

cies in need of improvement with respect to the quality of the information in the background investigation submissions of the agencies as reported in subsection (b).

(2) Plans

Not later than 90 days after an agency is identified under paragraph (1), the head of the agency shall provide the executive agents referred to in such paragraph with a plan to improve the performance of the agency with respect to the quality of the information in the agency's background investigation submissions.

(Pub. L. 116–92, div. A, title XVII, §1757, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1860.)

§ 3351a. Making certain policies and execution plans relating to personnel clearances available to industry partners

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Security executive agent

The term “Security Executive Agent” means the officer serving as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to section 3162a of this title.

(2) Appropriate industry partner

The term “appropriate industry partner” means a contractor, licensee, or grantee (as defined in section 101(a) of Executive Order 12829 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to National Industrial Security Program), as in effect on the day before December 20, 2019) that is participating in the National Industrial Security Program established by such Executive Order.

(b) Sharing of policies and plans required

Each head of a Federal agency shall share policies and plans relating to security clearances with appropriate industry partners directly affected by such policies and plans in a manner consistent with the protection of national security as well as the goals and objectives of the National Industrial Security Program administered pursuant to Executive Order 12829 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to the National Industrial Security Program).

(c) Development of policies and procedures required

Not later than 90 days after December 20, 2019, the Security Executive Agent and the Director of the National Industrial Security Program shall jointly develop policies and procedures by which appropriate industry partners with proper security clearances and a need to know can have appropriate access to the policies and plans shared pursuant to subsection (b) that directly affect those industry partners.

(Pub. L. 116–92, div. E, title LIV, §5402, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2143.)

§ 3351b. Limitations on determinations regarding certain security classifications

(a) Prohibition

An officer of an element of the intelligence community who has been nominated by the

President for a position that requires the advice and consent of the Senate may not make a classification decision with respect to information related to such officer's nomination.

(b) Classification determinations

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), in a case in which an officer described in subsection (a) has been nominated as described in such subsection and classification authority rests with the officer or another officer who reports directly to such officer, a classification decision with respect to information relating to the officer shall be made by the Director of National Intelligence.

(2) Nominations of Director of National Intelligence

In a case described in paragraph (1) in which the officer nominated is the Director of National Intelligence, the classification decision shall be made by the Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

(c) Reports

Whenever the Director or the Principal Deputy Director makes a decision under subsection (b), the Director or the Principal Deputy Director, as the case may be, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report detailing the reasons for the decision.

(Pub. L. 116–92, div. E, title LXIII, §6310, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2190.)

DEFINITIONS

For definitions of “intelligence community” and “congressional intelligence committees”, referred to in text, see section 5003 of div. E of Pub. L. 116–92, set out as a note under section 3003 of this title.

§ 3352. Definitions

In this title:

(1) Appropriate congressional committees

The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

- (A) the congressional intelligence committees;
- (B) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;
- (C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
- (D) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;
- (E) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;
- (F) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;
- (G) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and
- (H) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives.

(2) Appropriate industry partner

The term “appropriate industry partner” means a contractor, licensee, or grantee (as defined in section 101(a) of Executive Order No. 12829 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to National Industrial Security Program)) that is participating in the National Industrial Security Program established by such Executive order.

(3) Continuous vetting

The term “continuous vetting” has the meaning given such term in Executive Order No. 13467 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to reforming processes for determining suitability for government employment, fitness for contractor employees, and eligibility for access to classified national security information).

(4) Council

The term “Council” means the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council established pursuant to such Executive order, or any successor entity.

(5) Reciprocity

The term “reciprocity” means reciprocal recognition by Federal departments and agencies of eligibility for access to classified information.

(6) Security Executive Agent

The term “Security Executive Agent” means the officer serving as the Security Executive Agent pursuant to section 3162a of this title.

(7) Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent

The term “Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management acting as the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent in accordance with Executive Order No. 13467 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to reforming processes related to suitability for Government employment, fitness for contractor employees, and eligibility for access to classified national security information), or any successor entity.

(Pub. L. 116-92, div. E, title LXVI, §6601, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 2209.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title, referred to in text, means title LXVI of div. E of Pub. L. 116-92, which enacted this section and sections 3162a and 3352a to 3352f of this title and amended sections 3033, 3104, 3163, and 3164 of this title. For complete classification of title LXVI to the Code, see Tables.

DEFINITIONS

For definition of “congressional intelligence committees”, referred to in par. (1)(A), see section 5003 of div. E of Pub. L. 116-92, set out as a note under section 3003 of this title.

§ 3352a. Reports and plans relating to security clearances and background investigations**(a) Sense of Congress**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) ensuring the trustworthiness and security of the workforce, facilities, and information of the Federal Government is of the highest priority to national security and public safety;

(2) the President and Congress should prioritize the modernization of the personnel security framework to improve its efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability;

(3) the current system for background investigations for security clearances, suitability

and fitness for employment, and credentialing lacks efficiencies and capabilities to meet the current threat environment, recruit and retain a trusted workforce, and capitalize on modern technologies; and

(4) changes to policies or processes to improve this system should be vetted through the Council to ensure standardization, portability, and reciprocity in security clearances across the Federal Government.

(b) Accountability plans and reports**(1) Plans**

Not later than 90 days after December 20, 2019, the Council shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available to appropriate industry partners the following:

(A) A plan, with milestones, to reduce the background investigation inventory to 200,000, or an otherwise sustainable steady-level, by the end of year 2020. Such plan shall include notes of any required changes in investigative and adjudicative standards or resources.

(B) A plan to consolidate the conduct of background investigations associated with the processing for security clearances in the most effective and efficient manner in the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency. Such plan shall address required funding, personnel, contracts, information technology, field office structure, policy, governance, schedule, transition costs, and effects on stakeholders.

(2) Report on the future of personnel security**(A) In general**

Not later than 180 days after December 20, 2019, the Chairman of the Council, in coordination with the members of the Council, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available to appropriate industry partners a report on the future of personnel security to reflect changes in threats, the workforce, and technology.

(B) Contents

The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A risk framework for granting and renewing access to classified information.

(ii) A discussion of the use of technologies to prevent, detect, and monitor threats.

(iii) A discussion of efforts to address reciprocity and portability.

(iv) A discussion of the characteristics of effective insider threat programs.

(v) An analysis of how to integrate data from continuous vetting, insider threat programs, and human resources data.

(vi) Recommendations on interagency governance.

(3) Plan for implementation

Not later than 180 days after December 20, 2019, the Chairman of the Council, in coordination with the members of the Council, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and make available to appropriate in-