

civil service in the executive branch immediately preceding their appointment as a Deputy Assistant Secretary. For purposes of determining such continuous service of an individual, there shall be excluded any service by such individual in a position—

(A) of a confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character;

(B) in which such individual served as a non-career appointee in the Senior Executive Service, as such term is defined in section 3132(a)(7) of title 5; or

(C) to which such individual was appointed by the President.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 381; amended Pub. L. 107-287, §5(a)-(c), Nov. 7, 2002, 116 Stat. 2030; Pub. L. 112-166, §2(m), Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1287; Pub. L. 115-41, title I, §101(b), June 23, 2017, 131 Stat. 865.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in sections 4(a), (b), (e) and 5 of Pub. L. 100-527, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §3(3).

AMENDMENTS

2017—Subsec. (b)(12). Pub. L. 115-41 added par. (12).

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-166 designated existing provisions as par. (1), struck out at end of par. (1) "Each Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.", and added pars. (2) and (3).

2002—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 107-287, §5(a), substituted "seven" for "six" in first sentence.

Subsec. (b)(11). Pub. L. 107-287, §5(b), added par. (11).

Subsec. (d)(1). Pub. L. 107-287, §5(c), substituted "19" for "18".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-166 effective 60 days after Aug. 10, 2012, and applicable to appointments made on and after that effective date, including any nomination pending in the Senate on that date, see section 6(a) of Pub. L. 112-166, set out as a note under section 113 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

§ 309. Chief Financial Officer

The Secretary shall designate the Assistant Secretary whose functions include budgetary and financial functions as the Chief Financial Officer of the Department. The Chief Financial Officer shall advise the Secretary on financial management of the Department and shall exercise the authority and carry out the functions specified in section 902 of title 31.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 382.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4(c) of Pub. L. 100-527, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §3(3).

§ 310. Chief Information Officer

(a) The Chief Information Officer for the Department is designated pursuant to section 3506(a)(2) of title 44.

(b) The Chief Information Officer performs the duties provided for chief information officers of

executive agencies under chapter 35 of title 44 and subtitle III of title 40.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 382; amended Pub. L. 104-106, div. E, title LVI, §5604, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 700; Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title X, §1073(h)(3), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1907; Pub. L. 107-217, §3(j)(2), Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1300.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 310 was renumbered section 1110 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 4(d) of Pub. L. 100-527, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §3(3).

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 107-217 substituted "subtitle III of title 40" for "division E of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.)".

1997—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 105-85 substituted "division E of the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.)" for "the Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996".

1996—Pub. L. 104-106 substituted "Chief Information Officer" for "Chief Information Resources Officer" in section catchline and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subssecs. (a) to (d), relating to designation, powers, and duties of the Chief Information Resources Officer.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-106 effective 180 days after Feb. 10, 1996, see section 5701 of Pub. L. 104-106, Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 702.

§ 311. General Counsel

There is in the Department the Office of the General Counsel. There is at the head of the office a General Counsel, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The General Counsel is the chief legal officer of the Department and provides legal assistance to the Secretary concerning the programs and policies of the Department.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 383.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 311 was renumbered section 1111 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 8(a) of Pub. L. 100-527, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §3(3).

§ 312. Inspector General

(a) There is in the Department an Inspector General, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as provided in the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.). The Inspector General performs the functions, has the responsibilities, and exercises the powers specified in that Act.

(b)(1) The Secretary shall provide for not less than 40 full-time positions in the Office of Inspector General in addition to the number of such positions in that office on March 15, 1989.

(2) The President shall include in the budget transmitted to the Congress for each fiscal year pursuant to section 1105 of title 31 an estimate of the amount for the Office of Inspector Gen-

eral that is sufficient to provide for a number of full-time positions in that office that is not less than the number of full-time positions in that office on March 15, 1989, plus 40.

(c)(1) Whenever the Inspector General, in carrying out the duties and responsibilities established under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), issues a work product the Inspector General shall—

(A) submit the work product to—

- (i) the Secretary;
- (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
- (iii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;
- (iv) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and
- (v) any Member of Congress upon request; and

(B) the Inspector General shall submit all final work products to—

- (i) if the work product was initiated upon request by an individual or entity other than the Inspector General, that individual or entity; and
- (ii) any Member of Congress upon request; and

(C) not later than 3 days after the work product is submitted in final form to the Secretary, post the work product on the Internet website of the Inspector General.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law.

(Added Pub. L. 102-83, §2(a), Aug. 6, 1991, 105 Stat. 383; amended Pub. L. 103-446, title XII, §1201(e)(3), (g)(1), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4685, 4687; Pub. L. 114-113, div. J, title II, §239, Dec. 18, 2015, 129 Stat. 2700; Pub. L. 114-223, div. A, title II, §244, Sept. 29, 2016, 130 Stat. 884.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Inspector General Act of 1978, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c)(1), is Pub. L. 95-452, Oct. 12, 1978, 92 Stat. 1101, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Prior section 312 was renumbered section 1112 of this title.

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in section 9(b) of Pub. L. 100-527, known as the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-83, §3(3).

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 114-223, in introductory provisions, struck out “that makes a recommendation or otherwise suggests corrective action,” after “work product”.

2015—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-113 added subsec. (c).
1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-446, §1201(e)(3), substituted “(5 U.S.C. App.)” for “(5 U.S.C. App. 3)”.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 103-446, §1201(g)(1), struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “The Secretary shall pro-

vide the number of additional full-time positions in the Office of Inspector General required by paragraph (1) not later than September 30, 1991.”

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Oversight and Reform of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 6, One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, Jan. 9, 2019.

§ 312A. Director of Construction and Facilities Management

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) There is in the Department a Director of Construction and Facilities Management, who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

(2) The position of Director of Construction and Facilities Management is a career reserved position, as such term is defined in section 3132(a)(8) of title 5.

(3) The Director shall provide direct support to the Secretary in matters covered by the responsibilities of the Director under subsection (c).

(4) The Director shall report to the Deputy Secretary in the discharge of the responsibilities of the Director under subsection (c).

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—Each individual appointed as Director of Construction and Facilities Management shall be an individual who—

- (1) holds an undergraduate or master's degree in architectural design or engineering; and
- (2) has substantive professional experience in the area of construction project management.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—(1) The Director of Construction and Facilities Management shall—

- (A) be responsible for overseeing and managing the planning, design, construction, and operation of facilities and infrastructure of the Department, including major and minor construction projects; and
- (B) perform such other functions as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(2) In carrying out the oversight and management of construction and operation of facilities and infrastructure under this section, the Director shall be responsible for the following:

- (A) Development and updating of short-range and long-range strategic capital investment strategies and plans of the Department.
- (B) Planning, design, and construction of facilities for the Department, including determining architectural and engineering requirements and ensuring compliance of the Department with applicable laws relating to the construction program of the Department.

(C) Management of the short-term and long-term leasing of real property by the Department.

(D) Repair and maintenance of facilities of the Department, including custodial services, building management and administration, and maintenance of roads, grounds, and infrastructure.

(E) Management of procurement and acquisition processes relating to the construction and operation of facilities of the Department, including the award of contracts related to design, construction, furnishing, and supplies and equipment.