the official or agency from which such function was transferred.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title VI, §641, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 598.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 95-91, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 565, known as the Department of Energy Organization Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7101 of this title and Tables.

#### IMPROVEMENT AND STREAMLINING OF THE MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Pub. L. 112-239, div. C, title XXXI, §3120, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 2174, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Administrator for Nuclear Security shall review and, to the extent practicable, revise the Department of Energy Acquisition Regulation and other regulations, rules, directives, orders, and policies that apply to the administration, execution, and oversight of the missions and operations of the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration to improve and streamline such administration, execution, and oversight.

“(b) IMPROVEMENT AND STREAMLINING.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary and the Administrator shall review and, to the extent practicable, carry out the following actions:

“(1) Streamline business processes and structures to reduce unnecessary, burdensome, or duplicative approvals.

“(2) Delegate approval for work for others agreements and cooperative research and development agreements (except those that the Secretary or Administrator determine are high value or unique) to the lowest appropriate officials and streamline the approval processes.

“(3) Establish processes for ensuring routine or low-risk procurement and subcontracting decisions are made at the discretion of the management and operating contractors while ensuring that the Secretary or Administrator apply appropriate oversight.

“(4) Assess procurement thresholds as of the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 2, 2013] and take steps as appropriate to adjust such thresholds.

“(5) Eliminate duplicative or low-value reports and data calls and ensure consistency in management and cost-accounting data.

“(6) Actions to otherwise streamline, clarify, and eliminate redundancy in the regulations, rules, directives, orders, and policies described by subsection (a).

“(c) BRIEFING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 2, 2013], the Secretary and the Administrator shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a briefing on the review conducted under subsection (a), including the status of such review and any actions taken or planned to be taken to improve and streamline the regulations, rules, directives, orders, and policies described in such subsection.

“(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the congressional defense committees [Committees on Armed Services and Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives]; and

“(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.”

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SECURITY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Pub. L. 105-85, div. C, title XXXI, §3161, Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2048, required the Secretary of Energy to establish the Department of Energy Security Management Board, and provided for its duties which related to the security functions of the Department, and its membership, appointments, personnel, compensation, expenses, and termination on Oct. 31, 2000, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 106-65, div. C, title XXXI, §3142(h)(1), Oct. 5, 1999, 113 Stat. 933.

#### § 7252. Delegation

Except as otherwise expressly prohibited by law, and except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the Secretary may delegate any of his functions to such officers and employees of the Department as he may designate, and may authorize such successive redelegations of such functions within the Department as he may deem to be necessary or appropriate.

(Pub. L. 95-91, title VI, §642, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 599.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 95-91, Aug. 4, 1977, 91 Stat. 565, known as the Department of Energy Organization Act, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7101 of this title and Tables.

#### REORGANIZATION OF FIELD ACTIVITIES AND MANAGEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY FUNCTIONS

Pub. L. 104-206, title III, §302, Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 2999, provided that: “None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act may be used to implement section 3140 of H.R. 3230 as reported by the Committee of Conference on July 30, 1996 [Pub. L. 104-201, set out below]. The Secretary of Energy shall develop a plan to reorganize the field activities and management of the national security functions of the Department of Energy and shall submit such plan to the Congress not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 30, 1996]. The plan will specifically identify all significant functions performed by the Department’s national security operations and area offices and make recommendations as to where those functions should be performed.”

Pub. L. 104-201, div. C, title XXXI, §3140, Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2833, which was formerly set out as a note under this section, was renumbered section 4102 of Pub. L. 107-314, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003, by Pub. L. 108-136, div. C, title XXXI, §3141(d)(3)(A)–(C), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1757, and is classified to section 2512 of Title 50, War and National Defense.

#### § 7253. Reorganization

(a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary is authorized to establish, alter, consolidate or discontinue such organizational units or components within the Department as he may deem to be necessary or appropriate. Such authority shall not extend to the abolition of organizational units or components established by this chapter, or to the transfer of functions vested by this chapter in any organizational unit or component.

(b) The authority of the Secretary to establish, abolish, alter, consolidate, or discontinue any organizational unit or component of the National Nuclear Security Administration is governed by the provisions of section 2409 of title 50.