

than \$15,000,000 an admiralty claim against the United States for—

(1) damage caused by a vessel in the naval service or by other property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy;

(2) compensation for towage and salvage service, including contract salvage, rendered to a vessel in the naval service or to other property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy; or

(3) damage caused by a maritime tort committed by any agent or employee of the Department of the Navy or by property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy.

(b) If a claim under this section is settled or compromised for more than \$15,000,000, the Secretary shall certify it to Congress.

(c) In any case where the amount to be paid is not more than \$1,000,000, the Secretary may delegate his authority under this section to any person designated by him.

(d) Upon acceptance of payment by the claimant, the settlement or compromise of a claim under this section is final and conclusive notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 472; Pub. L. 89-67, July 7, 1965, 79 Stat. 212; Pub. L. 92-417, §1(5), Aug. 29, 1972, 86 Stat. 654; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XVI, §1633, Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1608; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1014(a), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1212.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
7622	46 U.S.C. 797. 46 U.S.C. 799.	July 3, 1944, ch. 399, §7, 58 Stat. 726. July 3, 1944, ch. 399, §9; added Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 739, 60 Stat. 803.

In subsection (a) the words “consider, ascertain, adjust, determine” are omitted as covered by the word “settle”, as defined in §7621(b) of this title. The words “vessel in the naval service” are substituted for the words “vessels of the Navy or in the naval service”, in view of the definition in §7621(a) of this title. The words “pay in an amount not more than \$1,000,000, a claim” are substituted for the words “pay the amount of any claim, so determined, compromised, or settled” and for the words “the payment of any claim on which a net amount exceeding \$1,000,000 is determined to be due from the United States, or which is compromised or settled at a net amount exceeding \$1,000,000 payable by the United States, shall not be authorized by this section”.

In subsection (c) the words “In any case where the amount to be paid is not more than” are substituted for the words “When the net amount paid in settlement does not exceed” for clarity, since the delegation necessarily precedes payment. The words “the Secretary may delegate his authority” are substituted for the words “the authority of the Secretary of the Navy * * * may be exercised by” for clarity.

In subsection (d) the words “but not until then”, “for all purposes”, and “to the contrary” are omitted as surplusage.

The first proviso in 46 U.S.C. 797, stating that this section is supplementary to, and not in lieu of, other laws authorizing the settlement of claims, is omitted as unnecessary, since the other applicable claims laws are restated in this title. The second proviso, forbidding consideration of claims for more than \$3,000 if they accrued before Sept. 8, 1939, is omitted as obsolete. It was designed to avoid reviving stale claims upon en-

actment of the source law on July 3, 1944. However, as a matter of practice, no claims are settled under this authority which are more than two years old, in line with the two-year statute of limitations contained in the Suits in Admiralty Act and the Public Vessels Act. This limitation has been officially publicized in the Federal Register for May 22, 1947, p. 3296, and in 32 C.F.R. 752. The third proviso in 46 U.S.C. 797 is omitted as unnecessary, since the appropriation named therein no longer exists, and the payments are now made from appropriations for the Department of Defense.

AMENDMENTS

2001—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 107-107, §1014(a)(1), substituted “\$15,000,000” for “\$1,000,000”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-107, §1014(a)(2), substituted “\$1,000,000” for “\$100,000”.

1989—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-189 substituted “\$100,000” for “\$10,000”.

1972—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-417 substituted “an admiralty claim against the United States” for “a claim against the United States” in text preceding par. (1), in par. (1) inserted “or by other property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy”, in par. (2) inserted “or to other property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy”, and added par. (3).

1965—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 89-67 substituted “\$10,000” for “\$1,000”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1014(c), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1212, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 7623 of this title] shall apply with respect to any claim accruing on or after February 1, 2001.”

§ 7623. Admiralty claims by the United States

(a) The Secretary of the Navy may settle, or compromise, and receive payment of a claim by the United States for damage to property under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy or property for which the Department has assumed an obligation to respond for damage, if—

(1) the claim is—

(A) of a kind that is within the admiralty jurisdiction of a district court of the United States; or

(B) for damage caused by a vessel or floating object; and

(2) the net amount to be received by the United States is not more than \$15,000,000.

(b)(1) In exchange for payment of an amount found to be due the United States under this section, the Secretary may execute a release of the claim on behalf of the United States.

(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), amounts received under this section shall be covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

(B) Amounts received under this section for damage or loss to property operated and maintained with funds from a Department of Defense working capital fund or account shall be credited to that fund or account.

(c) In any case where the amount to be received by the United States is not more than \$1,000,000, the Secretary may delegate his authority under this section to any person designated by him.

(d) Upon acceptance of payment by the Secretary, the settlement or compromise of a claim under this section is final and conclusive notwithstanding any other provision of law.

(e) This section does not apply to any claim while there is pending as to that claim a suit filed by or against the United States.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 472; Pub. L. 89-67, July 7, 1965, 79 Stat. 212; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title XVI, §1633, Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1608; Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title X, §1014(b), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1212; Pub. L. 110-417, [div. A], title X, §1032, Oct. 14, 2008, 122 Stat. 4591.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
7623	34 U.S.C. 600a.	Dec. 5, 1945, ch. 555, §1, 59 Stat. 596.
	34 U.S.C. 600d.	Dec. 5, 1945, ch. 555, §4; added Aug. 2, 1946, ch. 742, 60 Stat. 806.
	34 U.S.C. 600c.	Dec. 5, 1945, ch. 555, §3, 59 Stat. 596.

In subsection (a) the words “consider, ascertain, adjust, determine” are omitted as covered by the word “settle”, as defined in section 7621(b) of this title. The words “of the United States” (following the word “property”), “by contract or otherwise”, and “thereto” are omitted as surplusage. The words “of a kind that is within the admiralty jurisdiction of” are substituted for the words “cognizable in admiralty in”. The words “receive payment of a claim * * * if the net amount to be received by the United States is not more than \$1,000,000” are substituted for the words “receive in payment of any such claim the amount due the United States pursuant to determination, compromise, or settlement as herein authorized * * * *Provided, further,* That no settlement or compromise where there is involved a payment in the net amount of over \$1,000,000 shall be authorized by this Act”.

In subsection (b) the words “and to deliver” are omitted as covered by the word “execute”. The words “Amounts received under this section” are substituted for the words “All such payments” for clarity and uniformity. The words “of the United States as miscellaneous receipts” are omitted as surplusage.

In subsection (c) the words “In any case where the amount to be received by the United States is not more than” are substituted for the words “Where the net amount received in settlement does not exceed” for clarity, since the delegation of authority necessarily precedes receipt of payment. The words “the Secretary may delegate his authority” are substituted for the words “the authority of the Secretary of the Navy * * * may be exercised” for clarity.

In subsection (d) the words “but not until then”, “for all purposes”, and “to the contrary” are omitted as surplusage.

Subsection (e) is worded to insure that the effect of a suit pending at any time is preserved and that the provision is not interpreted to apply only to suits that are pending on the date of enactment of this title.

The first proviso of 34 U.S.C. 600a, stating that this section is supplementary to, and not in lieu of, other laws authorizing the settlement of claims, is omitted as unnecessary, since the other applicable claims laws are restated in this title.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-417 designated existing provisions as par. (1), struck out last sentence which read “Amounts received under this section shall be covered into the Treasury.”, and added par. (2).

2001—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 107-107, §1014(b)(1), substituted “\$15,000,000” for “\$1,000,000”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 107-107, §1014(b)(2), substituted “\$1,000,000” for “\$100,000”.

1989—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 101-189 substituted “\$100,000” for “\$10,000”.

1965—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 89-67 substituted “\$10,000” for “\$1,000”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2001 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-107 applicable with respect to any claim accruing on or after Feb. 1, 2001, see section 1014(c) of Pub. L. 107-107, set out as a note under section 7622 of this title.

§ 7624. Repealed. Pub. L. 86-533, § 1(10)(A), June 29, 1960, 74 Stat. 247]

Section, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 473, related to reports to Congress with respect to amounts paid or received under sections 7622 and 7623 of this title.

§ 7625. Repealed. Pub. L. 87-769, § 1(2)(A), Oct. 9, 1962, 76 Stat. 768]

Section, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 473, related to settlement of claims for damage to or loss of privately owned property. See section 2736 of this title.

CHAPTER 655—PRIZE

Sec. 7651.	Scope of chapter.
7652.	Jurisdiction.
7653.	Court in which proceedings brought.
7654.	Effect of failure to start proceedings.
7655.	Appointment of prize commissioners and special prize commissioners.
7656.	Duties of United States attorney.
7657.	Duties of commanding officer of capturing vessel.
7658.	Duties of prize master.
7659.	Libel and proceedings by United States attorney.
7660.	Duties of prize commissioners.
7661.	Interrogation of witnesses by prize commissioners.
7662.	Duties of marshal.
7663.	Prize property appropriated for the use of the United States.
7664.	Delivery of property on stipulation.
7665.	Sale of prize.
7666.	Mode of making sale.
7667.	Transfer of prize property to another district for sale.
7668.	Disposition of prize money.
7669.	Security for costs.
7670.	Costs and expenses a charge on prize property.
7671.	Payment of costs and expenses from prize fund.
7672.	Recaptures: award of salvage, costs, and expenses.
7673.	Allowance of expenses to marshals.
7674.	Payment of witness fees.
7675.	Commissions of auctioneers.
7676.	Compensation of prize commissioners and special prize commissioners.
7677.	Accounts of clerks of district courts.
7678.	Interfering with delivery, custody, or sale of prize property.
7679.	Powers of district court over prize property notwithstanding appeal.
7680.	Appeals and amendments in prize causes.
7681.	Reciprocal privileges to cobelligerent.

§ 7651. Scope of chapter

(a) This chapter applies to all captures of vessels as prize during war by authority of the United States or adopted and ratified by the President. However, this chapter does not affect the right of the Army or the Air Force, while engaged in hostilities, to capture wherever found and without prize procedure—

(1) enemy property; or

(2) neutral property used or transported in violation of the obligations of neutrals under international law.