

**(B) Service of process**

Process in an action or contempt proceeding pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be served in any judicial district in which the person refusing or failing to comply, or threatening to refuse or not to comply, resides, transacts business, or may be found, and subpoenas for witnesses who are required to attend such proceedings may run into any other district.

**(g) Decision**

The hearing officer shall issue a written decision as expeditiously as possible, but in no case more than 90 days after the conclusion of the hearing. The written decision shall be transmitted by the Office to the parties. The decision shall state the issues raised in the claim, describe the evidence in the record, contain findings of fact and conclusions of law, contain a determination of whether a violation has occurred, and order such remedies as are appropriate pursuant to subchapter II. The decision shall be entered in the records of the Office. If a decision is not appealed under section 1406 of this title to the Board, the decision shall be considered the final decision of the Office.

**(h) Precedents**

A hearing officer who conducts a hearing under this section shall be guided by judicial decisions under the laws made applicable by section 1302 of this title and by Board decisions under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 104-1, title IV, §405, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 33; Pub. L. 115-397, title I, §103(b)-(e), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5304, 5305.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (c)(2)(A), (d)(3), and (h), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 104-1, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 3 which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1301 of this title and Tables.

Rule 45(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, referred to in subsec. (f)(1), is set out in the Appendix to Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

Subchapter II, referred to in subsec. (g), was in the original “title II”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 104-1, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 7, which is classified principally to subchapter II of this chapter. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-397, §103(e)(1), struck out “Complaint and” before “Hearing” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(b), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) related to filing complaints by covered employees after completion of mediation under former section 1403 of this title.

Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(e)(2), which directed substitution of “request for a hearing under subsection (a)” for “complaint”, was executed by making the substitution both places it appeared, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(c), added par. (3).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(e)(3), substituted “claim” for “complaint” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(d), added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “commenced no later than 60 days after filing of the complaint under subsection (a), except that the Office may, for good cause, extend up to an additional 30 days the time for commencing a hearing; and”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 115-397, §103(e)(4), substituted “claim” for “complaint”.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2018 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 115-397 effective upon expiration of the 180-day period beginning on Dec. 21, 2018, with provisions for effect on pending proceedings, see section 401 of Pub. L. 115-397, set out as a note under section 1301 of this title.

**§ 1406. Appeal to Board****(a) In general**

Any party aggrieved by the decision of a hearing officer under section 1405(g) of this title may file a petition for review by the Board not later than 30 days after entry of the decision in the records of the Office.

**(b) Parties’ opportunity to submit argument**

The parties to the hearing upon which the decision of the hearing officer was made shall have a reasonable opportunity to be heard, through written submission and, in the discretion of the Board, through oral argument.

**(c) Standard of review**

The Board shall set aside a decision of a hearing officer if the Board determines that the decision was—

- (1) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not consistent with law;
- (2) not made consistent with required procedures; or
- (3) unsupported by substantial evidence.

**(d) Record**

In making determinations under subsection (c), the Board shall review the whole record, or those parts of it cited by a party, and due account shall be taken of the rule of prejudicial error.

**(e) Decision**

The Board shall issue a written decision setting forth the reasons for its decision. The decision may affirm, reverse, or remand to the hearing officer for further proceedings. A decision that does not require further proceedings before a hearing officer shall be entered in the records of the Office as a final decision.

(Pub. L. 104-1, title IV, §406, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 35.)

**§ 1407. Judicial review of Board decisions and enforcement****(a) Jurisdiction****(1) Judicial review**

The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit shall have jurisdiction over any proceeding commenced by a petition of—

(A) a party aggrieved by a final decision of the Board under section 1406(e) of this title in cases arising under part A of subchapter II,

(B) a charging individual or a respondent before the Board who files a petition under section 1331(d)(4) of this title,

(C) the General Counsel or a respondent before the Board who files a petition under section 1341(c)(5) of this title, or

(D) the General Counsel or a respondent before the Board who files a petition under section 1351(c)(3) of this title.

The court of appeals shall have exclusive jurisdiction to set aside, suspend (in whole or in part), to determine the validity of, or otherwise review the decision of the Board.

**(2) Enforcement**

The United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit shall have jurisdiction over any petition of the General Counsel, filed in the name of the Office and at the direction of the Board, to enforce a final decision under section 1405(g) or 1406(e) of this title with respect to a violation of part A, B, C, or D of subchapter II.

**(b) Procedures**

**(1) Respondents**

(A) In any proceeding commenced by a petition filed under subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B), or filed by a party other than the General Counsel under subsection (a)(1)(C) or (D), the Office shall be named respondent and any party before the Board may be named respondent by filing a notice of election with the court within 30 days after service of the petition.

(B) In any proceeding commenced by a petition filed by the General Counsel under subsection (a)(1)(C) or (D), the prevailing party in the final decision entered under section 1406(e) of this title shall be named respondent, and any other party before the Board may be named respondent by filing a notice of election with the court within 30 days after service of the petition.

(C) In any proceeding commenced by a petition filed under subsection (a)(2), the party under section 1405 or 1406 of this title that the General Counsel determines has failed to comply with a final decision under section 1405(g) or 1406(e) of this title shall be named respondent.

**(2) Intervention**

Any party that participated in the proceedings before the Board under section 1406 of this title and that was not made respondent under paragraph (1) may intervene as of right.

**(c) Law applicable**

Chapter 158 of title 28 shall apply to judicial review under paragraph (1) of subsection (a), except that—

(1) with respect to section 2344 of title 28, service of a petition in any proceeding in which the Office is a respondent shall be on the General Counsel rather than on the Attorney General;

(2) the provisions of section 2348 of title 28, on the authority of the Attorney General, shall not apply;

(3) the petition for review shall be filed not later than 90 days after the entry in the Office of a final decision under section 1406(e) of this title; and

(4) the Office shall be an “agency” as that term is used in chapter 158 of title 28.

**(d) Standard of review**

To the extent necessary for decision in a proceeding commenced under subsection (a)(1) and when presented, the court shall decide all relevant questions of law and interpret constitu-

tional and statutory provisions. The court shall set aside a final decision of the Board if it is determined that the decision was—

(1) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not consistent with law;

(2) not made consistent with required procedures; or

(3) unsupported by substantial evidence.

**(e) Record**

In making determinations under subsection (d), the court shall review the whole record, or those parts of it cited by a party, and due account shall be taken of the rule of prejudicial error.

(Pub. L. 104-1, title IV, §407, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 35.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Parts A, B, C, and D of subchapter II, referred to in subsec. (a), were in the original references to parts A (§§201-207), B (§210), C (§215), and D (§220), respectively, of title II of Pub. L. 104-1, Jan. 23, 1995, 109 Stat. 7, 13, 16, 19, which are classified principally to parts A, B, C, and D, respectively, of subchapter II of this chapter. For complete classification of parts A, B, C, and D to the Code, see Tables.

**§ 1408. Civil action**

**(a) Jurisdiction**

The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over any civil action commenced under section 1401 of this title and this section by a covered employee.

**(b) Parties**

The defendant shall be the employing office alleged to have committed the violation, or in which the violation is alleged to have occurred.

**(c) Jury trial**

Any party may demand a jury trial where a jury trial would be available in an action against a private defendant under the relevant law made applicable by this chapter. In any case in which a violation of section 1311 of this title is alleged, the court shall not inform the jury of the maximum amount of compensatory damages available under section 1311(b)(1) or 1311(b)(3) of this title.

**(d) Appearances by House Employment Counsel**

**(1) In general**

The House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives and any other counsel in the Office of House Employment Counsel of the House of Representatives, including any counsel specially retained by the Office of House Employment Counsel, shall be entitled, for the purpose of providing legal assistance and representation to employing offices of the House of Representatives under this chapter, to enter an appearance in any proceeding before any court of the United States or of any State or political subdivision thereof without compliance with any requirements for admission to practice before such court, except that the authorization conferred by this paragraph shall not apply with respect to the admission of any such person to practice before the United States Supreme Court.