

Ante, p. 306.

SEC. 9. (a) The section heading of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 2672. Administrative adjustment of claims”**

(b) The analysis of chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, immediately preceding section 2671 of such title, is amended by deleting the item

“2672. Administrative adjustment of claims of \$2,500 or less.”

and inserting in lieu thereof:

“2672. Administrative adjustment of claims.”

Effective date.

SEC. 10. This Act shall apply to claims accruing six months or more after the date of its enactment.

Approved July 18, 1966.

Public Law 89-507

AN ACT

To provide for judgments for costs against the United States.

July 18, 1966  
[H. R. 14182]

Judgments for  
costs against U.S.  
62 Stat. 973.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 2412 of title 28 of the United States Code is amended to read as follows:

“Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a judgment for costs, as enumerated in section 1920 of this title but not including the fees and expenses of attorneys may be awarded to the prevailing party in any civil action brought by or against the United States or any agency or official of the United States acting in his official capacity, in any court having jurisdiction of such action. A judgment for costs when taxed against the Government shall, in an amount established by statute or court rule or order, be limited to reimbursing in whole or in part the prevailing party for the costs incurred by him in the litigation. Payment of a judgment for costs shall be as provided in section 2414 and section 2517 of this title for the payment of judgments against the United States.”

75 Stat. 415;  
62 Stat. 979.

Repeal.

SEC. 2. Section 2520(d) of title 28 of the United States Code is hereby repealed.

Applicability.

SEC. 3. These amendments shall apply only to judgments entered in actions filed subsequent to the date of enactment of this Act. These amendments shall not authorize the reopening or modification of judgments entered prior to the enactment of this Act.

Approved July 18, 1966.

Public Law 89-508

AN ACT

To avoid unnecessary litigation by providing for the collection of claims of the United States, and for other purposes.

July 19, 1966  
[H. R. 13651]

Federal Claims  
Collection Act of  
1966.  
Definitions.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That this Act may be cited as the “Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966”.

SEC. 2. In this Act—

(a) “agency” means any department, office, commission, board, service, Government corporation, instrumentality, or other establishment or body in either the executive or legislative branch of the Federal Government;

(b) "head of an agency" includes, where applicable, commission, board, or other group of individuals having the decision-making responsibility for the agency.

SEC. 3. (a) The head of an agency or his designee, pursuant to regulations prescribed by him and in conformity with such standards as may be promulgated jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General, shall attempt collection of all claims of the United States for money or property arising out of the activities of, or referred to, his agency.

U.S. claims,  
collection.

(b) with respect to such claims of the United States that have not been referred to another agency, including the General Accounting Office, for further collection action and that do not exceed \$20,000, exclusive of interest, the head of an agency or his designee, pursuant to regulations prescribed by him and in conformity with such standards as may be promulgated jointly by the Attorney General and the Comptroller General, may (1) compromise any such claim, or (2) cause collection action on any such claim to be terminated or suspended where it appears that no person liable on the claim has the present or prospective financial ability to pay any significant sum thereon or that the cost of collecting the claim is likely to exceed the amount of recovery. The Comptroller General or his designee shall have the foregoing authority with respect to claims referred to the General Accounting Office by another agency for further collection action. The head of an agency or his designee shall not exercise the foregoing authority with respect to a claim as to which there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim, or misrepresentation on the part of the debtor or any other party having an interest in the claim, or a claim based in whole or in part on conduct in violation of the antitrust laws; nor shall the head of an agency, other than the Comptroller General of the United States, have authority to compromise a claim that arises from an exception made by the General Accounting Office in the account of an accountable officer.

(c) A compromise effected pursuant to authority conferred by subsection (b) of this section shall be final and conclusive on the debtor and on all officials, agencies, and courts of the United States, except if procured by fraud, misrepresentation, the presentation of a false claim, or mutual mistake of fact. No accountable officer shall be liable for any amount paid or for the value of property lost, damaged, or destroyed, where the recovery of such amount or value may not be had because of a compromise with a person primarily responsible under subsection (b).

SEC. 4. Nothing in this Act shall increase or diminish the existing authority of the head of an agency to litigate claims, or diminish his existing authority to settle, compromise, or close claims.

SEC. 5. This Act shall become effective on the one hundred and eightieth day following the date of its enactment.

Effective date.

Approved July 19, 1966.