

## CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 4 of Pub. L. 106-274. Subsec. (d) of section 4 of Pub. L. 106-274 amended section 1988(b) of this title.

**§ 2000cc-3. Rules of construction****(a) Religious belief unaffected**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to authorize any government to burden any religious belief.

**(b) Religious exercise not regulated**

Nothing in this chapter shall create any basis for restricting or burdening religious exercise or for claims against a religious organization including any religiously affiliated school or university, not acting under color of law.

**(c) Claims to funding unaffected**

Nothing in this chapter shall create or preclude a right of any religious organization to receive funding or other assistance from a government, or of any person to receive government funding for a religious activity, but this chapter may require a government to incur expenses in its own operations to avoid imposing a substantial burden on religious exercise.

**(d) Other authority to impose conditions on funding unaffected**

Nothing in this chapter shall—

(1) authorize a government to regulate or affect, directly or indirectly, the activities or policies of a person other than a government as a condition of receiving funding or other assistance; or

(2) restrict any authority that may exist under other law to so regulate or affect, except as provided in this chapter.

**(e) Governmental discretion in alleviating burdens on religious exercise**

A government may avoid the preemptive force of any provision of this chapter by changing the policy or practice that results in a substantial burden on religious exercise, by retaining the policy or practice and exempting the substantially burdened religious exercise, by providing exemptions from the policy or practice for applications that substantially burden religious exercise, or by any other means that eliminates the substantial burden.

**(f) Effect on other law**

With respect to a claim brought under this chapter, proof that a substantial burden on a person's religious exercise affects, or removal of that burden would affect, commerce with foreign nations, among the several States, or with Indian tribes, shall not establish any inference or presumption that Congress intends that any religious exercise is, or is not, subject to any law other than this chapter.

**(g) Broad construction**

This chapter shall be construed in favor of a broad protection of religious exercise, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of this chapter and the Constitution.

**(h) No preemption or repeal**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to preempt State law, or repeal Federal law, that is

equally as protective of religious exercise as, or more protective of religious exercise than, this chapter.

**(i) Severability**

If any provision of this chapter or of an amendment made by this chapter, or any application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this chapter, the amendments made by this chapter, and the application of the provision to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

(Pub. L. 106-274, §5, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 805.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 106-274, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 803, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000cc of this title and Tables.

**§ 2000cc-4. Establishment Clause unaffected**

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to affect, interpret, or in any way address that portion of the first amendment to the Constitution prohibiting laws respecting an establishment of religion (referred to in this section as the "Establishment Clause"). Granting government funding, benefits, or exemptions, to the extent permissible under the Establishment Clause, shall not constitute a violation of this chapter. In this section, the term "granting", used with respect to government funding, benefits, or exemptions, does not include the denial of government funding, benefits, or exemptions.

(Pub. L. 106-274, §6, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 806.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 106-274, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 803, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000cc of this title and Tables.

**§ 2000cc-5. Definitions**

In this chapter:

**(1) Claimant**

The term "claimant" means a person raising a claim or defense under this chapter.

**(2) Demonstrates**

The term "demonstrates" means meets the burdens of going forward with the evidence and of persuasion.

**(3) Free Exercise Clause**

The term "Free Exercise Clause" means that portion of the first amendment to the Constitution that proscribes laws prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

**(4) Government**

The term "government"—

(A) means—

(i) a State, county, municipality, or other governmental entity created under the authority of a State;

(ii) any branch, department, agency, instrumentality, or official of an entity listed in clause (i); and

(iii) any other person acting under color of State law; and

(B) for the purposes of sections 2000cc-2(b) and 2000cc-3 of this title, includes the United States, a branch, department, agency, instrumentality, or official of the United States, and any other person acting under color of Federal law.

**(5) Land use regulation**

The term “land use regulation” means a zoning or landmarking law, or the application of such a law, that limits or restricts a claimant’s use or development of land (including a structure affixed to land), if the claimant has an ownership, leasehold, easement, servitude, or other property interest in the regulated land or a contract or option to acquire such an interest.

**(6) Program or activity**

The term “program or activity” means all of the operations of any entity as described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2000d-4a of this title.

**(7) Religious exercise**

**(A) In general**

The term “religious exercise” includes any exercise of religion, whether or not compelled by, or central to, a system of religious belief.

**(B) Rule**

The use, building, or conversion of real property for the purpose of religious exercise shall be considered to be religious exercise of the person or entity that uses or intends to use the property for that purpose.

(Pub. L. 106-274, §8, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 806.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 106-274, Sept. 22, 2000, 114 Stat. 803, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000cc of this title and Tables.

**CHAPTER 21D—DETAINEE TREATMENT**

Sec. 2000dd.	Prohibition on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under custody or control of the United States Government.
2000dd-0.	Additional prohibition on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
2000dd-1.	Protection of United States Government personnel engaged in authorized interrogations.
2000dd-2.	Limitation on interrogation techniques.

**§ 2000dd. Prohibition on cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment of persons under custody or control of the United States Government**

**(a) In general**

No individual in the custody or under the physical control of the United States Government, regardless of nationality or physical location, shall be subject to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

**(b) Construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose any geographical limitation on the applicability of the prohibition against cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment under this section.

**(c) Limitation on supersedure**

The provisions of this section shall not be superseded, except by a provision of law enacted after December 30, 2005, which specifically repeals, modifies, or supersedes the provisions of this section.

**(d) Cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment defined**

In this section, the term “cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment” means the cruel, unusual, and inhumane treatment or punishment prohibited by the Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, as defined in the United States Reservations, Declarations and Understandings to the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment done at New York, December 10, 1984.

(Pub. L. 109-148, div. A, title X, §1003, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2739; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title XIV, §1403, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3475.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date “December 30, 2005”, referred to in subsec. (c), was in the original “the date of the enactment of this Act” and was translated as the date of enactment of Pub. L. 109-148.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 109-148 and Pub. L. 109-163 enacted identical sections.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 109-148, div. A, title X, §1001, Dec. 30, 2005, 119 Stat. 2739, and Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title XIV, §1401, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3474, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, amending section 2241 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 801 of Title 10, Armed Forces] may be cited as the ‘Detainee Treatment Act of 2005’.”

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD DETAINEES

Pub. L. 110-53, title XX, §2034, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 517, provided that:

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

“(1) The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly referred to as the ‘9/11 Commission’) declared that the United States ‘should work with friends to develop mutually agreed-on principles for the detention and humane treatment of captured international terrorists who are not being held under a particular country’s criminal laws’ and recommended that the United States engage its allies ‘to develop a common coalition approach toward the detention and humane treatment of captured terrorists’.

“(2) A number of investigations remain ongoing by countries that are close United States allies in the war on terrorism regarding the conduct of officials, employees, and agents of the United States and of other countries related to conduct regarding detainees.

“(3) The Secretary of State has launched an initiative to try to address the differences between the United States and many of its allies regarding the treatment of detainees.