

**§ 7703. Judicial review of decisions of the Merit Systems Protection Board**

(a)(1) Any employee or applicant for employment adversely affected or aggrieved by a final order or decision of the Merit Systems Protection Board may obtain judicial review of the order or decision.

(2) The Board shall be named respondent in any proceeding brought pursuant to this subsection, unless the employee or applicant for employment seeks review of a final order or decision on the merits of the underlying personnel action or on a request for attorney fees, in which case the agency responsible for taking the personnel action shall be the respondent.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a petition to review a final order or final decision of the Board shall be filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any petition for review must be filed within 60 days after the date the petitioner received notice of the final order or decision of the Board.

(2) Cases of discrimination subject to the provisions of section 7702 of this title shall be filed under section 717(c) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e-16(c)), section 15(c) of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 633a(c)), and section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 216(b)), as applicable. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any such case filed under any such section must be filed within 30 days after the date the individual filing the case received notice of the judicially reviewable action under such section 7702.

(c) In any case filed in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the court shall review the record and hold unlawful and set aside any agency action, findings, or conclusions found to be—

- (1) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law;
- (2) obtained without procedures required by law, rule, or regulation having been followed; or
- (3) unsupported by substantial evidence;

except that in the case of discrimination brought under any section referred to in subsection (b)(2) of this section, the employee or applicant shall have the right to have the facts subject to trial de novo by the reviewing court.

(d) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management may obtain review of any final order or decision of the Board by filing, within 60 days after the date the Director received notice of the final order or decision of the Board, a petition for judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit if the Director determines, in his discretion, that the Board erred in interpreting a civil service law, rule, or regulation affecting personnel management and that the Board's decision will have a substantial impact on a civil service law, rule, regulation, or policy directive. If the Director did not intervene in a matter before the Board, the Director may not petition for review of a Board decision under this section unless the Director first petitions the Board for a reconsid-

eration of its decision, and such petition is denied. In addition to the named respondent, the Board and all other parties to the proceedings before the Board shall have the right to appear in the proceeding before the Court of Appeals. The granting of the petition for judicial review shall be at the discretion of the Court of Appeals.

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title II, § 205, Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1143; amended Pub. L. 97-164, title I, § 144, Apr. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 45; Pub. L. 101-12, § 10, Apr. 10, 1989, 103 Stat. 35; Pub. L. 105-311, § 10(a), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2954.)

AMENDMENTS

1998—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 105-311, § 10(a)(1), substituted “within 60 days” for “within 30 days”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 105-311, § 10(a)(2), in first sentence, inserted “, within 60 days after the date the Director received notice of the final order or decision of the Board,” after “filing”.

1989—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 101-12 amended par. (2) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (2) read as follows: “The Board shall be the named respondent in any proceeding brought pursuant to this subsection, unless the employee or applicant for employment seeks review of a final order or decision issued by the Board under section 7701. In review of a final order or decision issued under section 7701, the agency responsible for taking the action appealed to the Board shall be the named respondent.”

1982—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 97-164, § 144(1), substituted “United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “Court of Claims or a United States court of appeals as provided in chapters 91 and 158, respectively, of title 28”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 97-164, § 144(2), substituted “Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “Court of Claims or a United States court of appeals”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 97-164, § 144(3), substituted “United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit” for “United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-311, § 10(b), Oct. 30, 1998, 112 Stat. 2954, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1998], and apply to any suit, action, or other administrative or judicial proceeding pending on such date or commenced on or after such date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1989 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 101-12 effective 90 days following Apr. 10, 1989, see section 11 of Pub. L. 101-12, set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1982 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-164 effective Oct. 1, 1982, see section 402 of Pub. L. 97-164, set out as a note under section 171 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 90 days after Oct. 13, 1978, see section 907 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as an Effective Date of 1978 Amendment note under section 1101 of this title.

SAVINGS PROVISION

For effect of Pub. L. 101-12 on orders, rules, and regulations issued before effective date of Pub. L. 101-12, administrative proceedings pending at time provisions of Pub. L. 101-12 take effect, and suits and other proceedings as in effect immediately before effective date of Pub. L. 101-12, see section 7 of Pub. L. 101-12 set out as a note under section 1201 of this title.

**CHAPTER 79—SERVICES TO EMPLOYEES**

Sec.	
7901.	Health service programs.
7902.	Safety programs.
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7904.	Employee assistance programs relating to drug abuse and alcohol abuse.
7905.	Programs to encourage commuting by means other than single-occupancy motor vehicles.
7906.	Services of post-combat case coordinators.

**AMENDMENTS**

2011—Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title XI, §1106(b), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1614, added item 7906.

1993—Pub. L. 103-172, §2(b), Dec. 2, 1993, 107 Stat. 1996, added item 7905.

1986—Pub. L. 99-570, title VI, §6004(b), Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-159, added item 7904.

**STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ENCOURAGING EMPLOYEE USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION; FEDERAL AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

Pub. L. 102-241, §44, Dec. 19, 1991, 105 Stat. 2226, provided that: “The Department of Transportation may include military personnel of the Coast Guard in any program in which the Department participates under section 629 of the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act, 1991, Public Law 101-509 [set out below], notwithstanding section 629(c)(2) of that Act.”

[For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.]

Pub. L. 101-509, title VI, §629, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1478, authorized Federal agencies and employees to participate in State or local government programs encouraging employees to use public transportation, directed General Accounting Office, not later than June 30, 1993, to conduct a study and submit a report on the implementation of such programs, and provided that this section was repealed effective Dec. 31, 1993.

**§ 7901. Health service programs**

(a) The head of each agency of the Government of the United States may establish, within the limits of appropriations available, a health service program to promote and maintain the physical and mental fitness of employees under his jurisdiction.

(b) A health service program may be established by contract or otherwise, but only—

(1) after consultation with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and consideration of its recommendations; and

(2) in localities where there are a sufficient number of employees to warrant providing the service.

(c) A health service program is limited to—

(1) treatment of on-the-job illness and dental conditions requiring emergency attention;

(2) preemployment and other examinations;

(3) referral of employees to private physicians and dentists; and

(4) preventive programs relating to health.

(d) The Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, on request, shall review a health service program conducted under this section and

shall submit comment and recommendations to the head of the agency concerned.

(e) When this section authorizes the use of the professional services of physicians, that authorization includes the use of the professional services of surgeons and osteopathic practitioners within the scope of their practice as defined by State law.

(f) The health programs conducted by the Tennessee Valley Authority are not affected by this section.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 530; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(47), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 209; Pub. L. 104-201, div. C, title XXXV, §3548(a)(9), Sept. 23, 1996, 110 Stat. 2869.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES  
1966 ACT**

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
.....	5 U.S.C. 150.	Aug. 8, 1946, ch. 865, 60 Stat. 903. Sept. 23, 1950, ch. 1010, §8, 64 Stat. 986.

In subsection (a), the words “agency of the Government of the United States” are coextensive with and substituted for “departments and agencies including Government-owned and controlled corporations” to avoid confusion with the definitions in sections 101-105.

In subsection (d) the word “appropriate” in the phrase “appropriate comment and recommendations” is omitted as unnecessary. The words “to the head of the agency concerned” are added for clarity.

In subsection (e), the substance of the definition of “physician” in former section 790 is substituted for the reference to that section.

In subsection (f)(2) and (3), the words “Canal Zone Government” and “Panama Canal Company” are substituted for “Panama Canal” and “Panama Railroad”, respectively, on the authority of the Act of Sept. 26, 1950, ch. 1049, §2(a), 64 Stat. 1038.

The last proviso of the first sentence of the Act of Aug. 8, 1946, is omitted as executed.

Standard changes are made to conform with the definitions applicable and the style of this title as outlined in the preface to the report.

**1967 ACT**

This section amends 5 U.S.C. 7901 to reflect 1966 Reorganization Plan No. 3, effective June 25, 1966, 80 Stat. 1610, section 1 of which transferred all functions of the Public Health Service to the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare.

**AMENDMENTS**

1996—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 104-201 amended subsec. (f) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (f) read as follows: “The health programs conducted by the following agencies are not affected by this section—

“(1) the Tennessee Valley Authority;

“(2) the Canal Zone Government; and

“(3) the Panama Canal Company.”

**CHANGE OF NAME**

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare redesignated Secretary of Health and Human Services by section 3508 of Title 20, Education.

**SHORT TITLE OF 1993 AMENDMENT**

Pub. L. 103-172, §1(a), Dec. 2, 1993, 107 Stat. 1995, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 7905 of this title and provisions set out as notes under section 7905 of