

**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 115-254 inserted “or sexually” after “physically” in two places and substituted “\$35,000” for “\$25,000”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1999, see section 3 of Pub. L. 106-181, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendments note under section 106 of this title.

**§ 46319. Permanent closure of an airport without providing sufficient notice**

(a) PROHIBITION.—A public agency (as defined in section 47102) may not permanently close an airport listed in the national plan of integrated airport systems under section 47103 without providing written notice to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration at least 30 days before the date of the closure.

(b) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE.—The Administrator shall publish each notice received under subsection (a) in the Federal Register.

(c) CIVIL PENALTY.—A public agency violating subsection (a) shall be liable for a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each day that the airport remains closed without having given the notice required by this section.

(Added Pub. L. 108-176, title I, §185(a), Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2517.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 2003, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as an Effective Date of 2003 Amendment note under section 106 of this title.

**§ 46320. Interference with wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response effort by operation of unmanned aircraft**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), an individual who operates an unmanned aircraft and in so doing knowingly or recklessly interferes with a wildfire suppression, law enforcement, or emergency response effort is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of not more than \$20,000.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—This section does not apply to the operation of an unmanned aircraft conducted by a unit or agency of the United States Government or of a State, tribal, or local government (including any individual conducting such operation pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into with the unit or agency) for the purpose of protecting the public safety and welfare, including firefighting, law enforcement, or emergency response.

(c) COMPROMISE AND SETOFF.—

(1) COMPROMISE.—The United States Government may compromise the amount of a civil penalty imposed under this section.

(2) SETOFF.—The United States Government may deduct the amount of a civil penalty imposed or compromised under this section from

the amounts the Government owes the person liable for the penalty.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) WILDFIRE.—The term “wildfire” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Emergency Wildfire Suppression Act (42 U.S.C. 1856m).

(2) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—The term “wildfire suppression” means an effort to contain, extinguish, or suppress a wildfire.

(Added Pub. L. 114-190, title II, §2205(a), July 15, 2016, 130 Stat. 630.)

**CHAPTER 465—SPECIAL AIRCRAFT JURISDICTION OF THE UNITED STATES**

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**Editorial Notes**

## AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-254, div. B, title V, §539(m), div. K, title I, §1991(h)(2), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3371, 3645, made identical amendments, striking out item 46503 “Repealed”.

2001—Pub. L. 107-71, title I, §114(b), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 623, added item 46503 “Interference with security screening personnel”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-322, title VI, §60003(b)(1), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 1970, substituted “Repealed” for “Death penalty sentencing procedure for aircraft piracy” in item 46503.

**§ 46501. Definitions**

In this chapter—

(1) “aircraft in flight” means an aircraft from the moment all external doors are closed following boarding—

(A) through the moment when one external door is opened to allow passengers to leave the aircraft; or

(B) until, if a forced landing, competent authorities take over responsibility for the aircraft and individuals and property on the aircraft.

(2) “special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States” includes any of the following aircraft in flight:

(A) a civil aircraft of the United States.

(B) an aircraft of the armed forces of the United States.

(C) another aircraft in the United States.

(D) another aircraft outside the United States—

(i) that has its next scheduled destination or last place of departure in the United States, if the aircraft next lands in the United States;

(ii) on which an individual commits an offense (as defined in the Convention for