

1942—Act Apr. 29, 1942, amended section generally.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1966 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 89-486 effective ninety days after July 4, 1966, see section 9 of Pub. L. 89-486, set out as a note under section 611 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1942 AMENDMENT

Amendment by act Apr. 29, 1942, effective on the sixtieth day after Apr. 29, 1942, except that prior to such sixtieth day the Attorney General may make, prescribe, amend, and rescind such rules, regulations, and forms as may be necessary to carry out act Apr. 29, 1942, see section 3 of act Apr. 29, 1942, set out as a note under section 611 of this title.

§ 616. Public examination of official records; transmittal of records and information

(a) Permanent copy of statement; inspection; withdrawal

The Attorney General shall retain in permanent form one copy of all registration statements furnished under this subchapter, and the same shall be public records and open to public examination and inspection at such reasonable hours, under such regulations, as the Attorney General may prescribe, and copies of the same shall be furnished to every applicant at such reasonable fee as the Attorney General may prescribe. The Attorney General may withdraw from public examination the registration statement and other statements of any agent of a foreign principal whose activities have ceased to be of a character which requires registration under the provisions of this subchapter.

(b) Secretary of State

The Attorney General shall, promptly upon receipt, transmit one copy of every registration statement filed hereunder and one copy of every amendment or supplement thereto filed hereunder, to the Secretary of State for such comment and use as the Secretary of State may determine to be appropriate from the point of view of the foreign relations of the United States. Failure of the Attorney General so to transmit such copy shall not be a bar to prosecution under this subchapter.

(c) Executive departments and agencies; Congressional committees

The Attorney General is authorized to furnish to departments and agencies in the executive branch and committees of the Congress such information obtained by him in the administration of this subchapter, including the names of registrants under this subchapter, copies of registration statements, or parts thereof, or other documents or information filed under this subchapter, as may be appropriate in the light of the purposes of this subchapter.

(d) Public database of registration statements and updates

(1) In general

The Attorney General shall maintain, and make available to the public over the Internet, without a fee or other access charge, in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable manner, to the extent technically practicable, an electronic database that—

(A) includes the information contained in registration statements and updates filed under this subchapter; and

(B) is searchable and sortable, at a minimum, by each of the categories of information described in section 612(a) of this title.

(2) Accountability

The Attorney General shall make each registration statement and update filed in electronic form pursuant to section 612(g) of this title available for public inspection over the Internet as soon as technically practicable after the registration statement or update is filed.

(June 8, 1938, ch. 327, § 6, 52 Stat. 633; Apr. 29, 1942, ch. 263, § 1, 56 Stat. 256; Pub. L. 89-486, § 6, July 4, 1966, 80 Stat. 247; Pub. L. 104-65, § 9(7), Dec. 19, 1995, 109 Stat. 700; Pub. L. 110-81, title II, § 212(b), Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 749.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior to general amendment of act June 8, 1938, by act Apr. 29, 1942, section related to rules and regulations. Provisions on that subject were incorporated in section 620 of this title by 1942 amendment.

Provisions on this subject were contained in section 614 of this title prior to general amendment of act June 8, 1938, by act Apr. 29, 1942.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-81 added subsec. (d).

1995—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-65, § 9(7)(A), struck out “and all statements concerning the distribution of political propaganda” after “all registration statements”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 104-65, § 9(7)(B), struck out “, and one copy of every item of political propaganda” after “supplement thereto”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 104-65, § 9(7)(C), struck out “copies of political propaganda,” after “parts thereof.”

1966—Pub. L. 89-486 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

1942—Act Apr. 29, 1942, amended section generally.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-81 effective on the 90th day after Sept. 14, 2007, see section 212(c) of Pub. L. 110-81, set out as a note under section 612 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1995 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-65 effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided, see section 24 of Pub. L. 104-65, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1601 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1966 AMENDMENT

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EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1942 AMENDMENT

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§ 617. Liability of officers

Each officer, or person performing the functions of an officer, and each director, or person performing the functions of a director, of an agent of a foreign principal which is not an individual shall be under obligation to cause such agent to execute and file a registration statement and supplements thereto as and when such