

**§ 3133. Authorization of positions; authority for appointment**

(a) During each even-numbered calendar year, each agency shall—

(1) examine its needs for Senior Executive Service positions for each of the 2 fiscal years beginning after such calendar year; and

(2) submit to the Office of Personnel Management a written request for a specific number of Senior Executive Service positions for each of such fiscal years.

(b) Each agency request submitted under subsection (a) of this section shall—

(1) be based on the anticipated type and extent of program activities and budget requests of the agency for each of the 2 fiscal years involved, and such other factors as may be prescribed from time to time by the Office; and

(2) identify, by position title, positions which are proposed to be designated as or removed from designation as career reserved positions, and set forth justifications for such proposed actions.

(c) The Office of Personnel Management, in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, shall review the request of each agency and shall authorize, for each of the 2 fiscal years covered by requests required under subsection (a) of this section, a specific number of Senior Executive Service positions for each agency. Beginning in 2023, the number of such positions authorized under the preceding sentence for the Department of Defense may not exceed the limitation provided in section 1109 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

(d)(1) The Office of Personnel Management may, on a written request of an agency or on its own initiative, make an adjustment in the number of positions authorized for any agency. Each agency request under this paragraph shall be submitted in such form, and shall be based on such factors, as the Office shall prescribe.

(2) The total number of positions in the Senior Executive Service may not at any time during any fiscal year exceed 105 percent of the total number of positions authorized under subsection (c) of this section for such fiscal year.

(e)(1) Not later than July 1, 1979, and from time to time thereafter as the Director of the Office of Personnel Management finds appropriate, the Director shall establish, by rule issued in accordance with section 1103(b) of this title, the number of positions out of the total number of positions in the Senior Executive Service, as authorized by this section or section 413 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, which are to be career reserved positions. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the number of positions required by this subsection to be career reserved positions shall not be less than the number of the positions then in the Senior Executive Service which, before the date of such Act, were authorized to be filled only through competitive civil service examination.

(2) The Director may, by rule, designate a number of career reserved positions which is less than the number required by paragraph (1) of this subsection only if the Director determines such lesser number necessary in order to des-

ignate as general positions one or more positions (other than positions described in section 3132(b)(3) of this title) which—

(A) involve policymaking responsibilities which require the advocacy or management of programs of the President and support of controversial aspects of such programs;

(B) involve significant participation in the major political policies of the President; or

(C) require the senior executives in the positions to serve as personal assistants of, or advisers to, Presidential appointees.

The Director shall provide a full explanation for his determination in each case.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, § 402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1158; amended Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XI, § 1109(c), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2449.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

Section 1109 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017, referred to in subsec. (c), is section 1109 of Pub. L. 114-328, set out as a note below.

Section 413 of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), is section 413 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note below.

The date of such Act, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), probably means Oct. 13, 1978, the date of the enactment of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978.

**AMENDMENTS**

2016—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-328 inserted at end “Beginning in 2023, the number of such positions authorized under the preceding sentence for the Department of Defense may not exceed the limitation provided in section 1109 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Section effective 9 months after Oct. 13, 1978, and congressional review of provisions of sections 401 through 412 of Pub. L. 95-454, see section 415(a)(1), (b), of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 3131 of this title.

**LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF DOD SES POSITIONS**

Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XI, § 1109, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2449, provided that:

“(a) **LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF DOD SES POSITIONS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than December 31, 2022, the total number of Senior Executive Service positions authorized under section 3133 of title 5, United States Code, for the Department of Defense may not exceed 1,260.

“(2) **HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS.**—Of the total number of positions authorized under paragraph (1), not more than 200 of such positions may be occupied by an individual appointed under the authority provided in section 9903 of such title.

“(b) **PLAN TO ACHIEVE REQUIRED LIMITATION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall develop a plan to achieve the limitation required by subsection (a) that includes—

“(A) the distribution of Senior Executive Service positions across the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Staff, the Military Departments, the Defense Agencies and Field Activities, the unified and specified combatant commands, and other key elements of the Department of Defense;

“(B) the by-year reductions to Senior Executive Service positions consistent with the distribution required under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) recommendations for any legislative action that may be necessary for personnel management

and shaping authorities to achieve the required limitation.

“(2) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not less than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 23, 2016], the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth the plan developed under paragraph (1).

“(3) PROGRESS REPORTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives semi-annual progress report briefings describing and assessing the progress of the Secretary in implementing the plan developed under paragraph (1).

“(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—[Amended section 3133(c) of this title.]

“(d) DEFINITION OF SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITION.—In this section, the term ‘Senior Executive Service position’ has the meaning given such term in section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code.”

#### CONVERSION TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE

Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §413, Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1175, provided that:

“(a) For the purpose of this section, ‘agency’, ‘Senior Executive Service position’, ‘career appointee’, ‘career reserved position’, ‘limited term appointee’, ‘noncareer appointee’, and ‘general position’ have the meanings set forth in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code (as added by this title) and ‘Senior Executive Service’ has the meaning set forth in section 2101a of such title 5 (as added by this title).

“(b)(1) Under the guidance of the Office of Personnel Management, each agency shall—

“(A) designate those positions which it considers should be Senior Executive Service positions and designate which of those positions it considers should be career reserved positions; and

“(B) submit to the Office a written request for—

“(i) a specific number of Senior Executive Service positions; and

“(ii) authority to employ a specific number of noncareer appointees.

“(2) The Office of Personnel Management shall review the designations and requests of each agency under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and shall establish interim authorizations in accordance with sections 3133 and 3134 of title 5, United States Code (as added by this Act), and shall publish the titles of the authorized positions in the Federal Register.

“(c)(1) Each employee serving in a position at the time it is designated as a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (b) of this section shall elect to—

“(A) decline conversion and be appointed to a position under such employee’s current type of appointment and pay system, retaining the grade, seniority, and other rights and benefits associated with such type of appointment and pay system; or

“(B) accept conversion and be appointed to a Senior Executive Service position in accordance with the provisions of subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of this section.

The appointment of an employee in an agency because of an election under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall not result in the separation or reduction in grade of any other employee in such agency.

“(2) Any employee in a position which has been designated a Senior Executive Service position under this section shall be notified in writing of such designation, the election required under paragraph (1) of this subsection, and the provisions of subsections (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h) of this section. The employee shall be given 90 days from the date of such notification to make the election under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

“(d) Each employee who has elected to accept conversion to a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section and who is serving under—

“(1) a career or career-conditional appointment; or

“(2) a similar type of appointment in an excepted service position, as determined by the Office;

in a position which is designated as a Senior Executive Service position shall be appointed as a career appointee to such Senior Executive Service position without regard to section 3393(b)–(e) of title 5, United States Code (as added by this title).

“(e) Each employee who has elected conversion to a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section and who is serving under an excepted appointment in a position which is not designated a career reserved position in the Senior Executive Service, but is—

“(1) a position in Schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(2) a position filled by noncareer executive assignment under subpart F of part 305 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations; or

“(3) a position in the Executive Schedule under subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code [section 5311 et seq. of this title], other than a career Executive Schedule position;

shall be appointed as a noncareer appointee to a Senior Executive Service position.

“(f) Each employee who has elected conversion to a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section, who is serving in a position described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (e) of this section, and whose position is designated as a career reserved position under subsection (b) of this section shall be appointed as a noncareer appointee to an appropriate general position in the Senior Executive Service or shall be separated.

“(g) Each employee who has elected conversion to a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section, who is serving in a position described in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (e) of this section, and whose position is designated as a Senior Executive Service position and who has reinstatement eligibility to a position in the competitive service, may, on request to the Office, be appointed as a career appointee to a Senior Executive Service position. The name of, and basis for reinstatement eligibility for, each employee appointed as a career appointee under this subsection shall be published in the Federal Register.

“(h) Each employee who has elected conversion to a Senior Executive Service position under subsection (c)(1)(B) of this section and who is serving under a limited executive assignment under subpart F of part 305 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, shall—

“(1) be appointed as a limited term appointee to a Senior Executive Service position if the position then held by such employee will terminate within 3 years of the date of such appointment;

“(2) be appointed as a noncareer appointee to a Senior Executive Service position if the position then held by such employee is designated as a general position; or

“(3) be appointed as a noncareer appointee to a general position if the position then held by such employee is designated as a career reserved position.

“(i) The rate of basic pay for any employee appointed to a Senior Executive Service position under this section shall be greater than or equal to the rate of basic pay payable for the position held by such employee at the time of such appointment.

“(j) Any employee who is aggrieved by any action by any agency under this section is entitled to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board under section 7701 of title 5, United States Code (as added by this title). An agency shall take any corrective action which the Board orders in its decision on an appeal under this subsection.

“(k) The Office shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purpose of this section.”

[Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §415(a)(2), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1179, provided that section 413 [set out above] is effective Oct. 13, 1978.]

### § 3134. Limitations on noncareer and limited appointments

(a) During each calendar year, each agency shall—

(1) examine its needs for employment of noncareer appointees for the fiscal year beginning in the following year; and

(2) submit to the Office of Personnel Management, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office, a written request for authority to employ a specific number of noncareer appointees for such fiscal year.

(b) The number of noncareer appointees in each agency shall be determined annually by the Office on the basis of demonstrated need of the agency. The total number of noncareer appointees in all agencies may not exceed 10 percent of the total number of Senior Executive Service positions in all agencies.

(c) Subject to the 10 percent limitation of subsection (b) of this section, the Office may adjust the number of noncareer positions authorized for any agency under subsection (b) of this section if emergency needs arise that were not anticipated when the original authorizations were made.

(d) The number of Senior Executive Service positions in any agency which are filled by noncareer appointees may not at any time exceed the greater of—

- (1) 25 percent of the total number of Senior Executive Service positions in the agency; or
- (2) the number of positions in the agency which were filled on the date of the enactment of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 by—

(A) noncareer executive assignments under subpart F of part 305 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on such date, or

(B) appointments to level IV or V of the Executive Schedule which were not required on such date to be made by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

This subsection shall not apply in the case of any agency having fewer than 4 Senior Executive Service positions.

(e) The total number of limited emergency appointees and limited term appointees in all agencies may not exceed 5 percent of the total number of Senior Executive Service positions in all agencies.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, § 402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1159.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (d)(2), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 95-454, which was approved Oct. 13, 1978.

Level IV or V of the Executive Schedule, referred to in subsec. (d)(2)(B), are set out in sections 5315 and 5316 of this title.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 9 months after Oct. 13, 1978, and congressional review of provisions of sections 401 through

412 of Pub. L. 95-454, see section 415(a)(1), (b), of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 3131 of this title.

### [§ 3135. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-66, title II, § 2181(a)(1), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 732]

Section, added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, § 402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1159; amended Pub. L. 98-168, title III, § 301(b), Nov. 29, 1983, 97 Stat. 1112; Pub. L. 98-615, title III, § 306(a), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3219, directed Office of Personnel Management to submit reports to Congress relating to Senior Executive Service.

#### § 3136. Regulations

The Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe regulations to carry out the purpose of this subchapter.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, § 402(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1160.)

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 9 months after Oct. 13, 1978, and congressional review of provisions of sections 401 through 412 of Pub. L. 95-454, see section 415(a)(1), (b), of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 3131 of this title.

### SUBCHAPTER III—THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE

### § 3151. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration Senior Executive Service

(a) The Attorney General may by regulation establish a personnel system for senior personnel within the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Drug Enforcement Administration to be known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Drug Enforcement Administration Senior Executive Service (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the “FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service”). The regulations establishing the FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service shall—

(1) meet the requirements set forth in section 3131 for the Senior Executive Service;

(2) provide that positions in the FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service meet requirements that are consistent with the provisions of section 3132(a)(2);

(3) provide rates of pay for the FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service that are not in excess of the maximum rate or less than the minimum rate of basic pay established for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 and that are adjusted at the same time and to the same extent as rates of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service are adjusted;

(4) provide a performance appraisal system for the FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service that conforms to the provisions of subchapter II of chapter 43;

(5) provide for—

(A) removal consistent with section 3592;

(B) reduction-in-force procedures consistent with section 3595(a), together with measures to ensure that a member of the FBI-DEA Senior Executive Service may not be removed due to a reduction in force unless reasonable efforts to place such member in another such position are first taken;