

1977—Pub. L. 95-139, §1(b), Oct. 19, 1977, 91 Stat. 1171, added item 504a.

1975—Pub. L. 93-613, §1(2), Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1975, added item 527.

1966—Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611, substituted “THE ATTORNEY GENERAL” for “UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS” in chapter heading, “Executive Department” for “Appointment of United States attorneys” in item 501, “Seal” for “Appointment of assistant United States attorneys” in item 502, “Attorney General” for “Appointment of attorneys” in item 503, “Deputy Attorney General” for “Tenure and oath of office; removal” in item 504, “Solicitor General” for “Residence” in item 505, “Assistant Attorney General” for “Vacancies” in item 506, “Assistant Attorney General for Administration” for “Duties; supervision by Attorney General” in item 507, “Vacancies” for “Salaries” in item 508, “Functions of the Attorney General” for “Expenses” in item 509, “Delegation of authority” for “Clerical assistants and messengers” in item 510, and added items 511 to 526.

§ 501. Executive department

The Department of Justice is an executive department of the United States at the seat of Government.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 291 (less last 10 words), R.S. §346 (less last 10 words).

The words “There shall be”, referring to the establishment of the Department, are omitted as executed.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 501, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909; Mar. 18, 1959, Pub. L. 86-3, §11(a), 73 Stat. 9, related to appointment of United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 541 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF OVERSEAS TERRORISM

Pub. L. 108-447, div. B, title I, §126, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2872, provided that: “The Department of Justice shall establish an Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism.”

SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Pub. L. 94-503, title II, §204, Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2427, provided that: “No sums shall be deemed to be authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1978, for the Department of Justice (including any bureau, agency, or other similar subdivision thereof) except as specifically authorized by Act of Congress with respect to such fiscal year. Neither the creation of a subdivision in the Department of Justice, nor the authorization of an activity of the Department, any subdivision, or officer thereof, shall be deemed in itself to be an authorization of appropriations for the Department of Justice, such subdivision, or activity, with respect to any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1978.”

§ 502. Seal

The Attorney General shall have a seal for the Department of Justice. The design of the seal is subject to the approval of the President.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 292, R.S. §353.

The section is rewritten to conform to other statutes authorizing departmental seals. The words “The seal heretofore provided for the office of the Attorney General shall be” are omitted as obsolete.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 502, act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909, related to appointment of assistant United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 542 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

§ 503. Attorney General

The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an Attorney General of the United States. The Attorney General is the head of the Department of Justice.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 291 (last 10 words), R.S. §346 (last 10 words).

The words “The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” have been added to conform the section with the Constitution. See article II, section 2, clause 2.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 503, act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909, related to appointment of attorneys to assist United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 543 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

ACTIONS CHALLENGING APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ON GROUNDS OF VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING COMPENSATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS

Pub. L. 93-178, §2, Dec. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 697, provided that:

“(a) Any person aggrieved by an action of the Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district court to contest the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Attorney General on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution. The United States district courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction, without regard to the sum or value of the matter in controversy, to determine the validity of such appointment and continuance in office.

“(b) Any action brought under this section shall be heard and determined by a panel of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28, United States Code. Any appeal from the action of a court convened pursuant to such section shall lie to the Supreme Court.

“(c) Any judge designated to hear any action brought under this section shall cause such action to be in every way expedited.”

§ 504. Deputy Attorney General

The President may appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Deputy Attorney General.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612; amended Pub. L. 107-77, title VI, §612(c),