

Public Law 96-209
96th Congress

An Act

Mar. 14, 1980

[H.R. 4337]

To provide for the transfer of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States to the United States Department of Justice as a separate agency in that Department; to provide for the authority and responsibility of the Department of Justice to supply to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission certain administrative support services without altering the adjudicatory independence of the Commission; to change the terms of office and method of appointment of the members of the Commission; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the purposes of this Act are as follows:

TITLE I

SEC. 101. The Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, established under Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954, is hereby transferred to the Department of Justice as a separate agency within that Department.

SEC. 102. All functions, powers, and duties of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission established by Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954 are hereby transferred with the Commission, together with personnel, assets, liabilities, unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, available, or to be made available in connection with the statutory functions of the Commission. The Commission shall continue to perform its functions as provided by the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, and Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954.

SEC. 103. (a) The Commission shall be composed of a Chairman and two members. The Chairman shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve on a full-time basis for a term of three years, and compensated at the rate provided for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) The other members of the Commission shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and serve on a part-time basis, and be compensated on a per diem basis at a rate of compensation equivalent to the daily rate for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code, for each day that such member is employed in the actual performance of official business of the Commission as may be directed by the Chairman. Each member shall be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by section 5703 of title 5 for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

(c) The terms of Office of the Chairman and members of the Commission shall be for three years, except the Chairman and members first appointed after the enactment of this subsection shall be appointed to terms ending respectively September 30, 1982,

U.S. Foreign
Claims
Settlement
Commission,
transfer to
Justice
Department.
22 USC 1622a.
22 USC 1622
note.
22 USC 1622b.

50 USC app. 2001
note.
22 USC 1621
note.
Chairman and
members.
22 USC 1622c.

Terms of office.

September 30, 1981, and September 30, 1980. The incumbent of any such office may continue to serve until a successor takes office.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, members of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission who are serving on the effective date of this Act, shall continue to serve in their same capacities until the expiration of the terms to which they were appointed.

SEC. 104. The Commission is authorized, in accordance with civil service laws and in accordance with title 5 of the United States Code, to appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Commission. The Commission is authorized to employ experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5 of the United States Code, without compensation or at rates of compensation not in excess of the maximum daily rate prescribed for GS-18 under section 5332 of title 5 of the United States Code. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commission is further authorized to employ nationals of other countries who may possess special knowledge, languages, or other expertise necessary to assist the Commission. The Commission is authorized to pay expenses of packing, shipping, and storing personal effects of personnel of the Commission assigned abroad, and to pay allowances and benefits similar to those provided by title IX of the Foreign Service Act of 1946, as amended. The Commission is authorized, with the consent of the head of any other department or agency of the Federal Government, to utilize the facilities and services of such department or agency in carrying out the functions of the Commission. Officers and employees of any department and agency of the Federal Government may, with the consent of the head of such department or agency, be assigned to assist the Commission in carrying out its functions. The Commission shall reimburse such department and agency for the pay of such officers or employees.

SEC. 105. All functions, powers, and duties not directly related to adjudicating claims are hereby vested in the Chairman, including the functions set forth in section 3 of Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954 and the authority to issue rules and regulations.

SEC. 106. The Attorney General shall provide necessary administrative support and services to the Commission. The Chairman shall prepare the budget requests, authorization documents, and legislative proposals for the Commission within the procedures established by the Department of Justice, and the Attorney General shall submit these items to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as proposed by the Chairman.

SEC. 107. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish the independence of the Commission in making its determinations on claims in programs that it is authorized to administer pursuant to the powers and responsibilities conferred upon the Commission by the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended, the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, and Reorganization Plan Numbered 1 of 1954. The decisions of the Commission with respect to claims shall be final and conclusive on all questions of law and fact, and shall not be subject to review by the Attorney General or any other official of the United States or by any court by mandamus or otherwise.

SEC. 108. Subsection 2(d) of the War Claims Act of 1948, as amended by section 104 of the Act of October 22, 1962 (76 Stat. 1107), is hereby repealed.

SEC. 109. Section 5316 of title 5 of the United States Code is amended—

22 USC 1622d.

Experts and consultants.

5 USC 5332 note.

22 USC 1131.

22 USC 1622e.

22 USC 1622 note.

22 USC 1622f. Budget requests, submittal to Director of OMB.

Restriction.
22 USC 1622g.

50 USC app.
2001 note.
22 USC 1621 note.
22 USC 1622 note.

Repeal.
50 USC app.
2001.

(1) by striking out paragraph (31) and inserting in lieu thereof: “(31) Chairman, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice.”; and
(2) by striking out paragraph (90) of said section.

TITLE II—ANNUAL ASSAY COMMISSION

Abolition.
31 USC 363 note.

Transfer of
functions.

The Annual Assay Commission, and the positions of Assay Commissioners established by section 3547 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (31 U.S.C. 363), as amended, are hereby abolished. The functions of that Commission and of the Assay Commissioners are hereby transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Abolition.

The United States Marine Corps Memorial Commission, established by Act of August 4, 1947 (61 Stat. 724), is hereby abolished.

TITLE IV—THE LOW-EMISSION VEHICLE CERTIFICATION BOARD

Abolition.
42 USC 7546
note.

The Low-Emission Vehicle Certification Board established by Act of December 31, 1970 (84 Stat. 1700; 42 U.S.C. 1857f-6e), is hereby abolished.

TITLE V—DETERMINATION ORDER

22 USC 1622a
note.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget is authorized and directed to make such determinations as may be necessary with regard to the transfer of functions, powers, and duties pursuant to this Act, and to make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to or to be made available in connection with the functions transferred by this Act, as the

Director may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Act. The Director is further authorized and directed to provide for terminating the affairs of each agency, board, or commission abolished by this Act.

TITLE VI

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment.

Approved March 14, 1980.

Effective date.
22 USC 1622a
note.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-407 (Comm. on Government Operations).

SENATE REPORT No. 96-509 accompanying S. 1419 (Comm. on Government Affairs).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 125 (1979): Sept. 17, considered and passed House.

Dec. 20, S. 1419 considered and passed Senate.

Vol. 126 (1980): Feb. 26, Senate vitiating passage of S. 1419; H.R. 4337, amended, passed in lieu.

Feb. 28, House concurred in Senate amendment.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS:

Vol. 16, No. 11 (1980): Mar. 14, Presidential statement.