

(i) There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over the conduct prohibited by this section.

(Added Pub. L. 91-644, title IV, §15, Jan. 2, 1971, 84 Stat. 1891; amended Pub. L. 97-285, §1, 2(a), Oct. 6, 1982, 96 Stat. 1219; Pub. L. 99-646, §62, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3614; Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7074, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4405; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXII, §320101(d), title XXXIII, §§330016(1)(K), (L), 330021(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2108, 2147, 2150; Pub. L. 104-294, title VI, §604(b)(12)(C), (c)(2), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3507, 3509; Pub. L. 112-87, title V, §506, Jan. 3, 2012, 125 Stat. 1897.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 112-87 inserted “the Director (or a person nominated to be Director during the pendency of such nomination) or Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence,” after “in such department,” and substituted “the Central Intelligence Agency,” for “Central Intelligence.”

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-294, §604(c)(2), substituted “involved the use” for “involved in the use”. Pub. L. 104-294, §604(b)(12)(C), repealed Pub. L. 103-322, §320101(d)(3). See 1994 Amendment note below.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, §330021(1), substituted “kidnaping” for “kidnaping” in section catchline.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(L), substituted “shall be fined under this title” for “shall be fined not more than \$10,000” after “personal injury results.”

Pub. L. 103-322, §320101(d)(4), substituted “imprisoned not more than ten years” for “imprisoned for not more than ten years”.

Pub. L. 103-322, §320101(d)(3), which provided for amendment identical to Pub. L. 103-322, §330016(1)(L), above, was repealed by Pub. L. 104-294, §604(b)(12)(C).

Pub. L. 103-322, §320101(d)(2), inserted “the assault involved in the use of a dangerous weapon, or” after “and if”.

Pub. L. 103-322, §§320101(d)(1), 330016(1)(K), amended subsec. (e) identically, substituting “shall be fined under this title” for “shall be fined not more than \$5,000” after “subsection (a) of this section”.

1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-690 inserted a comma after “section 3056 of this title”.

1986—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 99-646, §62(1), inserted “a major Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate (as defined in section 3056 of this title)”.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 99-646, §62(2), substituted “individual” for “official”.

1982—Pub. L. 97-285, §2(a), substituted “Congressional, Cabinet, and Supreme Court assassination, kidnaping, and assault; penalties” for “Congressional assassination, kidnaping, and assault” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 97-285, §1(a), expanded coverage of subsec. (a) to cover the killing of any individual who is a member of the executive branch of the Government and the head, or a person nominated to be head during the pendency of such nomination, of a department listed in section 101 of title 5 or the second ranking official in such department, the Director (or a person nominated to be Director during the pendency of such nomination) or Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, or a Justice of the United States, as defined in section 451 of title 28, or a person nominated to be a Justice of the United States, during the pendency of such nomination.

Subsecs. (h), (i). Pub. L. 97-285, §1(b), added subsecs. (h) and (i).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-294 effective Sept. 13, 1994, see section 604(d) of Pub. L. 104-294, set out as a note under section 13 of this title.

REPORT TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS ON INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED SUBSEQUENT TO THREAT ON MEMBER'S LIFE

Pub. L. 95-624, §19, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3466, provided that: “The Federal Bureau of Investigation shall provide a written report to a Member of Congress on any investigation conducted based on a threat on the Member's life under section 351 of title 18 of the United States Code.”

CHAPTER 19—CONSPIRACY

Sec.

371. Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud United States.
372. Conspiracy to impede or injure officer.
373. Solicitation to commit a crime of violence.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1984—Pub. L. 98-473, title II, §1003(b), Oct. 12, 1984, 98 Stat. 2138, added item 373.

§ 371. Conspiracy to commit offense or to defraud United States

If two or more persons conspire either to commit any offense against the United States, or to defraud the United States, or any agency thereof in any manner or for any purpose, and one or more of such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

If, however, the offense, the commission of which is the object of the conspiracy, is a misdemeanor only, the punishment for such conspiracy shall not exceed the maximum punishment provided for such misdemeanor.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 701; Pub. L. 103-322, title XXXIII, §330016(1)(L), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2147.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §§88, 294 (Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §37, 35 Stat. 1096; Mar. 4, 1909, ch. 321, §178a, as added Sept. 27, 1944, ch. 425, 58 Stat. 752).

This section consolidates said sections 88 and 294 of title 18, U.S.C., 1940 ed.

To reflect the construction placed upon said section 88 by the courts the words “or any agency thereof” were inserted. (See *Haas v. Henkel*, 1909, 30 S. Ct. 249, 216 U. S. 462, 54 L. Ed. 569, 17 Ann. Cas. 1112, where court said: “The statute is broad enough in its terms to include any conspiracy for the purpose of impairing, obstructing, or defeating the lawful functions of any department of government.” Also, see *United States v. Walter*, 1923, 44 S. Ct. 10, 263 U. S. 15, 68 L. Ed. 137, and definitions of department and agency in section 6 of this title.)

The punishment provision is completely rewritten to increase the penalty from 2 years to 5 years except where the object of the conspiracy is a misdemeanor. If the object is a misdemeanor, the maximum imprisonment for a conspiracy to commit that offense, under the revised section, cannot exceed 1 year.

The injustice of permitting a felony punishment on conviction for conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor is described by the late Hon. Grover M. Moscovitz, United States district judge for the eastern district of New York, in an address delivered March 14, 1944, before the section on Federal Practice of the New York Bar Association, reported in 3 Federal Rules Decisions, pages 380-392.

Hon. John Paul, United States district judge for the western district of Virginia, in a letter addressed to Congressman Eugene J. Keogh dated January 27, 1944,