

(E) an action initiated under section 1215 or 7521 of this title, or

(F) a suitability action taken by the Office under regulations prescribed by the Office, subject to the rules prescribed by the President under this title for the administration of the competitive service.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title II, §204(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1136; amended Pub. L. 101-12, §9(a)(2), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 35; Pub. L. 114-92, div. A, title X, §1086(f)(9), Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 1010.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7512, Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 528, related to adverse action against a preference eligible employee and procedures applicable to such adverse action, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 95-454, §204(a).

#### AMENDMENTS

2015—Par. (F). Pub. L. 114-92 added par. (F).  
1989—Par. (E). Pub. L. 101-12 substituted “1215” for “1206”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-12 effective 90 days following Apr. 10, 1989, see section 11 of Pub. L. 101-12, set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

### § 7513. Cause and procedure

(a) Under regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, an agency may take an action covered by this subchapter against an employee only for such cause as will promote the efficiency of the service.

(b) An employee against whom an action is proposed is entitled to—

(1) at least 30 days' advance written notice, unless there is reasonable cause to believe the employee has committed a crime for which a sentence of imprisonment may be imposed, stating the specific reasons for the proposed action;

(2) a reasonable time, but not less than 7 days, to answer orally and in writing and to furnish affidavits and other documentary evidence in support of the answer;

(3) be represented by an attorney or other representative; and

(4) a written decision and the specific reasons therefor at the earliest practicable date.

(c) An agency may provide, by regulation, for a hearing which may be in lieu of or in addition to the opportunity to answer provided under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(d) An employee against whom an action is taken under this section is entitled to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701 of this title.

(e) Copies of the notice of proposed action, the answer of the employee when written, a summary thereof when made orally, the notice of decision and reasons therefor, and any order effecting an action covered by this subchapter, together with any supporting material, shall be maintained by the agency and shall be furnished

to the Board upon its request and to the employee affected upon the employee's request.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title II, §204(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1136.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

### § 7514. Regulations

The Office of Personnel Management may prescribe regulations to carry out the purpose of this subchapter, except as it concerns any matter with respect to which the Merit Systems Protection Board may prescribe regulations.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title II, §204(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1137.)

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

### § 7515. Discipline of supervisors based on retaliation against whistleblowers

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “agency”—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 2302(a)(2)(C), without regard to whether any other provision of this chapter is applicable to the entity; and

(B) does not include any entity that is an element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003);

(2) the term “prohibited personnel action” means taking or failing to take an action in violation of paragraph (8), (9), or (14) of section 2302(b) against an employee of an agency; and

(3) the term “supervisor” means an employee who would be a supervisor, as defined in section 7103(a), if the entity employing the employee was an agency.

(b) PROPOSED DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to section 1214(f), if the head of the agency in which a supervisor is employed, an administrative law judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Special Counsel, a judge of the United States, or the Inspector General of the agency in which a supervisor is employed has determined that the supervisor committed a prohibited personnel action, the head of the agency in which the supervisor is employed, consistent with the procedures required under paragraph (2)—

(A) for the first prohibited personnel action committed by the supervisor—

(i) shall propose suspending the supervisor for a period that is not less than 3 days; and

(ii) may propose an additional action determined appropriate by the head of the agency, including a reduction in grade or pay; and

(B) for the second prohibited personnel action committed by the supervisor, shall propose removing the supervisor.

(2) PROCEDURES.—

(A) NOTICE.—A supervisor against whom an action is proposed to be taken under paragraph (1) is entitled to written notice that—

- (i) states the specific reasons for the proposed action; and
- (ii) informs the supervisor about the right of the supervisor to review the material that is relied on to support the reasons given in the notice for the proposed action.

(B) ANSWER AND EVIDENCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—A supervisor who receives notice under subparagraph (A) may, not later than 14 days after the date on which the supervisor receives the notice, submit an answer and furnish evidence in support of that answer.

(ii) NO EVIDENCE FURNISHED; INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FURNISHED.—If, after the end of the 14-day period described in clause (i), a supervisor does not furnish any evidence as described in that clause, or if the head of the agency in which the supervisor is employed determines that the evidence furnished by the supervisor is insufficient, the head of the agency shall carry out the action proposed under subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), as applicable.

(C) SCOPE OF PROCEDURES.—An action carried out under this section—

(i) except as provided in clause (ii), shall be subject to the same requirements and procedures, including those with respect to an appeal, as an action under section 7503, 7513, or 7543; and

(ii) shall not be subject to—

- (I) paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 7503(b);
- (II) paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) and subsection (c) of section 7513; and
- (III) paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) and subsection (c) of section 7543.

(3) NON-DELEGATION.—If the head of an agency is responsible for determining whether a supervisor has committed a prohibited personnel action for purposes of paragraph (1), the head of the agency may not delegate that responsibility.

(Added Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1097(e)(1)(B), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1621.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7515, Pub. L. 115-73, title I, §104(a), Oct. 26, 2017, 131 Stat. 1236, related to discipline of supervisors based on retaliation against whistleblowers, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1097(e)(1)(A), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1621.

SUBCHAPTER III—ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

AMENDMENTS

1978—Pub. L. 95-454, title II, §204(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1137, substituted “ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES” for “HEARING EXAMINERS” in subchapter heading.

§ 7521. Actions against administrative law judges

(a) An action may be taken against an administrative law judge appointed under section 3105

of this title by the agency in which the administrative law judge is employed only for good cause established and determined by the Merit Systems Protection Board on the record after opportunity for hearing before the Board.

(b) The actions covered by this section are—

- (1) a removal;
- (2) a suspension;
- (3) a reduction in grade;
- (4) a reduction in pay; and
- (5) a furlough of 30 days or less;

but do not include—

- (A) a suspension or removal under section 7532 of this title;
- (B) a reduction-in-force action under section 3502 of this title; or
- (C) any action initiated under section 1215 of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title II, §204(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1137; amended Pub. L. 101-12, §9(a)(2), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 35.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 7521, Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 528; Pub. L. 95-251, §2(a)(1), Mar. 27, 1978, 92 Stat. 183, related to removal of an administrative law judge appointed under section 3105 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 95-454, §204(a).

AMENDMENTS

1989—Subsec. (b)(C). Pub. L. 101-12 substituted “1215” for “1206”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-12 effective 90 days following Apr. 10, 1989, see section 11 of Pub. L. 101-12, set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER IV—NATIONAL SECURITY

§ 7531. Definitions

For the purpose of this subchapter, “agency” means—

- (1) the Department of State;
- (2) the Department of Commerce;
- (3) the Department of Justice;
- (4) the Department of Defense;
- (5) a military department;
- (6) the Coast Guard;
- (7) the Atomic Energy Commission;
- (8) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and

(9) such other agency of the Government of the United States as the President designates in the best interests of national security.

The President shall report any designation to the Committees on the Armed Services of the Congress.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 528.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Derivation	U.S. Code	Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large
.....	5 U.S.C. 22-3.	Aug. 26, 1950, ch. 823, §3, 64 Stat. 477.