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Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which is classified principally to this chapter, is act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724. It was originally enacted as the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, 60 Stat. 755, which consisted of sections 1 to 21 and was classified generally to chapter 14 (§1801 et seq.) of this title. The Atomic Energy Act of 1946 was renamed the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and amended generally by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 919, and was subsequently transferred to this chapter. Sections that were enacted as part of the 1954 general amendment are shown herein as having been added to act Aug. 1, 1946, and not as amending it, due to the extensive revision and restatement of the 1946 Act's provisions by the 1954 Act. Sections added to the Act after the 1954 general amendment are shown as being added directly to act Aug. 1, 1946, without reference in their source credits to act Aug. 30, 1954.

Division A—Atomic Energy

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 2011. Congressional declaration of policy

Atomic energy is capable of application for peaceful as well as military purposes. It is therefore declared to be the policy of the United States that—

(a) the development, use, and control of atomic energy shall be directed so as to make the maximum contribution to the general welfare, subject at all times to the paramount objective of making the maximum contribution to the common defense and security; and

(b) the development, use, and control of atomic energy shall be directed so as to promote world peace, improve the general welfare, increase the standard of living, and strengthen free competition in private enterprise.

(Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, §1, as added Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 921; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, §902(a)(8), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2944.)

Editorial Notes

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1 of act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, 60 Stat. 755, which related to declaration of policy and purpose of former chapter 14 of this title, was classified to section 1801 of this title, prior to the general amendment and renumbering of act Aug. 1, 1946, by act Aug. 30, 1954.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE OF 2022 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 117-139, §1, June 7, 2022, 136 Stat. 1258, provided that: “This Act [amending provisions set out as a note under section 2210 of this title] may be cited as the ‘RECA Extension Act of 2022’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2019 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 115-439, §1(a), Jan. 14, 2019, 132 Stat. 5565, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 2215 of this title, amending sections 2134 and 2214 of this title, repealing section 2214 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2133, 2134, 2214, and 2215 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 114-17, §1, May 22, 2015, 129 Stat. 201, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 2160e of this title] may be cited as the ‘Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-239, div. C, title XXXI, §3171, Jan. 2, 2013, 126 Stat. 2211, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle F (§§3171-3178) of title XXXI of div. C of Pub. L. 112-239, enacting sections 2065 and 2142 of this title, amending section 2160d of this title, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 2065 of this title] may be cited as the ‘American Medical Isotopes Production Act of 2012’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2005 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-58, title VI, §601, Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 779, provided that: “This subtitle [subtitle A (§§601-610) of title VI of Pub. L. 109-58, amending sections 2210 and 2282a of this title and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2210 and 2282a of this title] may be cited as the ‘Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 2005’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 106-245, §1, July 10, 2000, 114 Stat. 501, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 285a-9 of this title and enacting and amending provisions set out as notes under section 2210 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2000’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-134, title III, §3101, Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-335, provided that: “This subchapter [subch. A (§§3101-3117) of ch. 1 of title III of Pub. L. 104-134, enacting sections 2297h to 2297h-13 of this title, amending sections 2014, 2239, 2243, 2282, 2296b-7, 2297f, and 2297f-1 of this title and section 9101 of Title 31, Money and Finance, repealing sections 2297 to 2297e-7 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 2297 of this title and section 9101 of Title 31] may be cited as the ‘USEC Privatization Act’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1988 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 100-408, §1, Aug. 20, 1988, 102 Stat. 1066, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 2282a of this title, amending sections 2014, 2210, and 2273 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2014 and 2210 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Price-Anderson Amendments Act of 1988’.”

SHORT TITLE OF 1964 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 88-489, §21, Aug. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 607, provided that: "This Act [amending sections 2012, 2013, 2073 to 2078, 2135, 2153, 2201, 2221, 2233, and 2234 of this title, repealing section 2072 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under sections 2012 and 2072 of this title] may be cited as the 'Private Ownership of Special Nuclear Materials Act'."

SHORT TITLE OF 1958 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 85-846, §1, Aug. 28, 1958, 72 Stat. 1084, provided: "That this Act [enacting sections 2291 to 2296 of this title] may be cited as the 'EURATOM Cooperation Act of 1958'."

SHORT TITLE

Act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, §291, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 960; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, §902(a)(8), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2944, provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 190j and 622 of Title 2, The Congress, and repealing sections 2251 to 2257 and 2315 of this title] may be cited as the 'Atomic Energy Act of 1954'."

SEPARABILITY

Act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, §281, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, §1; renumbered title I, Oct. 24, 1992, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, §902(a)(8), 106 Stat. 2944, provided that: "If any provision of this Act [see Short Title note above] or the application of such provision to any person or circumstances, is held invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to persons or circumstances other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby."

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Atomic Energy Commission abolished and functions transferred by sections 5814 and 5841 of this title. See also Transfer of Functions notes set out under those sections.

§ 2012. Congressional findings

The Congress of the United States makes the following findings concerning the development, use, and control of atomic energy:

(a) The development, utilization, and control of atomic energy for military and for all other purposes are vital to the common defense and security.

(b) Repealed. Pub. L. 88-489, §1, Aug. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 602.

(c) The processing and utilization of source, byproduct, and special nuclear material affect interstate and foreign commerce and must be regulated in the national interest.

(d) The processing and utilization of source, byproduct, and special nuclear material must be regulated in the national interest and in order to provide for the common defense and security and to protect the health and safety of the public.

(e) Source and special nuclear material, production facilities, and utilization facilities are affected with the public interest, and regulation by the United States of the production and utilization of atomic energy and of the facilities used in connection therewith is necessary in the national interest to assure the common defense and security and to protect the health and safety of the public.

(f) The necessity for protection against possible interstate damage occurring from the operation of facilities for the production or utilization

tion of source or special nuclear material places the operation of those facilities in interstate commerce for the purposes of this chapter.

(g) Funds of the United States may be provided for the development and use of atomic energy under conditions which will provide for the common defense and security and promote the general welfare.

(h) Repealed. Pub. L. 88-489, §2, Aug. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 602.

(i) In order to protect the public and to encourage the development of the atomic energy industry, in the interest of the general welfare and of the common defense and security, the United States may make funds available for a portion of the damages suffered by the public from nuclear incidents, and may limit the liability of those persons liable for such losses.

(Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, title I, §2, as added Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 921; amended Pub. L. 85-256, §1, Sept. 2, 1957, 71 Stat. 576; Pub. L. 88-489, §§1, 2, Aug. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 602; renumbered title I, Pub. L. 102-486, title IX, §902(a)(8), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2944.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (f), was in the original "this Act", meaning act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, as added by act Aug. 30, 1954, ch. 1073, §1, 68 Stat. 919, known as the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2011 of this title and Tables.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2 of act Aug. 1, 1946, ch. 724, 60 Stat. 756, which related to establishment of Atomic Energy Commission, its membership, tenure, compensation, and appointment of certain officers and committees, was classified to section 1802 of this title, prior to the general amendment of act Aug. 1, 1946, by act Aug. 30, 1954.

AMENDMENTS

1964—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 88-489, §1, struck out subsec. (b) which found that use of United States property by others must be regulated in national interest and in order to provide for common defense and security and to protect health and safety of public.

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 88-489, §2, struck out subsec. (h) which found it essential to common defense and security that title to all special nuclear material be in United States while such special nuclear material is within United States.

1957—Subsec. (i). Pub. L. 85-256 added subsec. (i).

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CONTROL AND REGULATION POWERS OF UNITED STATES AND OF ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION UNAFFECTED BY PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS

Pub. L. 88-489, §20, Aug. 26, 1964, 78 Stat. 607, provided that: "Nothing in this Act [amending this section and sections 2013, 2073 to 2078, 2135, 2153, 2201, 2233 and 2234 of this title, repealing section 2072 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section and section 2072 of this title] shall be deemed to diminish existing authority of the United States, or of the Atomic Energy Commission under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended [this chapter], to regulate source, byproduct, and special nuclear material and production and utilization facilities, or to control such