

authority to pay tort claims in the manner authorized by section 2672 of title 28 when such claims arise in foreign countries in connection with the overseas operations of the Department of State.

(Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(b) [title IV, §409], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-50, 2681-102.)

§ 2669a. Diplomatic Telecommunications Service

(a) Diplomatic Telecommunications Service financial management

In fiscal year 1995 and each succeeding fiscal year—

(1) the Secretary of State shall provide funds for the operation of the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service (DTS) in a sufficient amount to sustain the current level of support services being provided by the DTS, and no portion of such amount may be reprogrammed or transferred for any other purpose;

(2) all funds for the operation and enhancement of the DTS shall be directly available for use by the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service Program Office (DTS-PO); and

(3) the DTS-PO financial management officer shall be provided direct access to the Department of State financial management system to independently monitor and control the obligation and expenditure of all funds for the operation and enhancement of the DTS.

(b) DTS Policy Board

Within 60 days after August 26, 1994, the Secretary of State and the Director of the DTS-PO shall restructure the DTS Policy Board to provide for representation on the Board, during fiscal year 1995 and each succeeding fiscal year, by—

(1) the Director of the DTS-PO;

(2) the senior information management official from each agency currently serving on the Board;

(3) a senior career information management official from each of the Department of Commerce and the Defense Intelligence Agency; and

(4) a senior career information management official from each of 2 other Federal agencies served by the DTS, each of whom shall be appointed on a rotating basis by the Secretary of State and the Director of the DTS-PO for a 2-year term.

(c) DTS consolidation pilot program

(1) In general

The Secretary of State and the Director of the DTS-PO shall carry out a program under which total DTS consolidation will be completed before October 1, 1995, at not less than five embassies of medium to large size.

(2) Pilot program requirements

Under the program required in paragraph (1)—

(A) each participating embassy shall be provided with a full range of integrated information services, including message, data, and voice, without additional charge;

(B) a combined transmission facility shall be established and jointly operated, with open access to all unclassified transmission equipment;

(C) an unclassified packet switch communication system shall be installed and shall serve all foreign affairs agencies associated with the embassy;

(D) separate classified transmission systems (including MERCURY) shall be terminated; and

(E) all foreign affairs agency systems requiring international communications capability shall obtain such capability solely through the DTS.

(3) Pilot program report

Not later than January 15, 1996, the Secretary of State and the Director of the DTS-PO shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate a report describing the actions taken under the program required by this subsection. The report shall include a cost-benefit analysis for each embassy participating in the program.

(d) DTS planning report

Not later than January 15, 1995, the Secretary of State and the Director of the DTS-PO shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a DTS planning report. The report shall include—

(1) a detailed plan for carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (c), including an estimate of the funds required for such purpose; and

(2) a comprehensive DTS strategy plan that contains detailed plans and schedules for—

(A) an overall DTS network configuration and security strategy;

(B) transition of the existing dedicated circuits and classified transmission systems to the unclassified packet switch communications system;

(C) provision of a basic level of voice service for all DTS customers;

(D) funding of new initiatives and of replacement of current systems;

(E) combining existing DTS network control centers, relay facilities, and overseas operations; and

(F) reducing the extensive reliance of DTS-PO on the full-time services of contractors.

(Pub. L. 103-317, title V, §507, Aug. 26, 1994, 108 Stat. 1766; Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. A, title XIII, §1335(m), Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-789.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 105-277 struck out “, the United States Information Agency,” after “Department of Commerce”.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 105-277 effective Oct. 1, 1999, see section 1301 of Pub. L. 105-277, set out as an Effective Date note under section 6531 of this title.

§ 2669b. Reaffirming United States international telecommunications policy

(a) Procurement policy

It is the policy of the United States to foster and support procurement of goods and services from private, commercial companies.

(b) Implementation

In order to achieve the policy set forth in subsection (a), the Diplomatic Telecommunications Service Program Office (DTS-PO) shall—

- (1) utilize full and open competition, to the maximum extent practicable, in the procurement of telecommunications services, including satellite space segment, for the Department of State and each other Federal entity represented at United States diplomatic missions and consular posts overseas;
- (2) make every effort to ensure and promote the participation in the competition for such procurement of commercial private sector providers of satellite space segment who have no ownership or other connection with an inter-governmental satellite organization; and
- (3) implement the competitive procedures required by paragraphs (1) and (2) at the prime contracting level and, to the maximum extent practicable, the subcontracting level.

(Pub. L. 105-277, div. G, subdiv. B, title XXII, § 2218, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-816.)

§ 2670. Insurance on motor vehicles in foreign countries; tie lines and teletype equipment; ice and drinking water; excise taxes on negotiable instruments; remains of deceased persons; relief, protection, and burial of seamen; acknowledgement of services of foreign vessels and aircraft; rentals and leases

The Secretary of State is authorized to—

- (a) obtain insurance on official motor vehicles operated by the Department of State in foreign countries, and pay the expenses incident thereto;
- (b) rent tie lines and teletype equipment;
- (c) provide ice and drinking water for United States Embassies and Consulates abroad;
- (d) pay excise taxes on negotiable instruments which are negotiated by the Department of State abroad;
- (e) Omitted;
- (f) pay expenses incident to the relief, protection, and burial of American seamen, and alien seamen from United States vessels in foreign countries and in the United States Territories and possessions;
- (g) pay the expenses incurred in the acknowledgment of the services of officers and crews of foreign vessels and aircraft in rescuing American seamen, airmen, or citizens from shipwreck or other catastrophe abroad or at sea;
- (h) rent or lease, for periods of less than ten years, such offices, buildings, grounds, and living quarters for the use of the Foreign Service abroad as he may deem necessary, and make payments therefor in advance;
- (i) maintain, improve, and repair properties rented or leased pursuant to authority contained in subsection (h) of this section and furnish fuel, water, and utilities for such properties;
- (j) provide emergency medical attention and dietary supplements, and other emergency assistance, for United States citizens incarcerated abroad or destitute United States citizens abroad who are unable to obtain such services otherwise, such assistance to be provided on a reimbursable basis to the extent feasible;

(k) subject to the availability of appropriated funds, obtain insurance on the historic and artistic articles of furniture, fixtures, and decorative objects which may from time-to-time be within the responsibility of the Fine Arts Committee of the Department of State for the Diplomatic Rooms of the Department;

(l) make payments in advance, of the United States share of necessary expenses for international fisheries commissions, from appropriations available for such purpose; and

(m) establish, maintain, and operate passport and dispatch agencies.

(Aug. 1, 1956, ch. 841, title I, § 3, 70 Stat. 890; Pub. L. 95-45, § 2, June 15, 1977, 91 Stat. 221; 1977 Reorg. Plan No. 2, § 9(a)(7), 42 F.R. 62461, 91 Stat. 1639; Pub. L. 95-426, title I, § 108(a), Oct. 7, 1978, 92 Stat. 966; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 97-241, title II, § 202(a), Aug. 24, 1982, 96 Stat. 282; Pub. L. 100-204, title I, § 126(b), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1342; Pub. L. 102-138, title I, § 166, Oct. 28, 1991, 105 Stat. 676; Pub. L. 103-236, title I, § 162(k)(3), Apr. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 409.)

Editorial Notes**CODIFICATION**

Section was formerly classified to section 170h of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

Subsec. (e) of this section, relating to the payment of the actual expenses of preparing and transporting to their former homes the remains of persons, not United States Government employees, who die away from their homes while participating in international educational exchange activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of State, was omitted pursuant to Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1977, § 9(a)(7), 42 F.R. 62461, 91 Stat. 1639, set out under section 1461 of this title, effective on or before July 1, 1978, at such time as specified by the President, which abolished the functions of the Secretary of State under subsec. (e).

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (m). Pub. L. 103-236 added subsec. (m).

1991—Subsec. (l). Pub. L. 102-138 added subsec. (l).

1987—Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 100-204 added subsec. (k).

1978—Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 95-426 inserted “or destitute United States citizens abroad” after “incarcerated abroad”.

1977—Subsec. (j). Pub. L. 95-45 added subsec. (j).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-236 applicable with respect to officials, offices, and bureaus of Department of State when executive orders, regulations, or departmental directives implementing the amendments by sections 161 and 162 of Pub. L. 103-236 become effective, or 90 days after Apr. 30, 1994, whichever comes earlier, see section 161(b) of Pub. L. 103-236, as amended, set out as a note under section 2651a of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 95-426, title I, § 108(b), Oct. 7, 1978, 92 Stat. 966, provided that: “The amendment made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 1978.”

PROVIDING MEDICAL SERVICES OR RELATED SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Pub. L. 116-136, div. B, title XI, § 21008, Mar. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 592, provided that: “The Secretary of State, to