

ABOLITION OF APPEALS BOARD; TERMINATION OF APPEALS; NO FURTHER APPEALS ACCEPTED; RETURN OF ERRONEOUS FILED APPEALS

Act July 14, 1952, ch. 739, 66 Stat. 627, provided: "That the Appeal Board established under section 13(d) of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 [41 U.S.C. 113(d)] is hereby abolished: *Provided, however*, That said abolition shall not become effective until six months after the enactment of this Act [July 14, 1952] or such later date, nor more than nine months after the enactment of this Act, as may be fixed by written order of the Director of Contract Settlement published in the Federal Register. Such an order shall be made only in case the Director finds that it is impracticable for the Appeal Board to dispose of its pending business before the date fixed for abolition of the Board by this Act or a previous order of the Director. No such order shall be made less than thirty days prior to the date theretofore fixed for abolition of the Appeal Board.

"SEC. 2. (a) Upon the effective date of the abolition of the Appeal Board all appeals and disputes pending therein shall be terminated without prejudice and the right of the parties to pursue such other remedies as are provided by law shall not be affected thereby.

"(b) In any such terminated appeal, timely initiated in the Appeal Board, where the period for pursuit of any other remedy pursuant to section 13(b)(2) of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 [41 U.S.C. 113(b)(2)] shall have expired or would expire within sixty days after the effective date of the abolition of the Appeal Board, the period within which proceedings may be initiated in accordance with the said section shall be extended to sixty days after said effective date.

"(c) Effective thirty days after the enactment of this Act [July 14, 1952] no further appeals or submitted disputes shall be accepted for determination by said Appeal Board.

"(d) Where an attempt is erroneously made to file an appeal with the Appeal Board after the time limited therefor by section 1(c) of this Act but prior to the effective date of the abolition of the Appeal Board, said Board shall forthwith return the papers to the person therein named as appellant together with a notice in writing that, pursuant to the terms of section 1(c) of this Act, it can no longer accept such an appeal. Where such an attempt is made in good faith and the appeal would, except for the provisions of section 1(c) of this Act, have been timely and the period for pursuit of any other remedy pursuant to section 13(b)(2) of the Contract Settlement Act of 1944 [41 U.S.C. 113(b)(2)] expires or would expire prior to the expiration of sixty days after the receipt of such notice, the period within which proper proceedings may be initiated in accordance with said section 13(b)(2) shall be extended to sixty days after the receipt of such notice."

APPLICATION TO TERMINATED WAR CONTRACTS

For application of this section to war contracts terminated at or before July 21, 1944, see section 124 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 106, 117, 124 of this title.

§ 114. Court of Federal Claims

(a) Appointment of auditors

For the purpose of expediting the adjudication of termination claims, the United States Court of Federal Claims is authorized to appoint not more than ten auditors.

(b) Procedure

The United States Court of Federal Claims, on motion of either of the parties, or on its own motion, may summon any and all persons with legal capacity to be sued to appear as a party or

parties in any suit or proceeding of any nature whatsoever pending in said court to assert and defend their interests, if any, in such suits or proceedings, within such period of time prior to judgment as the United States Court of Federal Claims shall prescribe. If the name and address of any such person is known or can be ascertained by reasonable diligence, and if he resides within the jurisdiction of the United States, he shall be summoned to appear by personal service; but if any such person resides outside of the jurisdiction of the United States, or is unknown, or if for any other good and sufficient reason appearing to the court personal service cannot be had, he may be summoned by publication, under such rules as the court may adopt, together with a copy of the summons mailed by registered mail to such person's last known address. The United States Court of Federal Claims may, upon motion of the Attorney General, in any suit or proceeding where there may be any number of persons having possible interests therein, notify such persons to appear to assert and defend such interests. Upon failure so to appear, any and all claims or interests in claims of any such person against the United States, in respect of the subject matter of such suit or proceeding, shall forever be barred and the court shall have jurisdiction to enter judgment pro confesso upon any claim or contingent claim asserted on behalf of the United States against any person who, having been duly served with summons, fails to respond thereto, to the same extent and with like effect as if such person had appeared and had admitted the truth of all allegations made on behalf of the United States. Upon appearance by any person pursuant to any such summons or notice, the case as to such person shall, for all purposes, be treated as if an independent proceeding has been instituted by such person pursuant to sections 1491, 1496, 1501, 1503, and 2501 of title 28, and as if such independent proceeding had then been consolidated, for purposes of trial and determination, with the case in respect of which the summons or notice was issued, except that the United States shall not be heard upon any counterclaims, claims for damages or other demands whatsoever against such person, other than claims and contingent claims for the recovery of money hereafter paid by the United States in respect of the transaction or matter which constitutes the subject matter of such case, unless and until such person shall assert therein a claim, or an interest in a claim, against the United States, and the United States Court of Federal Claims shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate, as between any and all adverse claimants, their respective several interests in any matter in suit and to award several judgments in accordance therewith.

(c) Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of the United States Court of Federal Claims shall not be affected by this chapter except to the extent necessary to give effect to this chapter, and no person shall recover judgment on any claim, or on any interest in any claim, in said court which such person would not have had a right to assert in said court if this section had not been enacted.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 358, §14, 58 Stat. 663; July 28, 1953, ch. 253, §5, 67 Stat. 226; Pub. L. 97-164, title

I, §160(a)(14), Apr. 2, 1982, 96 Stat. 48; Pub. L. 102-572, title IX, §902(b)(1), Oct. 29, 1992, 106 Stat. 4516.)

CODIFICATION

In subsec. (b), “sections 1491, 1496, 1501, 1503, and 2501 of title 28” substituted for “section 250 of title 28” on authority of act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 869, the first section of which enacted Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-572 substituted “United States Court of Federal Claims” for “United States Claims Court” wherever appearing.

1982—Pub. L. 97-164 substituted “United States Claims Court” for “Court of Claims” wherever appearing.

1953—Subsec. (a). Act July 28, 1953, struck out provisions relating to the appointment of a maximum of twenty commissioners for the purpose of expediting the adjudication of termination claims.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-572 effective Oct. 29, 1992, see section 911 of Pub. L. 102-572, set out as a note under section 171 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

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.

COMMISSIONERS; TERMINATION OF APPOINTING AUTHORITY

Section 4(b) of act July 28, 1953, provided that the authority contained in subsec. (a) of this section respecting the appointment of commissioners “is hereby terminated”.

SECTION UNAFFECTED BY REVISED TITLE 28

Act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, §2(d), 62 Stat. 985, provided that nothing in Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, should be construed as repealing any of the provisions of this section.

§ 115. Personal financial liability of contracting officers

(a) Whenever any payment is made from Government funds to any war contractor or other person as an advance, partial or final payment on any termination claim, or pursuant to any loan, guaranty, or agreement for the purchase of any loan, or any commitment in connection therewith, entered into by the Government, no officer or other Government agent authorizing or approving such payment or settlement, or certifying the voucher for such payment, or making the payment in accordance with a duly certified voucher, shall be personally liable for such payment, in the absence of fraud on his part. In settling the accounts of any disbursing officer the General Accounting Office shall allow any such disbursements made by him notwithstanding any other provisions of law.

(b) For the purpose of making termination settlements or interim financing any Government agency is authorized to rely upon such certificates of war contractors as it deems proper and to permit war contractors and other persons to rely upon such certificates without financial liability in the absence of fraud on their part.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 358, §15, 58 Stat. 664.)

§ 116. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-316, title I, § 121(a), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3836

Section, acts July 1, 1944, ch. 358, §16, 58 Stat. 664; Ex. Ord. No. 9809, §8, eff. Dec. 12, 1946, 11 F.R. 14281; 1947 Reorg. Plan No. 1, §201, eff. July 1, 1947, 12 F.R. 4534, 61 Stat. 951; June 30, 1949, ch. 288, title I, §102(b), 63 Stat. 380, related to functions and jurisdiction of General Accounting Office in reviewing final settlements made by contracting agency, in certifying settlements suspected of being fraudulent to Department of Justice, Administrator of General Services, and contracting agency, and in reporting on efficacy of settlement methods and procedures to Congress.

§ 117. Defective, informal, and quasi contracts

(a) Lack of formalized contract

Where any person has arranged to furnish or furnished to a contracting agency or to a war contractor any materials, services, or facilities related to the prosecution of the war, without a formal contract, relying in good faith upon the apparent authority of an officer or agent of a contracting agency, written or oral instructions, or any other request to proceed from a contracting agency, the contracting agency shall pay such person fair compensation therefor.

(b) Technical defects or omissions

Whenever any formal or technical defect or omission in any prime contract, or in any grant of authority to an officer or agent of a contracting agency who ordered any materials, services, and facilities might invalidate the contract or commitment, the contracting agency (1) shall not take advantage of such defect or omission; (2) shall amend, confirm, or ratify such contract or commitment without consideration in order to cure such defect or omission; and (3) shall make a fair settlement of any obligation thereby created or incurred by such agency, whether expressed or implied, in fact or in law, or in the nature of an implied or quasi contract.

(c) Failure to settle

Where a contracting agency fails to settle by agreement any claim asserted under this section, the dispute shall be subject to the provisions of section 113 of this title.

(d) Formalization of obligations; termination date for filing claims

The Administrator of General Services shall require each contracting agency to formalize all such obligations and commitments within such period as the Administrator of General Services deems appropriate. No person shall be entitled to recover compensation, to receive a settlement of any alleged obligation, or to obtain the benefit of any amendment, confirmation, ratification, or formalization of any alleged contract or commitment under the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section, unless such person shall, on or before one hundred and eighty days after June 28, 1954, have filed a claim therefor with the contracting agency.

(July 1, 1944, ch. 358, §17, 58 Stat. 665; Ex. Ord. No. 9809, §8, eff. Dec. 12, 1946, 11 F.R. 14281; 1947 Reorg. Plan. No. 1, §201, eff. July 1, 1947, 12 F.R. 4534, 61 Stat. 951; June 30, 1949, ch. 288, title I, §102(b), 63 Stat. 380; June 28, 1954, ch. 403, §1, 68 Stat. 300.)