

(2) a position in the Senior Executive Service as a noncareer appointee (as such term is defined in section 3132(a) of title 5).

(Added Pub. L. 115-46, title II, §203(a), Aug. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 962.)

**§ 726. Annual report on performance awards and bonuses awarded to certain high-level employees**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 100 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains, for the most recent fiscal year ending before the submittal of the report, a description of all performance awards or bonuses awarded to each of the following:

- (1) Regional Office Director of the Department.
- (2) Director of a Medical Center of the Department.
- (3) Director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network.
- (4) Senior executive of the Department.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following with respect to each performance award or bonus awarded to an individual described in such subsection:

- (1) The amount of each award or bonus.
- (2) The job title of the individual awarded the award or bonus.
- (3) The location where the individual awarded the award or bonus works.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(2) The term “senior executive” means—

- (A) a career appointee; or
- (B) an individual—
  - (i) in an administrative or executive position; and
  - (ii) appointed under section 7306(a) or section 7401(1) of this title.

(3) The term “career appointee” has the meaning given that term in section 3132(a) of title 5.

(Added Pub. L. 115-182, title V, §501(a), June 6, 2018, 132 Stat. 1474; amended Pub. L. 115-251, title II, §211(a)(1), Sept. 29, 2018, 132 Stat. 3174.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Section 501(a) of Pub. L. 115-182, which directed that this section be added at the end of this chapter, was executed by adding this section at the end of this subchapter, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

**AMENDMENTS**

2018—Subsec. (c)(3). Pub. L. 115-251 struck out “, United States Code” after “of title 5”.

**§ 727. Reassignment of senior executives**

(a) APPROVAL OF REASSIGNMENTS.—No individual employed in a senior executive position at the Department may be reassigned to another such position at the Department unless such re-

assignment is approved in writing and signed by the Secretary.

(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—(1) Not later than June 30 and December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reassignment of individuals employed in senior executive positions at the Department to other such positions at the Department during the period covered by the report.

(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe the purpose of each reassignment and the costs associated with such reassignment.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (2), costs associated with a reassignment may only include the following:

- (A) A salary increase.
- (B) Temporary travel expenses for the individual or the family of the individual.
- (C) Moving expenses.
- (D) A paid incentive.

(c) SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “senior executive position” has the meaning given such term in section 713(d) of this title.

(Added Pub. L. 115-188, §2(a), June 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 1490.)

**§ 728. Misuse of Department purchase cards**

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall prohibit any employee of the Department who the Secretary or the Inspector General of the Department determines has knowingly misused a purchase card from serving as a purchase card holder or approving official.

(2) Such a prohibition shall be in addition to any other applicable penalty.

(b) MISUSE.—For purposes of this section, the term “misuse” means—

- (1) splitting purchases;
- (2) exceeding applicable purchase card limits or purchase thresholds;
- (3) purchasing any unauthorized item;
- (4) using a purchase card without being an authorized purchase card holder; or
- (5) violating ethics standards.

(Added Pub. L. 115-407, title V, §501(a), Dec. 31, 2018, 132 Stat. 5376.)

**SUBCHAPTER II—WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS**

**§ 731. Adverse actions against supervisory employees who commit prohibited personnel actions relating to whistleblower complaints**

(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) In accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall carry out the following adverse actions against supervisory employees (as defined in section 7103(a) of title 5) whom the Secretary, an administrative judge, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Office of Special Counsel, an adjudicating body provided under a union contract, a Federal judge, or the Inspector General of the Department determines committed a prohibited personnel action described in subsection (c):

- (A) With respect to the first offense, an adverse action that is not less than a 12-day suspension and not more than removal.