

(1) defend the Senate, a committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee of the Senate in any civil action pending in any court of the United States or of a State or political subdivision thereof, in which the Senate, such committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee is made a party defendant and in which there is placed in issue the validity of any proceeding of, or action, including issuance of any subpoena or order, taken by the Senate, or such committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee in its or his official or representative capacity; or

(2) defend the Senate or a committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee of the Senate in any proceeding with respect to any subpoena or order directed to the Senate or such committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee in its or his official or representative capacity.

(b) Representation of a Member, officer, or employee under subsection (a) shall be undertaken by the Counsel only upon the consent of such Member, officer, or employee.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §704, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1877.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as a note under section 288 of this title.

§ 288d. Enforcement of Senate subpoena or order

(a) Institution of civil actions

When directed to do so pursuant to section 288b(b) of this title, the Counsel shall bring a civil action under any statute conferring jurisdiction on any court of the United States (including section 1365 of title 28), to enforce, to secure a declaratory judgment concerning the validity of, or to prevent a threatened failure or refusal to comply with, any subpoena or order issued by the Senate or a committee or a subcommittee of the Senate authorized to issue a subpoena or order.

(b) Actions in name of committees and subcommittees

Any directive to the Counsel to bring a civil action pursuant to subsection (a) in the name of a committee or subcommittee of the Senate shall, for such committee or subcommittee, constitute authorization to bring such action within the meaning of any statute conferring jurisdiction on any court of the United States.

(c) Consideration of resolutions authorizing actions

It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a resolution to direct the Counsel to bring a civil action pursuant to subsection (a) in the name of a committee or subcommittee unless—

(1) such resolution is reported by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present, of such committee or committee of which such subcommittee is a subcommittee, and

(2) the report filed by such committee or committee of which such subcommittee is a subcommittee contains a statement of—

(A) the procedure followed in issuing such subpoena;

(B) the extent to which the party subpoenaed has complied with such subpoena;

(C) any objections or privileges raised by the subpoenaed party; and

(D) the comparative effectiveness of bringing a civil action under this section, certification of a criminal action for contempt of Congress, and initiating a contempt proceeding before the Senate.

(d) Rules of Senate

The provisions of subsection (c) are enacted—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate, and, as such, they shall be considered as part of the rules of the Senate, and such rules shall supersede any other rule of the Senate only to the extent that rule is inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the Senate to change such rules (so far as relating to the procedure in the Senate) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the Senate.

(e) Committee reports

A report filed pursuant to subsection (c)(2) shall not be receivable in any court of law to the extent such report is in compliance with such subsection.

(f) Omitted

(g) Certification of failure to testify; contempt

Nothing in this section shall limit the discretion of—

(1) the President pro tempore of the Senate in certifying to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia any matter pursuant to section 194 of this title; or

(2) the Senate to hold any individual or entity in contempt of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §705, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1878; Pub. L. 99-336, §6(a)(2), June 19, 1986, 100 Stat. 639.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Subsec. (f) of this section amended title 28 by adding section 1364 and by adding item 1364 to the chapter analysis.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-336 substituted “section 1365 of title 28” for “section 1364 of title 28”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as a note under section 288 of this title.

§ 288e. Intervention or appearance

(a) Actions or proceedings

When directed to do so pursuant to section 288b(c) of this title, the Counsel shall intervene or appear as *amicus curiae* in the name of the Senate, or in the name of an officer, committee,

subcommittee, or chairman of a committee or subcommittee of the Senate in any legal action or proceeding pending in any court of the United States or of a State or political subdivision thereof in which the powers and responsibilities of Congress under the Constitution of the United States are placed in issue. The Counsel shall be authorized to intervene only if standing to intervene exists under section 2 of article III of the Constitution of the United States.

(b) Notification; publication

The Counsel shall notify the Joint Leadership Group of any legal action or proceeding in which the Counsel is of the opinion that intervention or appearance as *amicus curiae* under subsection (a) is in the interest of the Senate. Such notification shall contain a description of the legal action or proceeding together with the reasons that the Counsel is of the opinion that intervention or appearance as *amicus curiae* is in the interest of the Senate. The Joint Leadership Group shall cause said notification to be published in the Congressional Record for the Senate.

(c) Powers and responsibilities of Congress

The Counsel shall limit any intervention or appearance as *amicus curiae* in an action or proceeding to issues relating to the powers and responsibilities of Congress.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §706, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1880.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as a note under section 288 of this title.

§ 288f. Immunity proceedings

When directed to do so pursuant to section 288b(d) of this title, the Counsel shall serve as the duly authorized representative of the Senate or a committee or subcommittee of the Senate in requesting a United States district court to issue an order granting immunity pursuant to section 6005 of title 18.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §707, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1880.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as a note under section 288 of this title.

§ 288g. Advisory and other functions

(a) Cooperation with persons, committees, subcommittees, and offices

The Counsel shall advise, consult, and cooperate with—

- (1) the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia with respect to any criminal proceeding for contempt of Congress certified by the President pro tempore of the Senate pursuant to section 194 of this title;
- (2) the committee of the Senate with the responsibility to identify any court proceeding

or action which is of vital interest to the Senate;

(3) the Comptroller General, the Government Accountability Office, the Office of Legislative Counsel of the Senate, and the Congressional Research Service, except that none of the responsibilities and authority assigned by this chapter to the Counsel shall be construed to affect or infringe upon any functions, powers, or duties of the aforementioned;

(4) any Member, officer, or employee of the Senate not represented under section 288c of this title with regard to obtaining private legal counsel for such Member, officer, or employee;

(5) the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Secretary of¹ Senate, the Sergeant-at-Arms of the Senate, and the Parliamentarian of the Senate, regarding any subpoena, order, or request for withdrawal of papers presented to the Senate which raises a question of the privileges of the Senate; and

(6) any committee or subcommittee of the Senate in promulgating and revising their rules and procedures for the use of congressional investigative powers and with respect to questions which may arise in the course of any investigation.

(b) Legal research files

The Counsel shall compile and maintain legal research files of materials from court proceedings which have involved Congress, a House of Congress, an office or agency of Congress, or any committee, subcommittee, Member, officer, or employee of Congress. Public court papers and other research memoranda which do not contain information of a confidential or privileged nature shall be made available to the public consistent with any applicable procedures set forth in such rules of the Senate as may apply and the interests of the Senate.

(c) Miscellaneous duties

The Counsel shall perform such other duties consistent with the purposes and limitations of this chapter as the Senate may direct.

(Pub. L. 95-521, title VII, §708, Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1880; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a)(3) and (c), was in the original “this title”, meaning title VII of Pub. L. 95-521, which enacted this chapter, section 5504 of this title, and section 1364 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, and amended sections 3210, 3216, and 3219 of Title 39, Postal Service. For complete classification of title VII to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as a note under section 288 of this title.

¹ So in original. Probably should be “of the”.