

in part, exist, and proper proceedings to this end may be instituted under the direction of the Attorney General of the United States at the request of the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and in case of any litigation arising from any obstruction or alleged obstruction to navigation created by the construction of any bridge under said sections, the cause or question arising may be tried before the district court of the United States in any district which any portion of said obstruction or bridge touches.

**(b) Civil penalties for violation; separate offenses; notice and hearing; assessment, collection, and remission; civil actions**

Whoever violates any provision of sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, or any order issued under sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, shall be liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000 for a violation occurring in 2008 and any year thereafter. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense. No penalty may be assessed under this subsection until the person charged is given notice and an opportunity for a hearing on the charge. The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may assess and collect any civil penalty incurred under this subsection and, in his discretion, may remit, mitigate, or compromise any penalty until the matter is referred to the Attorney General. If a person against whom a civil penalty is assessed under this subsection fails to pay that penalty, an action may be commenced in the district court of the United States for any district in which the violation occurs for such penalty.

(Mar. 23, 1906, ch. 1130, § 5, 34 Stat. 85; Mar. 3, 1911, ch. 231, §§ 289, 291, 36 Stat. 1167; Pub. L. 97-322, title I, § 108(c), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1584; Pub. L. 97-449, § 2(d)(1), Jan. 12, 1983, 96 Stat. 2440; Pub. L. 108-293, title VI, § 601(a), Aug. 9, 2004, 118 Stat. 1050; Pub. L. 114-120, title III, § 306(b)(2)(C), Feb. 8, 2016, 130 Stat. 55; Pub. L. 115-232, div. C, title XXXV, § 3548(b), Aug. 13, 2018, 132 Stat. 2328.)

**CODIFICATION**

The words “district court” were substituted for “circuit court,” upon incorporation into the Code, the Circuit Courts being abolished by act Mar. 3, 1911, and their powers and duties transferred to the district courts by section 291 of that act.

**AMENDMENTS**

2018—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 115-232 struck out “\$5,000 for a violation occurring in 2004; \$10,000 for a violation occurring in 2005; \$15,000 for a violation occurring in 2006; \$20,000 for a violation occurring in 2007; and” after “civil penalty of not more than”.

2016—Pub. L. 114-120 substituted “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating” for “Secretary of Transportation” wherever appearing.

2004—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-293 substituted “\$5,000 for a violation occurring in 2004; \$10,000 for a violation occurring in 2005; \$15,000 for a violation occurring in 2006; \$20,000 for a violation occurring in 2007; and \$25,000 for a violation occurring in 2008 and any year thereafter” for “\$1,000”.

1983—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-449 substituted “Secretary of Transportation” for “Secretary of War” wherever appearing. See Transfer of Functions note below.

1982—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-322, § 108(c)(1)–(3), designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), provided for

punishment of persons who shall “willfully” fail to comply with lawful orders, and struck out “shall be deemed guilty of a violation of said sections, and any persons who shall be guilty of a violation of said sections” before “shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 97-322, § 108(c)(4), added subsec. (b).

**TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS**

Functions, powers, and duties of Secretary of the Army [formerly War] and other offices and officers of Department the Army [formerly War] under this section to extent that they relate generally to location and clearances of bridges and causeways in navigable waters of United States transferred to and vested in Secretary of Transportation by Pub. L. 89-670, § 6(g)(6)(B), Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 941. Pub. L. 97-449 amended this section to reflect transfer made by section 6(g)(6)(B) of Pub. L. 89-670, and repealed section 6(g)(6)(B).

**§ 496. Time for commencement and completion of bridge**

Whenever Congress shall after March 23, 1906, by law authorize the construction of any bridge over or across any of the navigable waters of the United States, and no time for the commencement and completion of such bridge is named in said Act, the authority thereby granted shall cease and be null and void unless the actual construction of the bridge authorized in such Act be commenced within one year and completed within three years from the date of the passage of such Act.

(Mar. 23, 1906, ch. 1130, § 6, 34 Stat. 86.)

**§ 497. “Persons” defined**

The word “persons” as used in sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, shall be construed to import both the singular and the plural, as the case demands, and shall include municipalities, quasi-municipal corporations, corporations, companies, and associations.

(Mar. 23, 1906, ch. 1130, § 7, 34 Stat. 86.)

**§ 498. Reservation of right to alter or repeal**

The right to alter, amend, or repeal sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title, is expressly reserved as to any and all bridges which may be built in accordance with the provisions of said sections, and the United States shall incur no liability for the alteration, amendment, or repeal thereof to the owner or owners or any other persons interested in any bridge which shall have been constructed in accordance with its provisions.

(Mar. 23, 1906, ch. 1130, § 8, 34 Stat. 86.)

**§ 498a. Repealed. Pub. L. 100-17, title I, § 135(b), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 174**

Section, act June 10, 1930, ch. 441, § 17, 46 Stat. 552, provided that, in the case of bridges authorized prior to June 10, 1930, by Acts of Congress, where Congress has specifically reserved the right to regulate tolls, such bridges, with respect to regulation of all tolls, be subject to sections 491 to 494 and 495 to 498 of this title.

**§ 498b. Repealed. Pub. L. 100-17, title I, § 135(c), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 174**

Section, act June 27, 1930, ch. 640, § 1, 46 Stat. 821, provided that, in case of any bridge authorized prior to