

OBSCENE LANGUAGE; PROMULGATION OF REGULATIONS

Federal Communications Commission to promulgate regulations by Jan. 31, 1989, in accordance with this section to enforce this section on a 24 hour per day basis, see section 608 of Pub. L. 100-459, set out as a note under section 303 of Title 47, Telecommunications.

§ 1465. Production and transportation of obscene matters for sale or distribution

Whoever knowingly produces with the intent to transport, distribute, or transmit in interstate or foreign commerce, or whoever knowingly transports or travels in, or uses a facility or means of, interstate or foreign commerce or an interactive computer service (as defined in section 230(e)(2)¹ of the Communications Act of 1934) in or affecting such commerce, for the purpose of sale or distribution of any obscene, lewd, lascivious, or filthy book, pamphlet, picture, film, paper, letter, writing, print, silhouette, drawing, figure, image, cast, phonograph recording, electrical transcription or other article capable of producing sound or any other matter of indecent or immoral character, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

The transportation as aforesaid of two or more copies of any publication or two or more of any article of the character described above, or a combined total of five such publications and articles, shall create a presumption that such publications or articles are intended for sale or distribution, but such presumption shall be rebuttable.

(Added June 28, 1955, ch. 190, § 3, 69 Stat. 183; amended Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §§ 7521(c), 7522(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4489, 4494; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, § 330016(1)(K), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147; Pub. L. 104-104, title V, § 507(b), Feb. 8, 1996, 110 Stat. 137; Pub. L. 109-248, title V, § 506(a), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 630.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, referred to in text, was redesignated section 230(f)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 by Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, title XIV, § 1404(a)(2), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-739, and is classified to section 230(f)(2) of Title 47, Telecommunications.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-248, § 506(a)(3), inserted comma after “in or affecting such commerce” in first par.

Pub. L. 109-248, § 506(a)(2), which directed amendment of this section by inserting “produces with the intent to transport, distribute, or transmit in interstate or foreign commerce, or whoever knowingly” after “whoever knowingly” and before “transports or travels in”, was executed by making the insertion after “Whoever knowingly” and before “transports or travels in” in first par., to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 109-248, § 506(a)(1), inserted “Production and” before “transportation” in section catchline.

1996—Pub. L. 104-104, in first par., substituted “transports or travels in, or uses a facility or means of,” for “transports in”, inserted “or an interactive computer service (as defined in section 230(e)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934) in or affecting such commerce” before “for the purpose of sale”, and substituted “of” for “, or knowingly travels in interstate commerce, or uses a facility or means of interstate commerce for the

purpose of transporting obscene material in interstate or foreign commerce,” before “any obscene, lewd, lascivious, or filthy book”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322 substituted “fined under this title” for “fined not more than \$5,000” in first par.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, § 7521(c), inserted “, or knowingly travels in interstate commerce, or uses a facility or means of interstate commerce for the purpose of transporting obscene material in interstate or foreign commerce,” after “distribution” in first par.

Pub. L. 100-690, § 7522(b), struck out last par. which read as follows: “When any person is convicted of a violation of this Act, the court in its judgment of conviction may, in addition to the penalty prescribed, order the confiscation and disposal of such items described herein which were found in the possession or under the immediate control of such person at the time of his arrest.”

CONSTRUCTION OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-104 not to be interpreted as limiting or repealing any prohibition contained in sections 1462 and 1465 of this title, before such amendment, see section 507(c) of Pub. L. 104-104, set out as a note under section 1462 of this title.

§ 1466. Engaging in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter

(a) Whoever is engaged in the business of producing with intent to distribute or sell, or selling or transferring obscene matter, who knowingly receives or possesses with intent to distribute any obscene book, magazine, picture, paper, film, videotape, or phonograph or other audio recording, which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or by a fine under this title, or both.

(b) As used in this section, the term “engaged in the business” means that the person who produces¹ sells or transfers or offers to sell or transfer obscene matter devotes time, attention, or labor to such activities, as a regular course of trade or business, with the objective of earning a profit, although it is not necessary that the person make a profit or that the production, selling or transferring or offering to sell or transfer such material be the person’s sole or principal business or source of income. The offering for sale of or to transfer, at one time, two or more copies of any obscene publication, or two or more of any obscene article, or a combined total of five or more such publications and articles, shall create a rebuttable presumption that the person so offering them is “engaged in the business” as defined in this subsection.

(Added Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, § 7521(a), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4489; amended Pub. L. 101-647, title XXXV, § 3548, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4926; Pub. L. 109-248, title V, § 506(b), July 27, 2006, 120 Stat. 630.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-248, § 506(b)(1), inserted “producing with intent to distribute or sell, or” before “selling or transferring obscene matter,”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-248, § 506(b)(3), which directed amendment of subsec. (b) by inserting “production,” before “selling or transferring or offering to sell or transfer such material.”, was executed by making the

¹ See References in Text note below.

¹ So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.