

duties and responsibilities provided by this chapter from any Federal, State, or local governmental entity.

(Added Pub. L. 107-296, title XIII, §1302(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2288.)

**CHAPTER 15—POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN STATE AND LOCAL EMPLOYEES**

- Sec.
- 1501. Definitions.
- 1502. Influencing elections; taking part in political campaigns; prohibitions; exceptions.
- 1503. Nonpartisan candidacies permitted.
- 1504. Investigations; notice of hearing.
- 1505. Hearings; adjudications; notice of determinations.
- 1506. Orders; withholding loans or grants; limitations.
- 1507. Subpenas and depositions.
- 1508. Judicial review.

AMENDMENTS

1974—Pub. L. 93-443, title IV, §401(b)(2), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1290, substituted “candidacies” for “political activity” in item 1503.

**§ 1501. Definitions**

For the purpose of this chapter—

- (1) “State” means a State or territory or possession of the United States;
- (2) “State or local agency” means the executive branch of a State, municipality, or other political subdivision of a State, or an agency or department thereof, or the executive branch of the District of Columbia, or an agency or department thereof;
- (3) “Federal agency” means an Executive agency or other agency of the United States, but does not include a member bank of the Federal Reserve System; and
- (4) “State or local officer or employee” means an individual employed by a State or local agency whose principal employment is in connection with an activity which is financed in whole or in part by loans or grants made by the United States or a Federal agency, but does not include—

- (A) an individual who exercises no functions in connection with that activity; or
- (B) an individual employed by an educational or research institution, establishment, agency, or system which is supported in whole or in part by—
  - (i) a State or political subdivision thereof;
  - (ii) the District of Columbia; or
  - (iii) a recognized religious, philanthropic, or cultural organization.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 403; Pub. L. 93-443, title IV, §401(c), Oct. 15, 1974, 88 Stat. 1290; Pub. L. 112-230, §3(a), (b), Dec. 28, 2012, 126 Stat. 1616.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
(1) .....	5 U.S.C. 118k-2.	July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4 “Sec. 19”, 54 Stat. 772.
(2), (3) .....	5 U.S.C. 118k(f).	July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4 “Sec. 12(f)”, 54 Stat. 770.
(4) .....	5 U.S.C. 118k(a) (1st 41 words), (e).	July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4 “Sec 12(a) (1st 41 words), (e)”, 54 Stat. 767, 770.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
	5 U.S.C. 118k-1 (as applicable to 5 U.S.C. 118k).	Oct. 24, 1942, ch. 620 “Sec. 21 (as applicable to §12 of the Act of Aug. 2, 1939; added July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4, 54 Stat. 767)”, 56 Stat. 986.
(5) .....	5 U.S.C. 118l (as applicable to 5 U.S.C. 118k).	July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4 “Sec. 15 (as applicable to §12 of the Act of Aug. 2, 1939; added July 19, 1940, ch. 640, §4, 54 Stat. 767)”, 54 Stat. 771.

In paragraph (4)(B), the words “or by any Territory or Territorial possession of the United States” are omitted in view of the definition of “State” in paragraph (1).

In paragraph (5), the words “July 19, 1940” are substituted for “at the time this section takes effect”.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Par. (2). Pub. L. 112-230, §3(a), inserted “, or the executive branch of the District of Columbia, or an agency or department thereof” before semicolon at end.

Par. (4)(B). Pub. L. 112-230, §3(b), added subpar. (B) and struck out former subpar. (B) which read as follows: “an individual employed by an educational or research institution, establishment, agency, or system which is supported in whole or in part by a State or political subdivision thereof, or by a recognized religious, philanthropic, or cultural organization.”

1974—Par. (5). Pub. L. 93-443 struck out par. (5) which defined “an active part in political management or in political campaigns”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-230, §5(a), Dec. 28, 2012, 126 Stat. 1617, provided that: This Act [see Short Title of 2012 Amendment note set out under section 101 of this title] and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 28, 2012].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1974 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-443 effective Jan. 1, 1975, see section 410(a) of Pub. L. 93-443, set out as a note under section 30101 of Title 52, Voting and Elections.

**§ 1502. Influencing elections; taking part in political campaigns; prohibitions; exceptions**

(a) A State or local officer or employee may not—

- (1) use his official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with or affecting the result of an election or a nomination for office;
- (2) directly or indirectly coerce, attempt to coerce, command, or advise a State or local officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute anything of value to a party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes; or
- (3) if the salary of the employee is paid completely, directly or indirectly, by loans or grants made by the United States or a Federal agency, be a candidate for elective office.

(b) A State or local officer or employee retains the right to vote as he chooses and to express his opinions on political subjects and candidates.