Chapter 115—TREASON, SEDITION, AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Sec.
2381. Treason.
2382. Misprision of treason.
2383. Rebellion or insurrection.
2385. Advocating overthrow of Government.
2386. Registration of certain organizations.
2387. Activities affecting armed forces generally.
2388. Recruiting for service against United States.
2389. Enlistment to serve against United States.
2390. Temporary extension of section 2388.

AMENDMENTS

Cross References
Compelling testimony, immunity of witnesses, see section 6002 of this title.
Wire or oral communications, authorization for interception, to provide evidence of offenses under this section, see section 2516 of this title.

CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS
This chapter is referred to in section 2516 of this title; title 5 sections 2510, 2512; title 10 sections 481, 402.

§ 2381. Treason.

Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States, or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years and fined not less than $10,000; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 807.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Section consolidates sections 1 and 2 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed.
The language referring to collection of the fine was omitted as obsolete and repugnant to the more humane policy of modern law which does not impose criminal penalties for political offenses.
The words "every person so convicted of treason" were added as redundant.
Minor change was made in phraseology.

Canal Zone
Applicability of section to Canal Zone, see section 14 of this title.

Cross References
Ball in capital cases, power to take, see section 3141 of this title.
Counsel and witnesses in capital cases, see section 3009 of this title.
Definition and proof of treason, see Const. Art. 3, § 3, cl. 1.
Disqualification from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit, additional grounds for, see sections 204, 502, 503, 1001, 2071, 2385, and 2397 of this title.
Extradition—State or territory to State, district or territory, see section 2102 of this title.
State, territory, or possession into extraterritorial jurisdiction of United States, see section 2183 of this title.
Federal retirement benefits, forfeiture upon conviction of offenses under this section, see section 8312 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.
Forfeiture of veterans' benefits upon conviction under this section, see section 3505 of Title 38, Veterans' Benefits.
Grand jury indictment for capital crimes, see Const. Amend. 5.

Indictment and list of jurors and witnesses for prisoner in capital cases, see section 3432 of this title.
National Service Life Insurance, forfeiture of right to insurance on account of treason, see section 711 of Title 38, Veterans' Benefits.
Officers aiding importation of treasonous books and articles, see section 1252 of this title.
Punishment of treason, power of Congress to declare, see Const. Art. 3, § 3, cl. 2.
United States nationality as lost by committing any act of treason, see sections 1481-1489 of Title 5, Alliens and Nationality.
Writings advocating treason declared nonmailable, see section 1717 of this title.

FEDERAL RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
Ball, see rule 48 (a). Appendix to this title.
Indictment, see rule 7 (a).
Stay of execution and relief pending review, see rule 38.
Trial jurors, peremptory challenges, see rule 24 (b).

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS
This section is referred to in section 14 of this title; title 5 section 8312; title 38 section 3505.

§ 2382. Misprision of treason.

Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States and having knowledge of the commission of any treason against them, conceals and does not, as soon as may be, disclose and make known the same to the President or to some judge of the United States, or to the governor or to some judge or justice of a particular State, is guilty of misprision of treason and shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than seven years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 807.)
** § 2384  
** TITLE 18.—CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE  

** § 2385. Advocating overthrow of Government.**

Whoever knowingly or willfully advocates, abets, advises, or teaches the duty, necessity, desirability, or propriety of overthrowing or destroying the government of the United States or the government of any State, Territory, District or Possession thereof, or the government of any political subdivision therein, by force or violence, or by the assassination of any officer of any such government; or

Whoever, with intent to cause the overthrow or destruction of any such government, prints, publishes, edits, issues, circulates, sells, distributes, or publicly displays any written or printed matter advocating, advising, or teaching the duty, necessity, desirability, or propriety of overthrowing or destroying any government in the United States by force or violence, or attempts to do so; or

Whoever organizes or helps or attempts to organize any society, group, or assembly of persons who teach, advocate, or encourage the overthrow or destruction of any such government by force or violence; or becomes or is a member of, or affiliates with, any such society, group, or assembly of persons, knowing the purposes thereof—

Shall be fined not more than $20,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both, and shall be ineligible for employment by the United States or any department or agency thereof, for the five years next following his conviction.

If two or more persons conspire to commit any offense named in this section, each shall be fined not more than $20,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both, and shall be ineligible for employment by the United States or any department or agency thereof, for the five years next following his conviction.

As used in this section, the terms "organizes" and "organize", with respect to any society, group, or assembly of persons, include the recruiting of new members, the forming of new units, and the reorganizing or expansion of existing clubs, classes, and other units of such society, group, or assembly of persons.


**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**


AMENDMENTS

June 24, 1956, substituted "$20,000" for "$5,000", and "twenty years" for "six years".

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1956 AMENDMENT**

Section 3 of act July 24, 1956, provided that the amendments to this section and section 2385 of this title by such act July 24, 1956, shall be applicable only with respect to offenses committed on and after July 24, 1956.

**CANAL ZONE**

Applicability of section to Canal Zone, see section 14 of this title.
In view of these changes, the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10 of Title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., which defined the term “government in the United States” were omitted as unnecessary.

Reference to conspiracy to commit any of the prohibited acts was omitted as covered by the general conspiracy provision, incorporated in section 371 of this title. (See reviser’s note under that section.)

Words “upon conviction thereof” which preceded “be fined” were omitted as surplusage, as punishment cannot be imposed until a conviction is secured.

The phraseology was considerably changed to effect consolidation but without any change of substance.

**AMENDMENTS**

1962—Pub. L. 87–480 defined the terms “organizes” and “organizer.”

1956—Act July 24, 1956, substituted “$20,000” for “$10,000,” and “Twenty years” for “ten years” in the paragraph prescribing penalties applicable to advocating overthrow of government and added provisions relating to conspiracy to commit any offense named in this section.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1956 AMENDMENT**

Amendment of this section by act July 24, 1956, as applicable only with respect to offenses committed on and after July 24, 1956, see note under section 2384 of this title.

**CANAL ZONE**

Applicability of section to Canal Zone, see section 14 of this title.

**CROSS REFERENCES**

Allen advocates of overthrow of government, exclusion of, see section 1251 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

Disqualification from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit, additional grounds for, see sections 201, 592, 593, 1901, 2071, 2381, and 2387 of this title.

Federal retirement benefits, forfeiture upon conviction of offenses described hereunder, see section 9312 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Forfeiture of veterans’ benefits upon conviction under this section see section 3505 of Title 38, Veterans’ Benefits. United States nationality as lost by attempting by force to overthrow or bearing arms against the United States, see sections 1461—1469 of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality.

**SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS**

This section is referred to in section 14 of this title; title 5 section 9312; title 8 section 1461; title 38 section 3505.

§ 2386. Registration of certain organizations.

A) For the purposes of this section:

“Attorney General” means the Attorney General of the United States.

“Organization” means any group, club, league, society, committee, association, political party, combination of individuals, whether incorporated or otherwise, but such term shall not include any corporation, association, community chest, fund, or foundation, organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes.

“Political activity” means any activity the purpose or aim of which, is the control by force or overthrow of the Government of the United States or a political subdivision thereof, or any State or political subdivision thereof;

An organization is engaged in “civilian military activity” if:

1) it gives instruction to, or prescribes instruction for, its members in the use of firearms or other weapons or any substitute thereof, or military or naval science; or

2) it receives from any other organization or from any individual instruction in military or naval science;

3) it engages in any military or naval maneuvers or activities;

4) it engages, either with or without arms, in drills or parades of a military or naval character;

5) it engages in any other form of organized activity which in the opinion of the Attorney General constitutes preparation for military action;

An organization is “subject to foreign control” if:

a) it solicits or accepts financial contributions, loans, or support of any kind, directly or indirectly, from, or is affiliated directly or indirectly with, a foreign government or a political subdivision thereof, or an agent, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, or a political party in a foreign country, or an international political organization;

b) its policies, or any of them, are determined by or at the suggestion of, or in collaboration with, a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, or an agent, agency, or instrumentality of a foreign government or political subdivision thereof, or a political party in a foreign country, or an international political organization.

B) (1) The following organizations shall be required to register with the Attorney General:

Every organization subject to foreign control which engages in political activity;

Every organization which engages both in civilian military activity and in political activity;

Every organization subject to foreign control which engages in civilian military activity; and

Every organization, the purpose or aim of which, or one of the purposes or aims of which, is the establishment, control, conduct, seizure, or overthrow of a government or subdivision thereof by the use of force, violence, military measures, or threats of any one or more of the foregoing.

Every such organization shall register by filing with the Attorney General on such forms and in such detail as the Attorney General may by rules and regulations prescribe, a registration statement containing the information and documents prescribed in subsection (B)(2) and shall within thirty days after the expiration of each period of six months succeeding the filing of such registration statement, file with the Attorney General, on such forms and in such detail as the Attorney General may by rules and regulations prescribe, a supplemental statement containing such information and documents as may be necessary to make the information and documents previously filed under this section accurate and current with respect to such preceding six months’ period. Every statement required to be filed by this section shall be subscribed, under oath, by all of the officers of the organization.

(2) This section shall not require registration or the filing of any statement with the Attorney General by:

a) The armed forces of the United States; or
(b) The organized militia or National Guard of any State, Territory, District, or possession of the United States; or

(c) Any law-enforcement agency of the United States or of any Territory, District or possession thereof, or of any State or political subdivision of a State, or of any agency or instrumentality of one or more States; or

(d) Any duly established diplomatic mission or consular office of a foreign government which is so recognized by the Department of State; or

(e) Any nationally recognized organization of persons who are veterans of the armed forces of the United States, or affiliates of such organizations.

(3) Every registration statement required to be filed by any organization shall contain the following information and documents:

(a) The name and post-office address of the organization in the United States, and the names and addresses of all branches, chapters, and affiliates of such organization;

(b) The name, address, and nationality of each officer, and of each person who performs the functions of an officer, of the organization, and of each branch, chapter, and affiliate of the organization;

(c) The qualifications for membership in the organization;

(d) The existing and proposed aims and purposes of the organization, and all the means by which these aims or purposes are being attained or are to be attained;

(e) The address or addresses of meeting places of the organization, and of each branch, chapter, or affiliate of the organization, and the times of meetings;

(f) The name and address of each person who has contributed any money, dues, property, or other thing of value to the organization or to any branch, chapter, or affiliate of the organization;

(g) A detailed statement of the assets of the organization, and of each branch, chapter, and affiliate of the organization, the manner in which such assets were acquired, and a detailed statement of the liabilities and income of the organization and of each branch, chapter, and affiliate of the organization;

(h) A description of the uniforms, badges, insignia, or other means of identification prescribed by the organization, and worn or carried by its officers or members, or any of such officers or members;

(i) A copy of each book, pamphlet, leaflet, or other publication or item of written, printed, or graphic matter issued or distributed directly or indirectly by the organization, or by any chapter, branch, or affiliate of the organization, or by any of the members of the organization under its authority or within its knowledge, together with the name of its author or authors and the name and address of the publisher;

(j) A description of all firearms or other weapons owned by the organization, or by any chapter, branch, or affiliate of the organization, identified by the manufacturer's number thereon;

(1) In case the organization is subject to foreign control, the manner in which it is so subject;

(m) A copy of the charter, articles of association, constitution, bylaws, rules, regulations, agreements, resolutions, and all other instruments relating to the organization, powers, and purposes of the organization and to the powers of the officers of the organization and of each chapter, branch, and affiliate of the organization; and

(n) Such other information and documents pertinent to the purposes of this section as the Attorney General may from time to time require.

All statements filed under this section shall be public records and open to public examination and inspection at all reasonable hours under such rules and regulations as the Attorney General may prescribe.

(C) The Attorney General is authorized at any time to make, amend, and rescind such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section, including rules and regulations governing the statements required to be filed.

(D) Whoever violates any of the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

Whoever in a statement filed pursuant to this section willfully makes any false statement or willfully omits to state any fact which is required to be stated, or which is necessary to make the statements made not misleading, shall be fined not more than $2,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 465, 62 Stat. 808.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Section consolidates sections 14—17 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., as subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d), respectively, of this section, with necessary changes of phrasing and translation of section references.

Words "upon conviction" which preceded "he subject" were omitted as surplusage, as punishment cannot otherwise be imposed.

§ 2387. Activities affecting armed forces generally.

(a) Whoever, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of the military or naval forces of the United States:

(1) advises, counsels, urges, or in any manner causes or attempts to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States; or

(2) distributes or attempts to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States—

Shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, and shall be ineligible for employment by the United States or any department or agency thereof, for the five years next following his conviction.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "military or naval forces of the United States" includes the Army of the United States, the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve of the United States; and, when any merchant vessel is commissioned in the Navy or in the service of the
Army or the Navy, includes the master, officers, and crew of such vessel. (June 25, 1948, ch. 649, 82 Stat. 611; May 24, 1949, ch. 139, § 46, 63 Stat. 96.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Section consolidates sections 9, 11, and 13 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., with only such changes of phraseology as were necessary to effect consolidation.

The revised section extends the provisions so as to include the Coast Guard Reserve in its coverage.

Words "upon conviction thereof" were omitted as unnecessary, as punishment cannot be imposed until conviction is secured.

Reference to conspiracy to commit any of the prohibited acts was omitted as covered by the general law incorporated in section 371 of this title. (See revisor's note under that section.)

Minor changes were made in arrangement and phraseology.

AMENDMENTS

1949—Subsec. (b). Act May 24, 1949, made section applicable to the Air Force.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

The Coast Guard was transferred to the Department of Transportation and all functions, powers, and duties, relating to the Coast Guard, of the Secretary of the Treasury, including the functions of other offices and officers of the Department of the Treasury were transferred to the Secretary of Transportation by Pub. L. 89–670, Oct. 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 691, which created the Department of Transportation.

See section 1653(b) of Title 49, Transportation.

All functions of all offices of the Department of the Treasury, and all functions of all agencies and employees of such Department, were transferred, with certain exceptions, to the Secretary of the Treasury, with power vested in him to authorize their performance or the performance of any of his functions, by any of such officers, agencies, and employees, by 1950 Reorg. Plan No. 26, § 1, 2, eff. July 31, 1950, 15 F.R. 4935, 64 Stat. 1280, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. Such plan excepted from the transfer the functions of the Coast Guard, and of the Commandant thereof, when the Coast Guard is operating as a part of the Navy under section 1 and 3 of Title 14, Coast Guard.

CANAL ZONE

Applicability of section to Canal Zone, see section 14 of this title.

CROSS REFERENCES

Disqualification from holding any office of honor, trust, or profit, additional grounds for, see sections 204, 592, 593, 1001, 2071, 2381, and 2385 of this title.

Federal retirement benefits, forfeiture upon conviction of offenses described hereunder, see section 8312 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Forfeiture of veterans' benefits upon conviction under this section, see section 3505 of Title 38, Veterans' Benefits.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 14 of this title; title 5 section 8312; title 38 section 3505.

§2388. Activities affecting armed forces during war.

(a) Whoever, when the United States is at war, willfully makes or conveys false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies; or

Whoever, when the United States is at war, willfully causes or attempts to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States, or willfully obstructs the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States, to the injury of the service or the United States, or attempts to do so—

Shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

(b) If two or more persons conspire to violate subsection (a) of this section and one or more such persons do any act to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be punished as provided in said subsection (a).

(c) Whoever harbors or conceals anyone who he knows, or has reasonable grounds to believe or suspect, has committed, or is about to commit, an offense under this section, shall be fined not more than $10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

(d) This section shall apply within the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of the United States, and on the high seas, as well as within the United States. (June 25, 1946, ch. 649, 82 Stat. 611.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Minor changes were made in phraseology.

REPEALS

Section 7 of act June 30, 1952, ch. 176, 67 Stat. 139, repealed Joint Res. July 3, 1925, ch. 570, § 1(a) (20), 66 Stat. 333; Joint Res. Mar. 31, 1953, ch. 1, § 1, 67 Stat. 18, which had provided that this section should continue in force until six months after the termination of the National Emergency proclaimed by 1930 Proc. No. 2014 which is set out as a note preceding section 1 of Appendix to Title 50, War and National Defense.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SECTION

Temporary extension of section, see section 2301 of this title.

REPEAL OF PRIOR EXTENSIONS OF WAR-TIME PROVISIONS


CANAL ZONE

Applicability of section to Canal Zone, see section 14 of this title.

CROSS REFERENCES

Federal retirement benefits, forfeiture upon conviction of offenses described hereunder, see section 8312 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Forfeiture of veterans' benefits upon conviction under this section, see section 3505 of Title 38, Veterans' Benefits.

Jurisdiction of offenses, see section 3641 of this title.

Letters, writings, etc., in violation of this section as nonmailable, see section 1717 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in sections 14, 1717, 2391 of this title; title 5 section 8312; title 8 section 1251; title 38 section 3505.

§2389. Recruiting for service against United States.

Whoever recruits soldiers or sailors within the United States, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, to engage in armed hostility against the same; or

Whoever opens within the United States, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, a recruiting
station for the enlistment of such soldiers or sailors to serve in any manner in armed hostility against the United States—

shall be fined not more than $1,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. (June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 811.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Mandatory punishment provision was rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

§ 2390. Enlistment to serve against United States.

Whoever enlists or is engaged within the United States or in any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, with intent to serve in armed hostility against the United States, shall be fined $100 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both. (June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 812.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Mandatory punishment provision was rephrased in the alternative.

Minor changes were made in phraseology.

§ 2391. Temporary extension of section 2388.

The provisions of section 2388 of this title, as amended and extended by section 1 (a) (29) of the Emergency Powers Continuation Act (66 Stat. 333), as further amended by Public Law 12, Eighty-third Congress, referred to in text, formerly set out as a note under section 2388 of this title, was repealed by section 7 of act June 30, 1953.

Proc. 1922, 3 C. F. R., 1950 Supp., p. 71, referred to in the text, is an erroneous citation. It probably should refer to Proc. 2014 which is set out as a note preceding section 1 of Appendix to Title 50, War and National Defense.

Chapter 117.—WHITE SLAVE TRAFFIC

Sec. 2421. Transportation generally.

2422. Coercion or enticement of female.

2423. Coercion or enticement of minor female.

2424. Filing factual statement about alien female.

§ 2421. Transportation generally.

Whoever knowingly transports in interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or in any Territory or Possession of the United States, any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose, or with the intent and purpose to induce, entice, or compel such woman or girl to become a prostitute or to give herself up to debauchery, or to engage in any other immoral practice; or

Whoever knowingly procures or obtains any ticket or tickets, or any form of transportation or evidence of the right thereto, to be used by any woman or girl in Interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or any Territory or Possession of the United States, in going to any place for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose, or with the intent or purpose on the part of such person to induce, entice, or compel her to give herself up to the practice of prostitution, or to give herself up to debauchery, or any other immoral practice, whereby any such woman or girl shall be transported in Interstate or foreign commerce, or in the District of Columbia or any Territory or Possession of the United States—

shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. (June 25, 1948, ch. 645, 62 Stat. 812; May 24, 1949, ch. 139, § 47, 63 Stat. 96.)

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY


Section consolidates sections 397, 398, 401, and 404 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed.

Section 397 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., containing a definition of the terms "interstate commerce" and "foreign commerce" was omitted as unnecessary in view of the definition of those terms in section 10 of this title.

Section 401 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., prescribing venue was omitted as unnecessary in view of section 3237 of this title.

Section 403 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., was omitted.

No definition of "Territory" is necessary to the revised section as it is phrased. Construction therein of "person" is covered by section 1 of title 1, U. S. C., 1940 ed., General Provisions, as amended. Last paragraph of said section relating to construction of this chapter was omitted as surplusage.

Words "Possession of the United States" were inserted in three places in view of omission of said section 403 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., and, reference in that section to the Canal Zone is covered by those words. This chapter applies to the Territory of Hawaii. (See Sun Chung Lee v. United States, C. C. A. Hawaii, 1942, 125 F. 2d 96.)

Section 404 of title 18, U. S. C., 1940 ed., containing the short title was omitted as not appropriate in a revision.