

Public Law 104-292
104th Congress

An Act

To amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to the crime of false statement in a Government matter.

Oct. 11, 1996

[H.R. 3166]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

False Statements
Accountability
Act of 1996.
18 USC 1001
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “False Statements Accountability Act of 1996”.

SEC. 2. RESTORING FALSE STATEMENTS PROHIBITION.

Section 1001 of title 18, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1001. Statements or entries generally

“(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, whoever, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Government of the United States, knowingly and willfully—

“(1) falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact;

“(2) makes any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or

“(3) makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry;

shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

“(b) Subsection (a) does not apply to a party to a judicial proceeding, or that party’s counsel, for statements, representations, writings or documents submitted by such party or counsel to a judge or magistrate in that proceeding.

“(c) With respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of the legislative branch, subsection (a) shall apply only to—

“(1) administrative matters, including a claim for payment, a matter related to the procurement of property or services, personnel or employment practices, or support services, or a document required by law, rule, or regulation to be submitted to the Congress or any office or officer within the legislative branch; or

“(2) any investigation or review, conducted pursuant to the authority of any committee, subcommittee, commission or office of the Congress, consistent with applicable rules of the House or Senate.”.

SEC. 3. CLARIFYING PROHIBITION ON OBSTRUCTING CONGRESS.

Section 1515 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) As used in section 1505, the term ‘corruptly’ means acting with an improper purpose, personally or by influencing another, including making a false or misleading statement, or withholding, concealing, altering, or destroying a document or other information.”.

SEC. 4. ENFORCING SENATE SUBPOENA.

Section 1365(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended in the second sentence, by striking “Federal Government acting within his official capacity” and inserting “executive branch of the Federal Government acting within his or her official capacity, except that this section shall apply if the refusal to comply is based on the assertion of a personal privilege or objection and is not based on a governmental privilege or objection the assertion of which has been authorized by the executive branch of the Federal Government”.

SEC. 5. COMPELLING TRUTHFUL TESTIMONY FROM IMMUNIZED WITNESS.

Section 6005 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “or ancillary to” after “any proceeding before”; and

- (2) in subsection (b)—

- (A) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting “or ancillary to” after “a proceeding before” each place that term appears; and

- (B) in paragraph (3), by adding a period at the end.

Approved October 11, 1996.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 3166 (S. 1734):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 104-680 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 142 (1996):

July 16, 17, considered and passed House.

July 25, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Sept. 26, House concurred in Senate amendments with an amendment.

Sept. 27, Senate concurred in House amendment.