

concealment, or sale of such merchandise, article or object, prior to exportation, knowing the same to be intended for exportation contrary to any law or regulation of the United States, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “United States” has the meaning given that term in section 545.

(Added Pub. L. 109–177, title III, §311(a), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 242.)

#### CODIFICATION

Another section 554 was renumbered section 555 of this title.

### § 555. Border tunnels and passages

(a) Any person who knowingly constructs or finances the construction of a tunnel or subterranean passage that crosses the international border between the United States and another country, other than a lawfully authorized tunnel or passage known to the Secretary of Homeland Security and subject to inspection by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for not more than 20 years.

(b) Any person who knows or recklessly disregards the construction or use of a tunnel or passage described in subsection (a) on land that the person owns or controls shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for not more than 10 years.

(c) Any person who uses a tunnel or passage described in subsection (a) to unlawfully smuggle an alien, goods (in violation of section 545), controlled substances, weapons of mass destruction (including biological weapons), or a member of a terrorist organization (as defined in section 2339B(g)(6)) shall be subject to a maximum term of imprisonment that is twice the maximum term of imprisonment that would have otherwise been applicable had the unlawful activity not made use of such a tunnel or passage.

(d) Any person who attempts or conspires to commit any offense under subsection (a) or subsection (c) of this section shall be subject to the same penalties as those prescribed for the offense, the commission of which was the object of the attempt or conspiracy.

(Added Pub. L. 109–295, title V, §551(a), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1389, §554; renumbered §555, Pub. L. 110–161, div. E, title V, §553(a)(1), Dec. 26, 2007, 121 Stat. 2082; amended Pub. L. 112–127, §3, June 5, 2012, 126 Stat. 371.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2012—Pub. L. 112–127 added subsec. (d).

2007—Pub. L. 110–161 renumbered section 554, relating to border tunnels and passages, as this section.

#### FINDINGS

Pub. L. 112–127, §2, June 5, 2012, 126 Stat. 370, provided that: “Congress finds the following:

“(1) Trafficking and smuggling organizations are intensifying their efforts to enter the United States through tunnels and other subterranean passages between Mexico and the United States.

“(2) Border tunnels are most often used to transport narcotics from Mexico to the United States, but can also be used to transport people and other contraband.

“(3) From Fiscal Year 1990 to Fiscal Year 2011, law enforcement authorities discovered 149 cross-border tunnels along the border between Mexico and the United States, 139 of which have been discovered since Fiscal Year 2001. There has been a dramatic increase in the number of cross-border tunnels discovered in Arizona and California since Fiscal Year 2006, with 40 tunnels discovered in California and 74 tunnels discovered in Arizona.

“(4) Section 551 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 109–295) added a new section to title 18, United States Code (18 U.S.C. 555), which—

“(A) criminalizes the construction or financing of an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage across an international border into the United States; and

“(B) prohibits any person from recklessly permitting others to construct or use an unauthorized tunnel or subterranean passage on the person’s land.

“(5) Any person convicted of using a tunnel or subterranean passage to smuggle aliens, weapons, drugs, terrorists, or illegal goods is subject to an enhanced sentence for the underlying offense. Additional sentence enhancements would further deter tunnel activities and increase prosecutorial options.”

### CHAPTER 29—ELECTIONS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Sec.	
[591.	Repealed.]
592.	Troops at polls.
593.	Interference by armed forces.
594.	Intimidation of voters.
595.	Interference by administrative employees of Federal, State, or Territorial Governments.
596.	Polling armed forces.
597.	Expenditures to influence voting.
598.	Coercion by means of relief appropriations.
599.	Promise of appointment by candidate.
600.	Promise of employment or other benefit for political activity.
601.	Deprivation of employment or other benefit for political contribution.
602.	Solicitation of political contributions.
603.	Making political contributions.
604.	Solicitation from persons on relief.
605.	Disclosure of names of persons on relief.
606.	Intimidation to secure political contributions.
607.	Place of solicitation.
608.	Absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters.
609.	Use of military authority to influence vote of member of Armed Forces.
610.	Coercion of political activity.
611.	Voting by aliens.
[612 to 617.	Repealed.]

#### SENATE REVISION AMENDMENT

By Senate amendment, item 610 was changed to read, “610. Contributions or expenditures by national banks, corporations, or labor organizations”. See Senate Report No. 1620, amendment Nos. 4 and 5, 80th Cong.

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104–208, div. C, title II, §216(b), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009–573, added item 611.

1993—Pub. L. 103–94, §4(c)(2), Oct. 6, 1993, 107 Stat. 1005, added item 610.

1990—Pub. L. 101–647, title XXXV, §3516, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4923, substituted “Making political contributions” for “Place of solicitation” in item 603 and “Place of solicitation” for “Making political contributions” in item 607.

1986—Pub. L. 99–410, title II, §202(b), Aug. 28, 1986, 100 Stat. 929, added items 608 and 609.