

§ 508. Vacancies

(a) In case of a vacancy in the office of Attorney General, or of his absence or disability, the Deputy Attorney General may exercise all the duties of that office, and for the purpose of section 3345 of title 5 the Deputy Attorney General is the first assistant to the Attorney General.

(b) When by reason of absence, disability, or vacancy in office, neither the Attorney General nor the Deputy Attorney General is available to exercise the duties of the office of Attorney General, the Associate Attorney General shall act as Attorney General. The Attorney General may designate the Solicitor General and the Assistant Attorneys General, in further order of succession, to act as Attorney General.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612; amended Pub. L. 95-139, §2, Oct. 19, 1977, 91 Stat. 1171.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: [Uncodified], R.S. §347 (last sentence), 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 4, §1, eff. June 20, 1953, 67 Stat. 636.

The last sentence of R.S. §347 is cited as authority inasmuch as the function contained therein was the function transferred to the Deputy Attorney General by 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 4. The word "may" is substituted for "have the power". The words "During any period of time" are omitted as unnecessary.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 508, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 910; Mar. 2, 1955, ch. 9, §2(a), 69 Stat. 10; Oct. 11, 1962, Pub. L. 87-793, §1003(a), 76 Stat. 865; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-426, title III, §306(a)(1), 78 Stat. 428; Oct. 6, 1964, Pub. L. 88-631, §3(b), 78 Stat. 1008, related to salaries of United States attorneys, assistant United States attorneys, and special attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 548 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

AMENDMENTS

1977—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 95-139 substituted "the Associate Attorney General shall act as Attorney General. The Attorney General may designate the Solicitor General and the Assistant Attorneys General, in further order of succession, to act as Attorney General" for "the Assistant Attorneys General and the Solicitor General, in such order of succession as the Attorney General may from time to time prescribe, shall act as Attorney General".

§ 509. Functions of the Attorney General

All functions of other officers of the Department of Justice and all functions of agencies and employees of the Department of Justice are vested in the Attorney General except the functions—

- (1) vested by subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5 in administrative law judges employed by the Department of Justice;
(2) of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.; and
(3) of the Board of Directors and officers of the Federal Prison Industries, Inc.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612; amended Pub. L. 95-251, §2(a)(6), Mar. 27, 1978, 92 Stat. 183; Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §228(a), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2030; Pub. L. 107-273, div. A, title II, §204(d), div. B, title IV, §4003(b)(1), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1776, 1811.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: [Uncodified], 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 2, §1, eff. May 24, 1950, 64 Stat. 1261.

The section is restated to allow incorporation into this chapter.

[The Historical and Revision Notes for former section 507, from which this section is partially derived, is set out under section 547 of this title.]

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 509, act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 910, related to expenses of United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 549 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (3). Pub. L. 107-273, §§204(d), 4003(b)(1), amended par. (3) identically, striking out second period at end.

1984—Pub. L. 98-473 inserted "and" at end of par. (2), substituted a period for "; and" at end of par. (3), and struck out par. (4) which related to functions of Board of Parole.

1978—Par. (1). Pub. L. 95-251 substituted "administrative law judges" for "hearing examiners".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1984 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §235(a)(1)(B)(ii)(IV), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2032, provided that the amendment made by Pub. L. 98-473 is effective Oct. 12, 1984.

SHORT TITLE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114-325, §1, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1965, provided that: "This Act [amending provisions set out as a note under this section] may be cited as the 'Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016'."

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the Domestic Emergency Support Teams of the Department of Justice, including the functions of the Attorney General relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see former section 313(4) and sections 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNCTIONS

For assignment of certain emergency preparedness functions to the Attorney General, see Parts 1, 2, and 11 of Ex. Ord. No. 12656, Nov. 18, 1988, 53 F.R. 47491, set out as a note under section 5195 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

UNSOLVED CIVIL RIGHTS CRIMES

Pub. L. 110-344, Oct. 7, 2008, 122 Stat. 3934, as amended by Pub. L. 114-325, §2, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1965, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007’.

“SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

“It is the sense of Congress that all authorities with jurisdiction, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other entities within the Department of Justice, should—

- (1) expeditiously investigate unsolved civil rights murders, due to the amount of time that has passed since the murders and the age of potential witnesses;