

**§ 507. Officers to make character known; assistance for officers**

(a) Every customs officer shall—

(1) upon being questioned at the time of executing any of the powers conferred upon him, make known his character as an officer of the Federal Government; and

(2) have the authority to demand the assistance of any person in making any arrest, search, or seizure authorized by any law enforced or administered by customs officers, if such assistance may be necessary.

If a person, without reasonable excuse, neglects or refuses to assist a customs officer upon proper demand under paragraph (2), such person is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000.

(b) Any person other than an officer or employee of the United States who renders assistance in good faith upon the request of a customs officer shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of the rendering of such assistance if the assisting person acts as an ordinary, reasonably prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

(R.S. § 3071; Pub. L. 99-570, title III, § 3152, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-94.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 3071 derived from act July 18, 1866, ch. 201, § 10, 14 Stat. 180.

AMENDMENTS

1986—Pub. L. 99-570 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: "Every officer or other person authorized to make searches and seizures by this title, shall, at the time of executing any of the powers conferred upon him, make known, upon being questioned, his character as an officer or agent of the customs or Government, and shall have authority to demand of any person within the distance of three miles to assist him in making any arrests, search, or seizure authorized by this title, where such assistance may be necessary; and if such person shall, without reasonable excuse, neglect or refuse so to assist, upon proper demand, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$200, nor less than \$5."

**§ 508. Persons making seizures pleading general issue and proving special matter**

If any officer, or other person, executing or aiding or assisting in the seizure of goods, under any Act providing for or regulating the collection of duties on imports or tonnage, is sued for anything done in virtue of the powers given thereby, or by virtue of a warrant granted by any judge, or justice, pursuant to law, he may plead the general issue and give such Act and the special matter in evidence.

(R.S. § 3073.)

CODIFICATION

R.S. § 3073 derived from act Mar. 2, 1799, ch. 22, § 71, 1 Stat. 678.

**§§ 509 to 521. Repealed. June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 651(a)(1), 46 Stat. 762, eff. June 18, 1930**

Sections, act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, §§ 602-614, 42 Stat. 984-987, related to pleading, procedure and disposition of seized articles or proceeds therefrom.

Provisions of Tariff Act of 1930 corresponding to section 509, see section 1602 of this title; section 510, see section 1603 of this title; section 511, see section 1604 of this title; section 512, see section 1605 of this title; section 513, see section 1606 of this title; section 514, see section 1607 of this title; section 515, see section 1608 of this title; section 516, see section 1609 of this title; section 517, see section 1610 of this title; section 518, see section 1611 of this title; section 519, see section 1612 of this title; section 520, see section 1613 of this title; section 521, see section 1614 of this title.

**§§ 522 to 524. Repealed. Aug. 27, 1935, ch. 740, § 308, 49 Stat. 880**

Sections, act Mar. 3, 1925, ch. 438, §§ 1-3, 43 Stat. 1116, as amended by act May 27, 1930, ch. 342, § 9, 46 Stat. 430, related to summary forfeiture of vessels or vehicles.

**§ 525. Repealed. June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 651(a)(1), 46 Stat. 762, eff. June 18, 1930**

Section, act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, § 615, 42 Stat. 987, related to burden of proof in proceedings for forfeiture of seized property. Corresponding provisions of Tariff Act of 1930, see section 1615 of this title.

**§ 526. Repealed. Aug. 2, 1956, ch. 887, § 4(a)(28), 70 Stat. 948**

Section, R.S. § 3089, related to costs of prosecution. See section 1613(1) of this title.

**§ 527. Sums received from fines and other receipts covered into Treasury**

Except as otherwise provided by law, all sums received from fines, penalties, and forfeitures, connected with the customs, and from fees paid into the Treasury by customs officers, and from storage, cartage, drayage, labor, and services, shall be covered into the Treasury as are other miscellaneous receipts.

(Mar. 4, 1907, ch. 2918, § 1, 34 Stat. 1315.)

**§ 528. Appropriate customs officer to receive amount recovered**

The appropriate customs officer within whose district any seizure shall be made or forfeiture incurred for any violation of the duty laws is authorized to receive from the court within which trial is had, or from the proper officer thereof, the sum recovered, after deducting all proper charges to be allowed by the court; and on receipt thereof he shall pay and distribute the same without delay, according to law.

(R.S. § 3087; June 17, 1930, ch. 497, title IV, § 604, 46 Stat. 754; Pub. L. 91-271, title III, § 319, June 2, 1970, 84 Stat. 293.)

CODIFICATION

This section was derived from R.S. § 3087, which, however, contained a further provision requiring collectors to cause suits to be commenced without delay and prosecuted to effect. That provision was omitted as inconsistent with section 604 of act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, 42 Stat. 984, constituting former section 511 of this title. Act Sept. 21, 1922, was repealed by act June 17, 1930, but section 604 of the latter Act, constituting section 1604 of this title, reenacted section 604 of the former Act.

AMENDMENTS

1970—Pub. L. 91-271 substituted reference to the appropriate customs officer for reference to the collector.