

2011—Pub. L. 112-81, div. A, title XI, §1101(d)(2), Dec. 31, 2011, 125 Stat. 1610, added item for chapter 99 and struck out former item for chapter 99 “Department of Defense National Security Personnel System”.

2010—Pub. L. 111-292, §2(b)(1), Dec. 9, 2010, 124 Stat. 3170, added item for chapter 65.

Pub. L. 111-282, §4(c)(3), Oct. 15, 2010, 124 Stat. 3044, added item for chapter 102.

2006—Pub. L. 109-295, title VI, §621(b), Oct. 4, 2006, 120 Stat. 1416, added item for chapter 101.

2004—Pub. L. 108-496, §4, Dec. 23, 2004, 118 Stat. 4010, added items for chapters 89A and 89B.

Pub. L. 108-201, §3(b), Feb. 24, 2004, 118 Stat. 477, added item for chapter 98.

2003—Pub. L. 108-136, div. A, title XI, §§1101(a)(2), 1129(b), Nov. 24, 2003, 117 Stat. 1633, 1645, added items for chapters 54 and 99.

2002—Pub. L. 107-347, title II, §209(c)(3), Dec. 17, 2002, 116 Stat. 2930, added item for chapter 37.

Pub. L. 107-296, title VIII, §841(a)(3), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2233, added item for chapter 97.

Pub. L. 107-123, §8(d)(1)(A), Jan. 16, 2002, 115 Stat. 2399, added item for chapter 48.

2000—Pub. L. 106-398, §1 [[div. A], title X, §1076(f)(1)(B)], Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1654, 1654A-282, substituted “and Other Purposes” for “Purposes” in item for chapter 91.

Pub. L. 106-265, title I, §1002(b), Sept. 19, 2000, 114 Stat. 769, added item for chapter 90.

1998—Pub. L. 105-206, title I, §1201(b), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 719, added items for subpart I and chapter 95.

1993—Pub. L. 103-89, §3(a)(2), Sept. 30, 1993, 107 Stat. 981, struck out item for chapter 54 “Performance Management and Recognition System”.

1986—Pub. L. 99-335, title I, §101(b), June 6, 1986, 100 Stat. 588, added item for chapter 84.

1985—Pub. L. 99-169, title VIII, §801(b), Dec. 4, 1985, 99 Stat. 1010, added items for subpart H and chapter 91.

1984—Pub. L. 98-615, title II, §201(b), Nov. 8, 1984, 98 Stat. 3214, substituted “Performance Management and Recognition System” for “Merit Pay and Cash Awards” in item for chapter 54.

1978—Pub. L. 95-454, title I, §101(b)(1), title II, §203(b), title V, §503(i), title VI, §601(b), title VII, §703(b), title IX, §906(c)(5), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1118, 1134, 1184, 1188, 1217, 1227, added items for chapters 23, 34, 47, 54, and 72, substituted in item for chapter 43 “Appraisal” for “Rating” and in item for chapter 71 “Labor-Management Relations” for “Policies”, and inserted in heading of subpart F “Labor-Management and” before “Employee”.

1978—Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §401(e), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1154, added item 2101a.

1972—Pub. L. 92-297, §1(b), May 16, 1972, 86 Stat. 141, added item 2109.

§2101. Civil service; armed forces; uniformed services

For the purpose of this title—

(1) the “civil service” consists of all appointive positions in the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of the Government of the United States, except positions in the uniformed services;

(2) “armed forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard; and

(3) “uniformed services” means the armed forces, the commissioned corps of the Public Health Service, and the commissioned corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 408; Pub. L. 90-83, §1(4), Sept. 11, 1967, 81 Stat. 196; Pub. L. 96-54, §2(a)(4), Aug. 14, 1979, 93 Stat. 381; Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title IX, §927(a), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 3831.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

1966 ACT

The section is supplied to establish basis of reference to employees in this title.

1967 ACT

This section amends various sections [§§2101, 4102, 4109, 5541, 8101] of title 5, United States Code, to reflect 1965 Reorganization Plan No. 2 (79 Stat. 1318), effective July 13, 1965, which consolidated the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Weather Bureau to form a new agency in the Department of Commerce to be known as the Environmental Science Services Administration.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2021—Par. (2). Pub. L. 116-283 inserted “Space Force,” after “Marine Corps”.

1979—Par. (3). Pub. L. 96-54 substituted “National Oceanic and Atmospheric” for “Environmental Science Services”.

Subpart A—General Provisions

CHAPTER 21—DEFINITIONS

Sec.	
2101.	Civil service; armed forces; uniformed services.
2101a.	The Senior Executive Service.
2102.	The competitive service.
2103.	The excepted service.
2104.	Officer.
2105.	Employee.
2106.	Member of Congress.
2107.	Congressional employee.
2108.	Veteran; disabled veteran; preference eligible.
2108a.	Treatment of certain individuals as veterans, disabled veterans, and preference eligibles.
2109.	Air traffic controller; Secretary.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2011—Pub. L. 112-56, title II, §235(a)(2)(B), Nov. 21, 2011, 125 Stat. 723, added item 2108a.

1980—Pub. L. 96-347, §1(d), Sept. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 1150, substituted “controller; Secretary” for “controller” in item 2109.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1979 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-54 effective July 12, 1979, see section 2(b) of Pub. L. 96-54, set out as a note under section 305 of this title.

SHORT TITLE OF 1998 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 105-339, §1, Oct. 31, 1998, 112 Stat. 3182, provided that: “This Act [enacting sections 3330a to 3330c of this title, section 1316a of Title 2, The Congress, section 115 of Title 3, The President, and section 1354 of Title 31, Money and Finance, amending sections 2108, 2302, and 3304 of this title and section 4212 of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits, repealing section 1599c of Title 10, Armed Forces, enacting provisions set out as notes under section 2302 of this title and section 601 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 106 of Title 49, Transportation] may be cited as the ‘Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998.’”

SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-226, §1, Mar. 30, 1994, 108 Stat. 111, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 3381, 4101,

4103, 4105, 4107, 4108, 4113, 4118, 5597, 8351, 8433 to 8435, 8437, 8440a to 8440d of this title and section 1206 of Title 45, Railroads, repealing sections 4106 and 4114 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 3101, 3381, 5597, 8331, and 8351 of this title, and amending provisions set out as a note under section 403-4 of Title 50, War and National Defense] may be cited as the ‘Federal Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 101-508, title VII, §7202(a), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-335, provided that: “This section [amending sections 2105, 3502, 5334, 5335, 5365, 5551, 6308, 6312, 8331, 8347, 8401, 8461, and 8901 of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 2105 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Portability of Benefits for Non-appropriated Fund Employees Act of 1990’.”

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

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.

COORDINATION OF TITLE VII OF PUB. L. 101-508 WITH SECTION 909 OF TITLE 2

Pub. L. 101-508, title VII, §7301, Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-341, provided that: “For purposes of section 202 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Reaffirmation Act of 1987 [probably means section 202 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987, Pub. L. 100-119, which was formerly classified to section 909 of Title 2, The Congress], this title and the amendments made by this title [amending sections 552a, 2105, 3502, 5334, 5335, 5365, 5551, 6308, 6312, 8331, 8334, 8339, 8342, 8343a, 8347, 8348, 8401, 8420a, 8461, 8901, 8902, 8904, 8906, 8909, and 8910 of this title, enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and sections 552a, 2105, 8334, 8343a, 8348, 8902, 8904, and 8906 of this title, amending provisions set out as notes under sections 8343a and 8906 of this title, and repealing provisions set out as notes under sections 8343a and 8348 of this title] shall be considered an exception under subsection (b) of such section.”

§ 2101a. The Senior Executive Service

The “Senior Executive Service” consists of Senior Executive Service positions (as defined in section 3132(a)(2) of this title).

(Added Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §401(a), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1154.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective 9 months after Oct. 13, 1978, and congressional review of provisions of sections 401 through 412 of Pub. L. 95-454, see section 415 of Pub. L. 95-454, set out as a note under section 3131 of this title.

§ 2102. The competitive service

(a) The “competitive service” consists of—

(1) all civil service positions in the executive branch, except—

(A) positions which are specifically excepted from the competitive service by or under statute;

(B) positions to which appointments are made by nomination for confirmation by the

Senate, unless the Senate otherwise directs; and

(C) positions in the Senior Executive Service;

(2) civil service positions not in the executive branch which are specifically included in the competitive service by statute; and

(3) positions in the government of the District of Columbia which are specifically included in the competitive service by statute.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1)(B) of this section, the “competitive service” includes positions to which appointments are made by nomination for confirmation by the Senate when specifically included therein by statute.

(c) As used in other Acts of Congress, “classified civil service” or “classified service” means the “competitive service”.

(Pub. L. 89-554, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 408; Pub. L. 95-454, title IV, §401(b), Oct. 13, 1978, 92 Stat. 1154.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Derivation</i>	<i>U.S. Code</i>	<i>Revised Statutes and Statutes at Large</i>
(a)	5 U.S.C. 638 (less applicability to appointment and promotion).	Jan. 16, 1883, ch. 27, §7 (less applicability to appointment and promotion), 22 Stat. 406.

Subsection (a) is restated in the form of a definition. Subsection (a)(1) is based on former section 638, which placed positions in the executive branch of the Government generally in the competitive service by the requirement that employment be predicated on passing an examination or being exempted from examination, and section 1 of the Act of Nov. 26, 1940, ch. 919, title I, 54 Stat. 1211 (see table III), which authorized the President, subject to certain exceptions, to place in the classified civil service positions in the Executive departments, independent establishments, and other agencies of the Government. In that Act the word “executive” has been construed to modify “departments”, “independent establishments”; and “other agency”. This construction is supported by the language of the Act of Jan. 16, 1883, and is embodied in Civil Service Rule I. Acting under this statute, the President has placed all but a comparatively few of the positions covered by the Act of Nov. 26, 1940, in the competitive service. The remainder are covered by the exceptions contained in the Civil Service Rules and Regulations. The authority of the President conferred by the Act of Nov. 26, 1940, has been superseded in part by exceptions created by statutes enacted after that date. The effect of these exceptions and the power conferred on the President by former section 633(2)8 (last sentence) to make exceptions to the Civil Service Rules are preserved by the words “positions which are specifically excepted from the competitive service by or under statute”.

In subsection (a)(1)(B), the words “or to pass an examination” are omitted as covered by the exclusion from the “competitive service”.

Subsection (a)(2) preserves the exception stated in former section 638 modified to recognize the several statutory exceptions to this exception that have been enacted. The language of former section 638 relative to examination is codified in sections 3304(b) and 3361. The reference to veterans’ preference is omitted because the statute referred to, R.S. §1754, was superseded by sections 3 and 21 of the Act of June 18, 1929, ch. 28, 46 Stat. 21. Section 3 of the Act of June 18, 1929, was superseded by the Act of June 27, 1944, ch. 287, 58 Stat. 387, as amended, which is carried into this title. Rights preserved by section 18 of the Act of June 27, 1944, are further preserved by technical section 8. The exception for