

bered §316(b), Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §311(h)(3)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280; Pub. L. 102-90, title III, §306, Aug. 14, 1991, 105 Stat. 466; Pub. L. 104-186, title II, §220, Aug. 20, 1996, 110 Stat. 1748; Pub. L. 116-260, div. I, title I, §116(b)(2)(A)(ii), Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 1637.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2020—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 116-260 substituted “House Communications Standards Commission” for “House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards” wherever appearing.

1996—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 104-186 substituted “Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives” for “Clerk of the House” in pars. (1) and (2) and “House Oversight” for “House Administration” in two places in par. (2).

1991—Subsec. (e)(2). Pub. L. 102-90 substituted “paragraph (1) of this subsection” for “subsection (1) of this section” in two places.

1990—Pub. L. 101-520 made technical amendment to Pub. L. 101-163, §316(b). See 1989 Amendment note below.

1989—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 101-163, §316(b), formerly §316(c), as renumbered by Pub. L. 101-520, which directed substitution of “by appropriations for the official mail costs of the Senate and the House of Representatives” for “by a lump sum appropriation to the legislative branch” was executed by making the substitution for “by a lump-sum appropriation to the legislative branch” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 101-163, §317, added subsec. (e).

1982—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 97-263 inserted reference to Law Revision Counsel of House of Representatives.

1981—Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 97-69 substituted “survivors” for “surviving spouse”.

1978—Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 95-521 inserted reference to Senate Legal Counsel.

1974—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-255 struck out “, and the printed words ‘Postage paid by Congress’” at end of last sentence.

1973—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 93-191 incorporated existing text in provisions designated as par. (1)(A) and (B), substituted in subpar. (a) reference to elected officers of House of Representatives (other than a Member of House) for former references to Clerk of House of Representatives and Sergeant at Arms of House of Representatives, included in subpar. (A) reference to Legislative Counsel of Senate, added par. (2) and provision for the sender’s signature, or facsimile thereof, and printed words “Postage paid by Congress” in upper right-hand corner on transmitted franked mail.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsec. (b). Former subsec. (b), which provided that the postage on mail matter sent through the mails under the franking privilege by former Presidents shall be paid by reimbursement of the postal revenues each fiscal year out of the general funds of the Treasury in an amount equivalent to the postage which would otherwise be payable on the mail matter, was struck out.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 93-191 added subsecs. (c) and (d).

1971—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 92-51 inserted reference to Legislative Counsel of House of Representatives.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on House Oversight of House of Representatives changed to Committee on House Administration of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Sixth Congress, Jan. 6, 1999.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2020 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 116-260 applicable with respect to communications disseminated on or after Dec.

27, 2020, see section 116(f) of div. I of Pub. L. 116-260, set out as a note under section 501 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-163, title III, §316(b), formerly §316(c), Nov. 21, 1989, 103 Stat. 1067, renumbered §316(b), Pub. L. 101-520, title III, §311(h)(3)(B), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 2280, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective Oct. 1, 1989.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1978 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 95-521 effective Jan. 3, 1979, see section 717 of Pub. L. 95-521, set out as an Effective Date note under section 288 of Title 2, The Congress.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 93-191 effective Dec. 18, 1973, except that subsec. (b) of this section effective Dec. 27, 1972, see section 14 of Pub. L. 93-191, set out as a note under section 3210 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

§ 3217. Correspondence of members of diplomatic corps and consuls of countries of Postal Union of Americas and Spain

Correspondence of the members of the diplomatic corps of the countries of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain stationed in the United States may be reciprocally transmitted in the domestic mails free of postage, and be entitled to free registration without right to indemnity in case of loss. The same privilege is accorded consuls and vice consuls when they are discharging the function of consuls of countries stationed in the United States, for official correspondence among themselves, and with the Government of the United States.

(Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 755.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective July 1, 1971, pursuant to Resolution No. 71-9 of the Board of Governors. See section 15(a) of Pub. L. 91-375, set out as a note preceding section 101 of this title.

FREE MAILING PRIVILEGES CONTINUE UNCHANGED

Pub. L. 109-435, title V, §505(c), Dec. 20, 2006, 120 Stat. 3236, provided that: “Nothing in this Act [see Tables for classification] or any amendment made by this Act shall affect any free mailing privileges accorded under section 3217 or sections 3403 through 3406 of title 39, United States Code.”

§ 3218. Franked mail for survivors of Members of Congress

Upon the death of a Member of Congress during his term of office, the surviving spouse of such Member (or, if there is no surviving spouse, a member of the immediate family of the Member designated by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of the House of Representatives, as appropriate, in accordance with rules and procedures established by the Secretary or the Clerk) may send, for a period not to exceed 180 days after his death, as franked mail, nonpolitical correspondence relating to the death of the Member.