

variola virus, against the United States, its allies, or its people, poses a grave risk to the security, foreign policy, economy, and environment of the United States. Accordingly, the United States has a compelling national security interest in preventing unlawful activities that lead to the proliferation or spread of such items, including their unauthorized production, construction, acquisition, transfer, possession, import, or export. All of these activities markedly increase the chances that such items will be obtained by terrorist organizations or rogue states, which could use them to attack the United States, its allies, or United States nationals or corporations.

“(5) There is no legitimate reason for a private individual or company, absent explicit government authorization, to produce, construct, otherwise acquire, transfer, receive, possess, import, export, or use MANPADS, atomic or radiological weapons, or the variola virus.

“(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this subtitle [subtitle J (§§6901-6911) of title VI of Pub. L. 108-458, see Short Title of 2004 Amendment note set out under section 1 of this title] is to combat the potential use of weapons that have the ability to cause widespread harm to United States persons and the United States economy (and that have no legitimate private use) and to threaten or harm the national security or foreign relations of the United States.”

§ 176. Seizure, forfeiture, and destruction

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Attorney General may request the issuance, in the same manner as provided for a search warrant, of a warrant authorizing the seizure of any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system that—

(A) pertains to conduct prohibited under section 175 of this title; or

(B) is of a type or in a quantity that under the circumstances has no apparent justification for prophylactic, protective, or other peaceful purposes.

(2) In exigent circumstances, seizure and destruction of any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) may be made upon probable cause without the necessity for a warrant.

(b) PROCEDURE.—Property seized pursuant to subsection (a) shall be forfeited to the United States after notice to potential claimants and an opportunity for a hearing. At such hearing, the Government shall bear the burden of persuasion by a preponderance of the evidence. Except as inconsistent herewith, the same procedures and provisions of law relating to a forfeiture under the customs laws shall extend to a seizure or forfeiture under this section. The Attorney General may provide for the destruction or other appropriate disposition of any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system seized and forfeited pursuant to this section.

(c) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative defense against a forfeiture under subsection (a)(1)(B) of this section that—

(1) such biological agent, toxin, or delivery system is for a prophylactic, protective, or other peaceful purpose; and

(2) such biological agent, toxin, or delivery system, is of a type and quantity reasonable for that purpose.

(Added Pub. L. 101-298, §3(a), May 22, 1990, 104 Stat. 202; amended Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330010(16), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2144; Pub. L.

107-188, title II, §231(c)(3), June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 661.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 107-188 substituted “pertains to” for “exists by reason of”.

1994—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “the Government” for “the government”.

§ 177. Injunctions

(a) IN GENERAL.—The United States may obtain in a civil action an injunction against—

(1) the conduct prohibited under section 175 of this title;

(2) the preparation, solicitation, attempt, threat, or conspiracy to engage in conduct prohibited under section 175 of this title; or

(3) the development, production, stockpiling, transferring, acquisition, retention, or possession, or the attempted development, production, stockpiling, transferring, acquisition, retention, or possession of any biological agent, toxin, or delivery system of a type or in a quantity that under the circumstances has no apparent justification for prophylactic, protective, or other peaceful purposes.

(b) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative defense against an injunction under subsection (a)(3) of this section that—

(1) the conduct sought to be enjoined is for a prophylactic, protective, or other peaceful purpose; and

(2) such biological agent, toxin, or delivery system is of a type and quantity reasonable for that purpose.

(Added Pub. L. 101-298, §3(a), May 22, 1990, 104 Stat. 202; amended Pub. L. 104-132, title V, §511(b)(2), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1284.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 104-132 inserted “threat,” after “attempt.”

§ 178. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) the term “biological agent” means any microorganism (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substance, or any naturally occurring, bioengineered or synthesized component of any such microorganism or infectious substance, capable of causing—

(A) death, disease, or other biological malfunction in a human, an animal, a plant, or another living organism;

(B) deterioration of food, water, equipment, supplies, or material of any kind; or

(C) deleterious alteration of the environment;

(2) the term “toxin” means the toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a recombinant or synthesized molecule, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes—

(A) any poisonous substance or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology produced by a living organism; or

(B) any poisonous isomer or biological product, homolog, or derivative of such a substance;

(3) the term “delivery system” means—

(A) any apparatus, equipment, device, or means of delivery specifically designed to deliver or disseminate a biological agent, toxin, or vector; or

(B) any vector;

(4) the term “vector” means a living organism, or molecule, including a recombinant or synthesized molecule, capable of carrying a biological agent or toxin to a host; and

(5) the term “national of the United States” has the meaning prescribed in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)).

(Added Pub. L. 101-298, §3(a), May 22, 1990, 104 Stat. 202; amended Pub. L. 104-132, title V, §511(b)(3), title VII, §721(h), Apr. 24, 1996, 110 Stat. 1284, 1299; Pub. L. 107-188, title II, §231(c)(4), June 12, 2002, 116 Stat. 661.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (1). Pub. L. 107-188, §231(c)(4)(A), in introductory provisions substituted “means any microorganism (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substance, or any naturally occurring, bioengineered or synthesized component of any such microorganism or infectious substance, capable of” for “means any microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product, capable of”.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 107-188, §231(c)(4)(B), in introductory provisions substituted “means the toxic material or product of plants, animals, microorganisms (including, but not limited to, bacteria, viruses, fungi, rickettsiae or protozoa), or infectious substances, or a recombinant or synthesized molecule, whatever their origin and method of production, and includes—” for “means the toxic material of plants, animals, microorganisms, viruses, fungi, or infectious substances, or a recombinant molecule, whatever its origin or method of production, including—”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 107-188, §231(c)(4)(C), substituted “recombinant or synthesized molecule,” for “recombinant molecule, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology.”

1996—Par. (1). Pub. L. 104-132, §511(b)(3)(A), substituted “infectious substance, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology, or any naturally occurring or bioengineered component of any such microorganism, virus, infectious substance, or biological product” for “or infectious substance” in introductory provisions.

Par. (2). Pub. L. 104-132, §511(b)(3)(B)(i), (ii), in introductory provisions, inserted “the toxic material of plants, animals, microorganisms, viruses, fungi, or infectious substances, or a recombinant molecule” after “means” and substituted “production, including—” for “production—”.

Par. (2)(A). Pub. L. 104-132, §511(b)(3)(B)(iii), inserted “or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology” after “poisonous substance”.

Par. (2)(B). Pub. L. 104-132, §511(b)(3)(B)(iv), inserted “or biological product” after “isomer”.

Par. (4). Pub. L. 104-132, §511(b)(3)(C), inserted “, or molecule, including a recombinant molecule, or biological product that may be engineered as a result of biotechnology,” after “organism”.

Par. (5). Pub. L. 104-132, §721(h), added par. (5).

CHAPTER 11—BRIBERY, GRAFT, AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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AMENDMENTS

2012—Pub. L. 112-105, §18(b), Apr. 4, 2012, 126 Stat. 304, inserted “or an officer or employee of the legislative or executive branch” after “Congress” in item 227.

2007—Pub. L. 110-81, title I, §102(c), Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 739, added item 227.

2006—Pub. L. 109-177, title III, §309(b), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 242, added item 226.

2003—Pub. L. 108-198, §2(b), Dec. 19, 2003, 117 Stat. 2900, added items 212 and 213 and struck out former items 212 “Offer of loan or gratuity to bank examiner” and 213 “Acceptance of loan or gratuity by bank examiner”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §33001(12), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2144, substituted “officers, and others in” for “officers and others, in” in item 203 and inserted “the” after “Federal Claims or” in item 204.

1992—Pub. L. 102-572, title IX, §902(b)(1), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4516, substituted “United States Court of Federal Claims” for “United States Claims Court” in item 204.

1990—Pub. L. 101-647, title XXV, §2510(b), title XXXV, §3509, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4863, 4922, substituted “to Members” for “of Members” in item 203, substituted “United States Claims Court or United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “Court of Claims” in item 204, and added item 225.