

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1993—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 103-94 amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows:

“(1) If an investigation by the Special Counsel under subsection (a)(1) substantiates an allegation relating to any activity prohibited under section 7324, the Special Counsel may petition the Merit Systems Protection Board for any penalties provided for under section 7325.

“(2) If the Special Counsel receives an allegation concerning any matter under paragraph (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (a), the Special Counsel may investigate and seek corrective action under section 1214 in the same way as if a prohibited personnel practice were involved.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1993 AMENDMENT; SAVINGS PROVISION

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-94 effective 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, but not to release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under amended provision, which is to be treated as remaining in force for purpose of that penalty, forfeiture, or liability, and no provision of Pub. L. 103-94 to affect any proceedings with respect to which charges were filed on or before 120 days after Oct. 6, 1993, with orders to be issued in such proceedings and appeals taken therefrom as if Pub. L. 103-94 had not been enacted, see section 12 of Pub. L. 103-94, set out as an Effective Date; Savings Provision note under section 7321 of this title.

§ 1217. Transmittal of information to Congress

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Special Counsel or any employee of the Special Counsel designated by the Special Counsel, shall transmit to the Congress on the request of any committee or subcommittee thereof, by report, testimony, or otherwise, information and the Special Counsel's views on functions, responsibilities, or other matters relating to the Office. Such information shall be transmitted concurrently to the President and any other appropriate agency in the executive branch.

(b) ADDITIONAL REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an allegation submitted to the Special Counsel is resolved by an agreement between an agency and an individual, the Special Counsel shall submit to Congress and each congressional committee with jurisdiction over the agency a report regarding the agreement.

(2) CONTENTS.—Any report required under paragraph (1) shall identify, with respect to an agreement described in that paragraph—

(A) the agency that entered into the agreement;

(B) the position and employment location of the employee who submitted the allegation that formed the basis of the agreement, provided the information is not so specific as to be reasonably likely to identify the employee;

(C) the position and employment location of any employee alleged by an employee described in subparagraph (B) to have committed a prohibited personnel practice, as defined in section 2302(a)(1);

(D) a description of the allegation described in subparagraph (B); and

(E) whether the agency that entered into the agreement has agreed to pursue any dis-

ciplinary action as a result of the allegation described in subparagraph (B).

(Added Pub. L. 101-12, §3(a)(13), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 28; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1097(h)(3), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1625.)

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2017—Pub. L. 115-91 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsec. (b).

§ 1218. Annual report

The Special Counsel shall submit to Congress, on an annual basis, a report regarding the activities of the Special Counsel, which shall include, for the year preceding the submission of the report—

(1) the number, types, and disposition of allegations of prohibited personnel practices filed with the Special Counsel and the costs of resolving such allegations;

(2) the number of investigations conducted by the Special Counsel;

(3) the number of stays and disciplinary actions negotiated with agencies by the Special Counsel;

(4) the number of subpoenas issued by the Special Counsel;

(5) the number of instances in which the Special Counsel reopened an investigation after the Special Counsel had made an initial determination with respect to the investigation;

(6) the actions that resulted from reopening investigations, as described in paragraph (5);

(7) the number of instances in which the Special Counsel did not make a determination before the end of the 240-day period described in section 1214(b)(2)(A)(i) regarding whether there were reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel practice had occurred, existed, or was to be taken;

(8) a description of the recommendations and reports made by the Special Counsel to other agencies under this subchapter and the actions taken by the agencies as a result of the recommendations or reports;

(9) the number of—

(A) actions initiated before the Merit Systems Protection Board, including the number of corrective action petitions and disciplinary action complaints initiated; and

(B) stays and extensions of stays obtained from the Merit Systems Protection Board;

(10) the number of prohibited personnel practice complaints that resulted in a favorable action for the complainant, other than a stay or an extension of a stay, organized by actions in—

(A) complaints dealing with reprisals against whistleblowers; and

(B) all other complaints;

(11) the number of prohibited personnel practice complaints that were resolved by an agreement between an agency and an individual, organized by agency and agency components in—

(A) complaints dealing with reprisals against whistleblowers; and

(B) all other complaints;

(12) the number of corrective actions that the Special Counsel required an agency to take after a finding by the Special Counsel of a prohibited personnel practice, as defined in section 2302(a)(1); and

(13) the results for the Office of Special Counsel of any employee viewpoint survey conducted by the Office of Personnel Management or any other agency.

(Added Pub. L. 101-12, §3(a)(13), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 29; amended Pub. L. 103-424, §3(e), Oct. 29, 1994, 108 Stat. 4363; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1097(h)(1), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1623.)

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2017—Pub. L. 115-91 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Special Counsel shall submit an annual report to the Congress on the activities of the Special Counsel, including the number, types, and disposition of allegations of prohibited personnel practices filed with it, investigations conducted by it, cases in which it did not make a determination whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel practice has occurred, exists, or is to be taken within the 240-day period specified in section 1214(b)(2)(A)(i), and actions initiated by it before the Merit Systems Protection Board, as well as a description of the recommendations and reports made by it to other agencies pursuant to this subchapter, and the actions taken by the agencies as a result of the reports or recommendations. The report required by this section shall include whatever recommendations for legislation or other action by Congress the Special Counsel may consider appropriate.”

1994—Pub. L. 103-424 inserted “cases in which it did not make a determination whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel practice has occurred, exists, or is to be taken within the 240-day period specified in section 1214(b)(2)(A)(i),” after “investigations conducted by it.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

TERMINATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

For termination, effective May 15, 2000, of reporting provisions in this section, see section 3003 of Pub. L. 104-66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance, and page 188 of House Document No. 103-7.

§ 1219. Public information

(a) The Special Counsel shall maintain and make available to the public—

(1) a list of any noncriminal matters referred to the head of an agency under section 1213(c), together with—

(A) a copy of the information transmitted to the head of the agency under section 1213(c)(1);

(B) any report from the agency under section 1213(c)(1)(B) relating to the matter;

(C) if appropriate, not otherwise prohibited by law, and consented to by the complainant, any comments from the complainant under section 1213(e)(1) relating to the matter; and

(D) the comments or recommendations of the Special Counsel under paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1213(e);

(2) a list of matters referred to heads of agencies under section 1215(c)(2);

(3) a list of matters referred to heads of agencies under subsection (e) of section 1214, together with certifications from heads of agencies under such subsection; and

(4) reports from heads of agencies under section 1213(g)(1).

(b) The Special Counsel shall take steps to ensure that any list or report made available to the public under this section does not contain any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or by Executive order requiring that information be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

(Added Pub. L. 101-12, §3(a)(13), Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 29; Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1097(h)(2), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1624.)

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2017—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115-91 amended par. (1) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (1) read as follows: “a list of noncriminal matters referred to heads of agencies under subsection (c) of section 1213, together with reports from heads of agencies under subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section relating to such matters;”.

SUBCHAPTER III—INDIVIDUAL RIGHT OF ACTION IN CERTAIN REPRISAL CASES

§ 1221. Individual right of action in certain reprisal cases

(a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and subsection 1214(a)(3), an employee, former employee, or applicant for employment may, with respect to any personnel action taken, or proposed to be taken, against such employee, former employee, or applicant for employment, as a result of a prohibited personnel practice described in section 2302(b)(8) or section 2302(b)(9)(A)(i), (B), (C), or (D), seek corrective action from the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(b) This section may not be construed to prohibit any employee, former employee, or applicant for employment from seeking corrective action from the Merit Systems Protection Board before seeking corrective action from the Special Counsel, if such employee, former employee, or applicant for employment has the right to appeal directly to the Board under any law, rule, or regulation.

(c)(1) Any employee, former employee, or applicant for employment seeking corrective action under subsection (a) may request that the Board order a stay of the personnel action involved.

(2) Any stay requested under paragraph (1) shall be granted within 10 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the date the request is made, if the Board determines that such a stay would be appropriate.

(3)(A) The Board shall allow any agency which would be subject to a stay under this subsection to comment to the Board on such stay request.

(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C), a stay granted under this subsection shall remain in effect for such period as the Board determines to be appropriate.