

For provisions relating to disaster relief, see section 5121 et seq. of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Dec. 31, 1970, see section 304 of Pub. L. 91-606, set out as an Effective Date of 1970 Amendment note under section 165 of Title 26, Internal Revenue Code.

**CHAPTER 15A—RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENTS**

SUBCHAPTER I—PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES PROPERTY

Sec.

- 1856. Definitions.
- 1856a. Authority to enter into reciprocal agreement; waiver of claims; reimbursement; ratification of prior agreements.
- 1856a-1. Authority to enter into contracts with State and local governmental entities.
- 1856b. Emergency assistance.
- 1856c. Service in line of duty.
- 1856d. Funds.
- 1856e. Reimbursement of fire funds.

SUBCHAPTER II—WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION WITH FOREIGN FIRE ORGANIZATION

- 1856m. Definitions.
- 1856n. Implementation.
- 1856n-1. Reciprocal agreements with liability coverage.
- 1856o. Funds.
- 1856p. Repealed.

SUBCHAPTER I—PROTECTION OF UNITED STATES PROPERTY

**§ 1856. Definitions**

As used in this subchapter—

(a) The term “agency head” means the head of any executive department, military department, agency, or independent establishment in the executive branch of the Government;

(b) The term “fire protection” includes personal services and equipment required for fire prevention, the protection of life and property from fire,<sup>1</sup> fire fighting, and emergency services, including basic medical support, basic and advanced life support, hazardous material containment and confinement, and special rescue events involving vehicular and water mishaps, and trench, building, and confined space extractions; and

(c) The term “fire organization” means any governmental entity or public or private corporation or association maintaining fire protection facilities within the United States, its Territories and possessions, and any governmental entity or public or private corporation or association which maintains fire protection facilities in any foreign country in the vicinity of any installation of the United States.

(May 27, 1955, ch. 105, §1, 69 Stat. 66; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title X, §1060, Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3444.)

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-163 substituted “, fire fighting, and emergency services, including basic medical support, basic and advanced life support, hazardous material containment and confinement, and special

<sup>1</sup> So in original.

rescue events involving vehicular and water mishaps, and trench, building, and confined space extractions” for “and fire fighting”.

**§ 1856a. Authority to enter into reciprocal agreement; waiver of claims; reimbursement; ratification of prior agreements**

(a) Each agency head charged with the duty of providing fire protection for any property of the United States is authorized to enter into a reciprocal agreement, with any fire organization maintaining fire protection facilities in the vicinity of such property, for mutual aid in furnishing fire protection for such property and for other property for which such organization normally provides fire protection. Each such agreement shall include a waiver by each party of all claims against every other party for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring in consequence of the performance of such agreement. Any such agreement may provide for the reimbursement of any party for all or any part of the cost incurred by such party in furnishing fire protection for or on behalf of any other party.

(b) Any agreement heretofore executed which would have been authorized by this subchapter, if this subchapter had been in effect on the date of execution thereof, is ratified and confirmed.

(May 27, 1955, ch. 105, §2, 69 Stat. 66.)

**§ 1856a-1. Authority to enter into contracts with State and local governmental entities**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 1992 and thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Army, and the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution are authorized to enter into contracts with State and local governmental entities, including local fire districts, for procurement of services in the presuppression, detection, and suppression of fires on any units within their jurisdiction.

(Pub. L. 102-154, title III, §309, Nov. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1034; Pub. L. 110-114, title II, §2012, Nov. 8, 2007, 121 Stat. 1075.)

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1992, and not as part of act May 27, 1955, which comprises this subchapter.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in the following prior appropriation act: Pub. L. 101-512, title III, §310, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1959.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Pub. L. 110-114 inserted “the Secretary of the Army,” after “the Secretary of Energy,”.

**§ 1856b. Emergency assistance**

In the absence of any agreement authorized or ratified by section 1856a of this title, each agency head is authorized to render emergency assistance in extinguishing fires and in preserving life and property from fire, within the vicinity of any place at which such agency maintains