

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1104 .....	40:544.	June 30, 1949, ch. 288, title IX, §904, as added Pub. L. 92-582, Oct. 27, 1972, 86 Stat. 1279.

## CHAPTER 13—PUBLIC PROPERTY

Sec.	
1301.	Charge of property transferred to the Federal Government.
1302.	Lease of buildings.
1303.	Disposition of surplus real property.
1304.	Transfer of federal property to States.
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1306.	Disposition of abandoned or forfeited personal property.
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1309.	Preservation, sale, or collection of wrecked, abandoned, or derelict property.
1310.	Sale of war supplies, land, and buildings.
1311.	Authority of President to obtain release.
1312.	Release of real estate in certain cases.
1313.	Releasing property from attachment.
1314.	Easements.
1315.	Law enforcement authority of Secretary of Homeland Security for protection of public property.

## AMENDMENTS

2002—Pub. L. 107-296, title XVII, §1706(b)(3), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2318, added item 1315 and struck out former item 1315 “Special police”.

### § 1301. Charge of property transferred to the Federal Government

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Administrator of General Services shall have charge of—

(1) all land and other property which has been or may be assigned, set off, or conveyed to the Federal Government in payment of debts;

(2) all trusts created for the use of the Government in payment of debts due the Government; and

(3) the sale and disposal of land—

(A) assigned or set off to the Government in payment of debt; or

(B) vested in the Government by mortgage or other security for the payment of debts.

(b) NONAPPLICATION.—This section does not apply to—

(1) real estate which has been or shall be assigned, set off, or conveyed to the Government in payment of debts arising under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1 et seq.); or

(2) trusts created for the use of the Government in payment of debts arising under the Code and due the Government.

(Pub. L. 107-217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1131.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1301 .....	40:301.	R.S. §3750; Pub. L. 89-30, §2, June 2, 1965, 79 Stat. 119.

In subsection (a), the words “Except as provided in subsection (b)” are added for clarity.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1 et seq.)” are substituted for

“the internal-revenue laws” for clarity and for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, referred to in subsection (b)(1), is classified to Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

### § 1302. Lease of buildings

Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the leasing of buildings and property of the Federal Government shall be for a money consideration only. The lease may not include any provision for the alteration, repair, or improvement of the buildings or property as a part of the consideration for the rent to be paid for the use and occupation of the buildings or property. Money derived from the rent shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(Pub. L. 107-217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1131.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1302 .....	40:303b.	June 30, 1932, ch. 314, §321, 47 Stat. 412.

The words “On and after June 30, 1932” are omitted as obsolete.

### § 1303. Disposition of surplus real property

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “federal agency” means an executive department, independent establishment, commission, board, bureau, division, or office in the executive branch, or other agency of the Federal Government, including wholly owned Government corporations.

(b) ASSIGNMENT OF SPACE OR LEASE OR SALE OF PROPERTY.—

(1) ACTIONS OF ADMINISTRATOR.—When the President, on the recommendation of the Administrator of General Services, or the federal agency having control of any real property the agency acquires that is located outside of the District of Columbia, other than military or naval reservations, declares the property to be surplus to the needs of the agency, the Administrator—

(A) may assign space in the property to any federal agency;

(B) pending a sale, may lease the property for not more than 5 years and on terms the Administrator considers to be in the public interest; or

(C) may sell the property at public sale to the highest responsible bidder on terms and after public advertisement that the Administrator considers to be in the public interest.

(2) REVIEW OF DECISION TO ASSIGN SPACE.—If the federal agency to which space is assigned does not desire to occupy the space, the decision of the Administrator under paragraph (1)(A) is subject to review by the President.

(3) NEGOTIATED SALE.—If no bids which are satisfactory as to price and responsibility of the bidder are received as a result of public advertisement, the Administrator may sell the property by negotiation, on terms as may be

considered to be to the best interest of the Government, but at a price not less than that bid by the highest responsible bidder.

(c) DEMOLITION.—The Administrator may demolish any building declared to be surplus to the needs of the Government under this section on deciding that demolition will be in the best interest of the Government. Before proceeding with the demolition, the Administrator shall inform the Secretary of the Interior in writing of the Administrator’s intention to demolish the building, and shall not proceed with the demolition until receiving written notice from the Secretary that the building is not an historic building of national significance within the meaning of chapter 3201 of title 54. If the Secretary does not notify the Administrator of the Secretary’s decision as to whether the building is an historic building of national significance within 90 days of the receipt of the notice of intention to demolish the building, the Administrator may proceed to demolish the building.

(d) REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS TO ASSIGNED REAL PROPERTY.—When the Administrator, after investigation, decides that real property referred to in subsection (b) should be used for the accommodation of a federal agency, the Administrator may make any repairs or alterations that the Administrator considers necessary or advisable and may maintain and operate the property.

(e) PAYMENT BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) ASSIGNED REAL PROPERTY.—To the extent that the appropriations of the General Services Administration not otherwise allocated are inadequate for repairs, alterations, maintenance, or operation, the Administrator may require each federal agency to which space has been assigned to pay promptly by check to the Administrator out of its appropriation for rent any part of the estimated or actual cost of the repairs, alterations, maintenance, and operation. Payment may be either in advance of, or on or during, occupancy of the space. The Administrator shall determine and equitably apportion the total amount to be paid among the agencies to whom space has been assigned.

(2) LEASED SPACES.—To the extent that the appropriations of the Administration not otherwise required are inadequate, the Administrator may require each federal agency to which leased space has been assigned to pay promptly by check to the Administrator out of its available appropriations any part of the estimated cost of rent, repairs, alterations, maintenance, operation, and moving. Payment may be either in advance or during occupancy of the space. When space in a building is occupied by two or more agencies, the Administrator shall determine and equitably apportion rental, operation, and other charges on the basis of the total amount of space leased.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Necessary amounts may be appropriated to cover the costs incident to the sale or lease of real property, or authorized demolition of buildings on the property, declared to be surplus to the needs of any federal agency under this section, and the care, maintenance, and protection of the property, including pay of employees, travel of

Government employees, brokers’ fees not in excess of rates paid for similar services in the community where the property is situated, appraisals, photographs, surveys, evidence of title and perfecting of defective titles, advertising, and telephone and telegraph charges. However, the agency remains responsible for the proper care, maintenance, and protection of the property until the Administrator assumes custody or other disposition of the property is made.

(g) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator may prescribe regulations as necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1131; Pub. L. 113–287, § 5(j)(3), Dec. 19, 2014, 128 Stat. 3269.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
1303(a) .....	40:304e.	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, § 5, 49 Stat. 886.
1303(b) .....	40:304a.	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, § 1, 49 Stat. 886; July 18, 1940, ch. 635, §§ 1, 3, 54 Stat. 764, 765.
1303(c) .....	40:304a–2.	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, §§ 6, 7, as added July 18, 1940, ch. 635, § 2, 54 Stat. 764.
1303(d) .....	40:304b (1st sentence).	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, § 2, 49 Stat. 886; July 18, 1940, ch. 635, § 3, 54 Stat. 765; June 14, 1946, ch. 404, § 4, 60 Stat. 257.
1303(e)(1) ....	40:304b (last sentence).	
1303(e)(2) ....	40:304c.	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, § 3, 49 Stat. 886; July 18, 1940, ch. 635, § 3, 54 Stat. 765; June 14, 1946, ch. 404, § 4, 60 Stat. 257; Pub. L. 85–493, § 2, July 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 294.
1303(f) .....	40:304a–1.	
1303(g) .....	40:304d.	Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 744, § 4, 49 Stat. 886; July 18, 1940, ch. 635, § 3, 54 Stat. 765.

In this chapter, the words “Administrator of General Services” are substituted for “Federal Works Administrator” and “Commissioner of Public Buildings” because of section 103(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (ch. 288, 63 Stat. 380), which is restated as section 303(c) [303(b)] of the revised title.

In subsection (a), the words “wholly owned Government corporations” are substituted for “corporations wholly owned by the United States” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

In subsection (b)(1), before subclause (A), the words “Notwithstanding any other provision of law”, “heretofore or hereafter”, and “by judicial process or otherwise in the collection of debts, purchase, donation, condemnation, devise, forfeiture, lease, or in any other manner” are omitted as unnecessary. In subclause (A), the words “or reassign” are omitted as unnecessary.

In subsection (e), the words “General Services Administration”, “Administrator”, and “Administration” are substituted for “Public Buildings Administration” because of section 103(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (ch. 288, 63 Stat. 380), which is restated as section 303(c) [303(b)] of the revised title.

In subsection (f), the words “as hereinafter” are omitted as obsolete. The words “which have been or may hereafter be” and “notwithstanding any declaration that the same is in excess of its needs” are omitted as unnecessary.

AMENDMENTS

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113–287 substituted “chapter 3201 of title 54” for “the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.) (known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act)”.

**§ 1304. Transfer of federal property to States****(a) OBSOLETE BUILDINGS AND SITES.—**

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of General Services, in the Administrator's discretion, on terms the Administrator considers proper, and under regulations the Administrator may prescribe, may sell property described in paragraph (2) to a State or a political subdivision of a State for public use if the Administrator considers the sale to be in the best interest of the Federal Government.

(2) **APPLICABLE PROPERTY.**—The property referred to in paragraph (1) is any federal building, building site, or part of a building site under the Administrator's control that has been replaced by a new structure and that the Administrator determines is no longer needed by the Government.

(3) **PRICE.**—The purchase price for a sale under this section must be at least 50 percent of the value of the land as appraised by the Administrator.

(4) **PROCEEDS OF SALE.**—The proceeds of a sale under this section shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(5) **PAYMENT TERMS.**—The Administrator may enter into a long term contract for the payment of the purchase price in installments that the Administrator considers fair and reasonable. The Administrator may waive any requirement for interest charges on deferred payment.

(6) **CONVEYANCE.**—The Administrator may convey property sold under this section by the usual quitclaim deed.

**(b) WIDENING OF PUBLIC ROADS.—**

(1) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term “executive agency” means an executive department or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government, including any wholly owned Government corporation.

(2) **IN GENERAL.**—When a State or a political subdivision of a State applies for a conveyance or transfer of real property of the Government in connection with an authorized widening of a public highway, street, or alley, the head of the executive agency that controls the affected real property may convey or transfer to the State or political subdivision, with or without consideration, an interest in the real property that the agency head determines is not adverse to the interests of the Government. A conveyance or transfer under this subsection is subject to terms and conditions the agency head considers necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

(3) **LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES.**—An interest in real property which can be transferred to a State or a political subdivision of a State for highway purposes under title 23 may not be conveyed or transferred under this subsection.

(4) **LIMITATION ON ISSUANCE OF RIGHTS OF WAY.**—Rights of way over, under, and through public lands and lands in the National Forest System may not be granted under this subsection.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1133.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
1304(a) .....	40:345b.	Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 684, §1, 49 Stat. 800; Pub. L. 86–608, July 7, 1960, 74 Stat. 363.
1304(b)(1)–(3).	40:345c.	Aug. 26, 1935, ch. 684, §2, as added Pub. L. 86–608, July 7, 1960, 74 Stat. 363.
1304(b)(4) ....	40:345c note.	Pub. L. 94–579, title VII, §706(a) (related to the Act of July 7, 1960 (Pub. L. 86–608, 74 Stat. 363)), Oct. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 2793.

In subsection (a), the words “Administrator of General Services” and “Administrator” are substituted for “Treasury Department” and “Secretary of the Treasury” in the Act of August 26, 1935 because of sections 301 and 303 of Reorganization Plan No. I of 1939 (eff. July 1, 1939, 53 Stat. 1426, 1427) and section 103(a) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (ch. 288, 63 Stat. 380), which is restated as section 303(c) [303(b)] of the revised title. In paragraph (1), the words “a State or a political subdivision of a State” are substituted for “States, counties, municipalities, or other duly constituted political subdivisions of States” for consistency with subsection (b).

**§ 1305. Disposition of land acquired by devise**

The General Services Administration may take custody, for disposal as excess property under this subtitle and division C (except sections 3302, 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41, of land acquired by the Federal Government by devise.

(Pub. L. 107–217, Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1134; Pub. L. 111–350, §5(l)(12), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3852.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
1305 .....	40:304.	Mar. 3, 1903, ch. 1007, [§]1 (4th complete par. on p. 1112), 32 Stat. 1112; Oct. 31, 1951, ch. 654, §4(8), 65 Stat. 709.

The words “and title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.)” are added to provide an accurate literal translation of the word “this Act”, meaning the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949. See the revision note under section 111 of this title. The words “as have been or may hereafter be” are omitted as unnecessary.

## AMENDMENTS

2011—Pub. L. 111–350 substituted “division C (except sections 3302, 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41” for “title III of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (41 U.S.C. 251 et seq.)”.

**§ 1306. Disposition of abandoned or forfeited personal property****(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section—

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” includes any executive department, independent establishment, board, commission, bureau, service, or division of the Federal Government, and any corporation in which the Government owns at least a majority of the stock.

(2) **PROPERTY.**—The term “property” means all personal property, including vessels, vehicles, and aircraft.

(b) **VOLUNTARILY ABANDONED PROPERTY.**—Property voluntarily abandoned to any agency