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EDITORIAL RECLASSIFICATION ELIMINATION OF TITLE 50, APPENDIX, UNITED STATES CODE

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The Appendix to title 50 of the United States Code is being eliminated and most of the non-obsolete provisions are being transferred to new Chapters 49 to 57 of Title 50, War and National Defense. A small number of provisions are being transferred to other titles of the Code. After study, the Office of the Law Revision Counsel has concluded that the elimination of the Appendix and the corresponding transfer of its non-obsolete provisions will improve the organizational structure of the Code and that the benefits of eliminating the Appendix outweigh the short-term inconvenience of adjusting to new Code citations. For the online version of the United States Code, the reorganization will occur on December 1, 2015, after which date the new Code citations should be used. For the printed version of the United States Code, the reorganization will occur effective with supplement III of the 2012 edition.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR CHANGE

The United States Code has included an Appendix to Title 50, War and National Defense, since the 1940 edition. Since that time, a substantial number of laws and executive branch documents have been classified to the Appendix, rather than to title 50 itself. Many of these laws and executive branch documents were emergency-related or of temporary duration and eventually became obsolete or were repealed. However, a relatively small number of these laws and executive documents were not temporary. After 75 years, the Office has decided to transfer the general and permanent provisions now in the Appendix to their proper subject-matter title within the Code (predominantly title 50). The Appendix as it existed prior to its elimination can still be accessed in prior versions of both the online and print Code.

HIGHLIGHTS OF REORGANIZATION -- NEW CHAPTERS IN TITLE 50

- * Chapter 49, Military Selective Service (50 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 451 et seq.]
- * Chapter 50, Servicemembers Civil Relief (50 U.S.C. 3901 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.]
- * Chapter 51, War Claims (50 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 2001 et seq.]
- * Chapter 52, Restitution for World War II Internment of Japanese-Americans and Aleuts (50 U.S.C. 4201 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 1989 et seq.]
- * Chapter 53, Trading with the Enemy (50 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 1 et seq.]
- * Chapter 54, Merchant Ship Sales (50 U.S.C. 4401 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 1735 et seq.]
- * Chapter 55, Defense Production (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 2061 et seq.]
- * Chapter 56, Export Administration (50 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 2401 et seq.]
- * Chapter 57, Claims under the Clarification Act (50 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.) [former 50 U.S.C. App. 1291 et seq.]

MAJOR ACTIONS AND STATUS

April 8, 2016.—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel completed, and submitted to the House Committee on the Judiciary for introduction in the 114th Congress, a draft bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to certain provisions which were formerly classified to title 50, Appendix, United States Code.

May 17, 2016.—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel submitted an updated draft of the bill to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

January 6, 2017.—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel submitted an updated draft bill (and accompanying explanation) to the House Committee on the Judiciary for introduction in the 115th Congress.

June 21, 2017.—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel submitted an updated draft bill (and accompanying explanation) to the House Committee on the Judiciary for introduction in the 115th Congress.

RESOURCES FOR TRANSITION

- (1) [Bill](#)
- (2) [Explanation](#)
- (3) [Comprehensive Chart - old/new Code citations for all transferred provisions.](#)

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Questions and comments about the elimination of Title 50, Appendix, United States Code, should be directed to:

Office of the Law Revision Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Email: uscode@mail.house.gov



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