

## § 278d. Construction and improvement of buildings and facilities

### (a) In general

Within the limits of funds which are appropriated for the Institute, the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to undertake such construction of buildings and other facilities and to make such improvements to existing buildings, grounds, and other facilities occupied or used by the Institute as are necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the activities authorized herein.

### (b) Retention of fees

The Director is authorized to retain all building use and depreciation surcharge fees collected pursuant to OMB Circular A-25. Such fees shall be collected and credited to the Construction of Research Facilities Appropriation Account for use in maintenance and repair of the Institute's existing facilities.

(Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 872, § 14, as added Pub. L. 85-890, § 1, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1711; amended Pub. L. 92-317, § 3(d), June 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 235; Pub. L. 96-461, § 8, Oct. 15, 1980, 94 Stat. 2051; Pub. L. 100-418, title V, § 5115(a)(1), Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1433; Pub. L. 102-245, title I, § 104(f), Feb. 14, 1992, 106 Stat. 11; Pub. L. 110-69, title III, § 3014, Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 599.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

“Herein”, referred to in subsec. (a), refers to act Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 872, which is classified generally to this chapter.

#### AMENDMENTS

2007—Pub. L. 110-69 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

1992—Pub. L. 102-245 substituted “herein.” for “herein: *Provided*, That no improvement shall be made nor shall any building be constructed under this authority at a cost in excess of \$250,000 unless specific provision is made therefor in the appropriation concerned.”

1988—Pub. L. 100-418 substituted “Institute” for “National Bureau of Standards” wherever appearing.

1980—Pub. L. 96-461 substituted “\$250,000” for “\$75,000”.

1972—Pub. L. 92-317 substituted “\$75,000” for “\$40,000”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-461 effective Oct. 1, 1980, see section 11 of Pub. L. 96-461, set out as an Effective Date note under section 278g of this title.

#### FACILITIES FOR COLD NEUTRON RESEARCH

Pub. L. 101-162, title I, § 104, Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 994, provided that: “Hereafter, the National Institute of Standards and Technology is authorized to accept contributions of funds, to remain available until expended, from any public or private source to construct a facility for cold neutron research on materials, notwithstanding the limitations contained in 15 U.S.C. 278d.”

### § 278e. Functions and activities

In the performance of the functions of the Institute the Secretary of Commerce is authorized to undertake the following activities: (a) The purchase, repair, and cleaning of uniforms for guards; (b) the care, maintenance, protection, repair, and alteration of Institute buildings and other plant facilities, equipment, and property; (c) the rental of field sites and laboratory, of-

fice, and warehouse space; (d) the purchase of reprints from technical journals or other periodicals and the payment of page charges for the publication of research papers and reports in such journals; (e) the furnishing of food and shelter without repayment therefor to employees of the Government at Arctic and Antarctic stations; (f) for the conduct of observations on radio propagation phenomena in the Arctic or Antarctic regions, the appointment of employees at base rates established by the Secretary of Commerce which shall not exceed such maximum rates as may be specified from time to time in the appropriation concerned, and without regard to the civil service and classification laws and sections 5542 to 5546 of title 5; (g) the erection on leased property of specialized facilities and working and living quarters when the Secretary of Commerce determines that this will best serve the interests of the Government; and (h) the provision of transportation services for employees of the Institute between the facilities of the Institute and nearby public transportation, notwithstanding section 1344 of title 31.

(Mar. 3, 1901, ch. 872, § 15, as added Pub. L. 85-890, § 1, Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1711; amended Pub. L. 92-317, § 3(e), June 22, 1972, 86 Stat. 235; Pub. L. 100-418, title V, § 5115(a)(1), Aug. 23, 1988, 102 Stat. 1433; Pub. L. 104-113, § 8(2), Mar. 7, 1996, 110 Stat. 779.)

#### CODIFICATION

“Sections 5542 to 5546 of title 5” substituted in text for “titles II and III of the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, § 7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-113 struck out “and” before “(g)” and inserted before period at end “; and (h) the provision of transportation services for employees of the Institute between the facilities of the Institute and nearby public transportation, notwithstanding section 1344 of title 31”.

1988—Pub. L. 100-418 substituted “functions of the Institute” for “functions of the National Bureau of Standards” and “Institute buildings” for “Bureau buildings”.

1972—Pub. L. 92-317 substituted, in cl. (b), “the care, maintenance, protection, repair, and alteration of Bureau buildings and other plant facilities, equipment, and property” for “the repair and alteration of buildings and other plant facilities”.

### § 278f. Fire Research Center

#### (a) Establishment; programs of research; functions of Secretary; dissemination of information

There is hereby established within the Department of Commerce a Fire Research Center which shall have the mission of performing and supporting research on all aspects of fire with the aim of providing scientific and technical knowledge applicable to the prevention and control of fires. The content and priorities of the research program shall be determined in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration. In implementing this section, the Secretary is authorized to conduct, directly or through contracts or grants, a fire research program, including—