

(ii) is essential to the mission of the agency; and

(B) the agency cannot reasonably comply with the provisions of this subchapter because—

(i) public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed;

(ii) an unanticipated event has occurred; or

(iii) the use of normal clearance procedures is reasonably likely to prevent or disrupt the collection of information or is reasonably likely to cause a statutory or court ordered deadline to be missed.

(2) The Director shall approve or disapprove any such authorization request within the time requested by the agency head and, if approved, shall assign the collection of information a control number. Any collection of information conducted under this subsection may be conducted without compliance with the provisions of this subchapter for a maximum of 180 days after the date on which the Director received the request to authorize such collection.

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, § 2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 176; amended Pub. L. 104-106, div. E, title LVI, § 5605(d), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 700; Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1064(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-275.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3507, added Pub. L. 96-511, § 2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2819; amended Pub. L. 99-500, § 101(m) [title VIII, § 817], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-308, 1783-338, and Pub. L. 99-591, § 101(m) [title VIII, § 817], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-308, 3341-338, related to submission to Director of public information collection request for an approval or delegation to a senior official of an agency prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

Another prior section 3507, Pub. L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1304, provided for cooperation of agencies in making information available, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-511. See section 3510(a) of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2000—Subsecs. (e)(3)(B), (h), (j). Pub. L. 106-398 substituted “subchapter” for “chapter” wherever appearing.

1996—Subsec. (j)(2). Pub. L. 104-106 substituted “180 days” for “90 days”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-398 effective 30 days after Oct. 30, 2000, see section 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1065] of Pub. L. 106-398, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, formerly set out as an Effective Date note under former section 3531 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-106 effective 180 days after Feb. 10, 1996, see section 5701 of Pub. L. 104-106, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 702.

### § 3508. Determination of necessity for information; hearing

Before approving a proposed collection of information, the Director shall determine whether the collection of information by the agency is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility. Before making a determination the Director may give the agency and other interested persons an opportunity to be heard or to submit statements in writing. To the extent, if any, that the Director determines that the collection of information by an agency is unnecessary for any reason, the agency may not engage in the collection of information.

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, § 2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 179.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3508, added Pub. L. 96-511, § 2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2821, related to determination of whether collection of information is necessary for proper performance of functions of agency prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

Another prior section 3508, Pub. L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1304, related to unlawful disclosure of information, penalties, and release of information to other agencies, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-511. See section 3510(b) of this title.

### § 3509. Designation of central collection agency

The Director may designate a central collection agency to obtain information for two or more agencies if the Director determines that the needs of such agencies for information will be adequately served by a single collection agency, and such sharing of data is not inconsistent with applicable law. In such cases the Director shall prescribe (with reference to the collection of information) the duties and functions of the collection agency so designated and of the agencies for which it is to act as agent (including reimbursement for costs). While the designation is in effect, an agency covered by the designation may not obtain for itself information for the agency which is the duty of the collection agency to obtain. The Director may modify the designation from time to time as circumstances require. The authority to designate under this section is subject to the provisions of section 3507(f) of this subchapter.

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, § 2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 180; amended Pub. L. 106-398, § 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1064(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-275.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 3509, added Pub. L. 96-511, § 2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2821, related to designation of central collection agency prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

Another prior section 3509, Pub. L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1304, related to plans or forms for collecting information, submission to Director, and his approval, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-511.

#### AMENDMENTS

2000—Pub. L. 106-398 substituted “subchapter” for “chapter”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-398 effective 30 days after Oct. 30, 2000, see section 1 [[div. A], title X, § 1065] of Pub. L. 106-398, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, formerly set out as an Effective Date note under former section 3531 of this title.

**§ 3510. Cooperation of agencies in making information available**

(a) The Director may direct an agency to make available to another agency, or an agency may make available to another agency, information obtained by a collection of information if the disclosure is not inconsistent with applicable law.

(b)(1) If information obtained by an agency is released by that agency to another agency, all the provisions of law (including penalties) that relate to the unlawful disclosure of information apply to the officers and employees of the agency to which information is released to the same extent and in the same manner as the provisions apply to the officers and employees of the agency which originally obtained the information.

(2) The officers and employees of the agency to which the information is released, in addition, shall be subject to the same provisions of law, including penalties, relating to the unlawful disclosure of information as if the information had been collected directly by that agency.

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, §2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 180.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 3510, added Pub. L. 96-511, §2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2822, related to cooperation of agencies in making information available prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

Another prior section 3510, Pub. L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1305, authorized promulgation of rules and regulations, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-511. See section 3516 of this title.

**§ 3511. Establishment and operation of Government Information Locator Service**

(a) In order to assist agencies and the public in locating information and to promote information sharing and equitable access by the public, the Director shall—

(1) cause to be established and maintained a distributed agency-based electronic Government Information Locator Service (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Service”), which shall identify the major information systems, holdings, and dissemination products of each agency;

(2) require each agency to establish and maintain an agency information locator service as a component of, and to support the establishment and operation of the Service;

(3) in cooperation with the Archivist of the United States, the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Government Publishing Office, and the Librarian of Congress, establish an interagency committee to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the development of technical standards for the Service to ensure compatibility, promote information sharing, and uniform access by the public;

(4) consider public access and other user needs in the establishment and operation of the Service;

(5) ensure the security and integrity of the Service, including measures to ensure that only information which is intended to be disclosed to the public is disclosed through the Service; and

(6) periodically review the development and effectiveness of the Service and make recom-

mendations for improvement, including other mechanisms for improving public access to Federal agency public information.

(b) This section shall not apply to operational files as defined by the Central Intelligence Agency Information Act (50 U.S.C. 431 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, §2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 180; amended Pub. L. 113-235, div. H, title I, §1301(c)(1), Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2537.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Central Intelligence Agency Information Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is Pub. L. 98-477, Oct. 15, 1984, 98 Stat. 2209, which was formerly classified principally to subchapter V (§431 et seq.) of chapter 15 of Title 50, War and National Defense, prior to editorial reclassification in Title 50, and is now classified principally to subchapter V (§3141 et seq.) of chapter 44 of Title 50. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 3511, added Pub. L. 96-511, §2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2822; amended Pub. L. 99-500, §101(m) [title VIII, §818], Oct. 18, 1986, 100 Stat. 1783-308, 1783-339, and Pub. L. 99-591, §101(m) [title VIII, §818], Oct. 30, 1986, 100 Stat. 3341-308, 3341-339, related to establishment and operation of a Federal Information Locator System prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

Another prior section 3511, Pub. L. 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1305, provided for penalty for failure to furnish information, prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 96-511.

**AMENDMENTS**

2014—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 113-235 substituted “Director of the Government Publishing Office” for “Public Printer”.

**§ 3512. Public protection**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that is subject to this subchapter if—

(1) the collection of information does not display a valid control number assigned by the Director in accordance with this subchapter; or

(2) the agency fails to inform the person who is to respond to the collection of information that such person is not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a valid control number.

(b) The protection provided by this section may be raised in the form of a complete defense, bar, or otherwise at any time during the agency administrative process or judicial action applicable thereto.

(Added Pub. L. 104-13, §2, May 22, 1995, 109 Stat. 181; amended Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title X, §1064(b)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-275.)

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 3512, added Pub. L. 96-511, §2(a), Dec. 11, 1980, 94 Stat. 2822, related to protection of persons failing to maintain or provide information if information collection request did not display current control number prior to the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 104-13.

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.