

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

1978—Pub. L. 95-454 substituted “Office of Personnel Management” for “Civil Service Commission”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-454 effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

## SUBCHAPTER IV—PREVAILING RATE SYSTEMS

**§ 5341. Policy**

It is the policy of Congress that rates of pay of prevailing rate employees be fixed and adjusted from time to time as nearly as is consistent with the public interest in accordance with prevailing rates and be based on principles that—

(1) there will be equal pay for substantially equal work for all prevailing rate employees who are working under similar conditions of employment in all agencies within the same local wage area;

(2) there will be relative differences in pay within a local wage area when there are substantial or recognizable differences in duties, responsibilities, and qualification requirements among positions;

(3) the level of rates of pay will be maintained in line with prevailing levels for comparable work within a local wage area; and

(4) the level of rates of pay will be maintained so as to attract and retain qualified prevailing rate employees.

(Added Pub. L. 92-392, §1(a), Aug. 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 564.)

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## PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 5341, Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 471; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(97), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 220; Pub. L. 90-560, §4, Oct. 12, 1968, 82 Stat. 997, provided prevailing rate system for trades and crafts and is covered by sections 5343(c), (d) and 5349(a) of this title.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 92-392, §15(a), Aug. 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 575, provided that: “The provisions of this Act [enacting this subchapter and section 5550 of this title, amending sections 2105, 5337, 5541, 5544, 5548, 6101, 7154, and 8704 of this title, repealing section 6102 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 5341 and 5343 of this title and sections 4531 and 4571 of Title 2, The Congress] are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after the ninetyth day after the date of enactment of this Act [Aug. 19, 1972], except that, in the case of those employees referred to in section 5342(a)(2)(B) and (C) of title 5, United States Code (as amended by the first section of this Act), such provisions are effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period which begins on or after the one hundred and eightieth day after such date of enactment or on such earlier date (not earlier than the ninetyth day after such date of enactment) as the Civil Service Commission may prescribe. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, section

5343(e)(1)(D) and (E) and (e)(2)(C), as enacted by the first section of this Act, shall not be effective until the first day of the first pay period commencing after (1) the date on which the President ceases to exercise his authority under the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970 [formerly set out as a note under section 1904 of Title 12, Banks and Banking] to stabilize wages and salaries, or (2) April 30, 1973, whichever occurs first.”

## REPEALS

Pub. L. 92-392, §13, Aug. 19, 1972, 86 Stat. 575, provided that:

“(a) All laws or parts of laws inconsistent with this Act [see Effective Date note above] are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

“(b) Subsection (a) of this section does not repeal or otherwise affect section 5102(d) of title 5, United States Code, section 305 of title 44 of such Code, or the provisions contained in section 180 of former title 31, United States Code.”

**§ 5342. Definitions; application**

(a) For the purpose of this subchapter—

(1) “agency” means an Executive agency; but does not include—

(A) a Government controlled corporation;

(B) the Tennessee Valley Authority;

(C) the Virgin Islands Corporation;

(D) the Atomic Energy Commission;

(E) the Central Intelligence Agency;

(F) the National Security Agency, Department of Defense;

(G) the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, except for the purposes of section 5349 of this title;

(H) the Government Accountability Office; or<sup>1</sup>

(J)<sup>2</sup> the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense; or

(K) the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense;

(2) “prevailing rate employee” means—

(A) an individual employed in or under an agency in a recognized trade or craft, or other skilled mechanical craft, or in an unskilled, semiskilled, or skilled manual labor occupation, and any other individual, including a foreman and a supervisor, in a position having trade, craft, or laboring experience and knowledge as the paramount requirement;

(B) an employee of a nonappropriated fund instrumentality described by section 2105(c) of this title who is employed in a recognized trade or craft, or other skilled mechanical craft, or in an unskilled, semiskilled, or skilled manual labor occupation, and any other individual, including a foreman and a supervisor, in a position having trade, craft, or laboring experience and knowledge as the paramount requirement; and

(C) an employee of the Veterans' Canteen Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, excepted from chapter 51 of this title by section 5102(c)(14) of this title who is employed in a recognized trade or craft, or other skilled mechanical craft, or in an unskilled, semiskilled, or skilled manual labor occupation, and any other individual, including a

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The word “or” probably should not appear.

<sup>2</sup> So in original. Subsec. (a)(1) does not contain a subpar. (I).