

1978—Pub. L. 95-598, title II, §224(b), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2664, added item for chapter 39, “United States Trustees”, effective Oct. 1, 1979.

Pub. L. 95-521, title VI, §601(b), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1873, added item for chapter 39 “Special Prosecutor”.

1966—Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611, added items for chapters 31 and 33 and redesignated items for former chapters 31 and 33 as 35 and 37, respectively.

CHAPTER 31—THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2009—Pub. L. 111-122, §2(c), Dec. 22, 2009, 123 Stat. 3480, added item 509B.

2006—Pub. L. 109-177, title V, §506(c), Mar. 9, 2006, 120 Stat. 249, added items 507A and 509A.

1 So in original. Does not conform to section catchline.

2002—Pub. L. 107-273, div. A, title II, §§201(b), 202(b)(1), div. B, title IV, §4003(b)(5), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1771, 1774, 1811, in item 526, struck out “and” before “trustees”, and added items 530C and 530D.

1998—Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(b) [title VIII, §801(b)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-50, 2681-119, added item 530B.

1992—Pub. L. 102-572, title IX, §902(b)(1), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4516, substituted “United States Court of Federal Claims” for “United States Claims Court” in item 520.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, §6281(b), Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4369, added item 530A.

1983—Pub. L. 98-86, §2, Aug. 26, 1983, 97 Stat. 492, added item 530.

1982—Pub. L. 97-258, §2(g)(1)(A), Sept. 13, 1982, 96 Stat. 1060, substituted “Availability of appropriations” for “Appropriations for administrative expenses; notarial fees; meals and lodging of bailiffs” in item 524.

Pub. L. 97-164, title I, §118(b), Apr. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 33, substituted “United States Claims Court or in United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “Court of Claims” in item 520.

1978—Pub. L. 95-598, title II, §219(c), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2662, inserted reference to trustees in item 526.

Pub. L. 95-521, title VI, §603(b), Oct. 26, 1978, 92 Stat. 1875, added items 528 and 529.

1977—Pub. L. 95-139, §1(b), Oct. 19, 1977, 91 Stat. 1171, added item 504a.

1975—Pub. L. 93-613, §1(2), Jan. 2, 1975, 88 Stat. 1975, added item 527.

1966—Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611, substituted “THE ATTORNEY GENERAL” for “UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS” in chapter heading, “Executive Department” for “Appointment of United States attorneys” in item 501, “Seal” for “Appointment of assistant United States attorneys” in item 502, “Attorney General” for “Appointment of attorneys” in item 503, “Deputy Attorney General” for “Tenure and oath of office; removal” in item 504, “Solicitor General” for “Residence” in item 505, “Assistant Attorney General” for “Vacancies” in item 506, “Assistant Attorney General for Administration” for “Duties; supervision by Attorney General” in item 507, “Vacancies” for “Salaries” in item 508, “Functions of the Attorney General” for “Expenses” in item 509, “Delegation of authority” for “Clerical assistants and messengers” in item 510, and added items 511 to 526.

§ 501. Executive department

The Department of Justice is an executive department of the United States at the seat of Government.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, §4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 291 (less last 10 words), R.S. §346 (less last 10 words).

The words “There shall be”, referring to the establishment of the Department, are omitted as executed.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 501, acts June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909; Mar. 18, 1959, Pub. L. 86-3, §11(a), 73 Stat. 9, related to appointment of United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, §8(a), and reenactment in section 541 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE

Pub. L. 116-288, Jan. 5, 2021, 134 Stat. 4884, provided that:

“SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

“This Act may be cited as the ‘Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020’.

“SEC. 2. SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS INITIATIVE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative within the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice.

“(b) DUTIES.—The Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative shall—

“(1) serve as legal and policy advisor to the Attorney General on the Department of Justice’s efforts to enforce criminal and civil laws that impact servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

“(2) develop policy recommendations for the Attorney General on how the Department of Justice may improve enforcement of Federal law to support servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

“(3) serve as the liaison and point of contact between the Department of Justice and the military departments;

“(4) provide counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs to ensure funding decisions take into account servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

“(5) consult with components of the Department of Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid to servicemembers, veterans, and their families;

“(6) serve as a liaison and point of contact with the Consumer Protection Branch of the Civil Division of the Department of Justice, with respect to the prosecution of Federal crimes involving fraud that target servicemembers; and

“(7) serve as a liaison and point of contact with other components of the Department of Justice as needed to support the enforcement of other Federal laws that protect servicemembers and veterans, as the Attorney General determines appropriate.”

OFFICE OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF OVERSEAS TERRORISM

Pub. L. 108-447, div. B, title I, § 126, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2872, provided that: “The Department of Justice shall establish an Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism.”

SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED FOR DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Pub. L. 94-503, title II, § 204, Oct. 15, 1976, 90 Stat. 2427, provided that: “No sums shall be deemed to be authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1978, for the Department of Justice (including any bureau, agency, or other similar subdivision thereof) except as specifically authorized by Act of Congress with respect to such fiscal year. Neither the creation of a subdivision in the Department of Justice, nor the authorization of an activity of the Department, any subdivision, or officer thereof, shall be deemed in itself to be an authorization of appropriations for the Department of Justice, such subdivision, or activity, with respect to any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 1978.”

§ 502. Seal

The Attorney General shall have a seal for the Department of Justice. The design of the seal is subject to the approval of the President.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, § 4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 611.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 292, R.S. §353.

The section is rewritten to conform to other statutes authorizing departmental seals. The words “The seal

heretofore provided for the office of the Attorney General shall be” are omitted as obsolete.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 502, act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909, related to appointment of assistant United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), and reenactment in section 542 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

§ 503. Attorney General

The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an Attorney General of the United States. The Attorney General is the head of the Department of Justice.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, § 4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Derivation, U.S. Code, Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large. Row 1: 5 U.S.C. 291 (last 10 words), R.S. §346 (last 10 words).

The words “The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate” have been added to conform the section with the Constitution. See article II, section 2, clause 2.

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 503, act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 909, related to appointment of attorneys to assist United States attorneys, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), and reenactment in section 543 of this title by section 4(c) of Pub. L. 89-554.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

ACTIONS CHALLENGING APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ON GROUNDS OF VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING COMPENSATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS

Pub. L. 93-178, § 2, Dec. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 697, provided that:

“(a) Any person aggrieved by an action of the Attorney General may bring a civil action in the appropriate district court to contest the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Attorney General on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution. The United States district courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction, without regard to the sum or value of the matter in controversy, to determine the validity of such appointment and continuance in office.

“(b) Any action brought under this section shall be heard and determined by a panel of three judges in accordance with the provisions of section 2284 of title 28, United States Code. Any appeal from the action of a court convened pursuant to such section shall lie to the Supreme Court.

“(c) Any judge designated to hear any action brought under this section shall cause such action to be in every way expedited.”

§ 504. Deputy Attorney General

The President may appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a Deputy Attorney General.

(Added Pub. L. 89-554, § 4(c), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 612; amended Pub. L. 107-77, title VI, § 612(c),