§ 1541. Issuance without authority

Whoever, acting or claiming to act in any office or capacity under the United States, or a State, without lawful authority grants, issues, or verifies any passport or other instrument in the nature of a passport or for any person whomsoever; or

Whoever, being a consular officer authorized to grant, issue, or verify passports, knowingly and willfully grants, issues, or verifies any such passport to or for any person not owing allegiance, to the United States, whether a citizen or not—

Shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 25 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of this title)), 20 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 929 (a) of this title)), 10 years (in the case of the first or second such offense, if the offense was not committed to facilitate such an act of international terrorism or a drug trafficking crime), or 15 years (in the case of any other offense), or both.

For purposes of this section, the term “State” means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.


Historical and Revision Notes


The venue provision, which followed the punishment provisions, was omitted as covered by section 3238 of this title. Changes were made in phraseology.

Amendments


1996—Pub. L. 104–294, § 607(n)(1), struck out “or possession” after “or a State” in first par.

Pub. L. 104–294, § 607(n)(2), added last par. defining “State” for purposes of this section.

Pub. L. 104–208 substituted “imprisoned not more than 25 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 2331 of this title)), 20 years (if the offense was committed to facilitate a drug trafficking crime (as defined in section 929 (a) of this title)), 10 years (in the case of the first or second such offense, if the offense was not committed to facilitate such an act of international terrorism or a drug trafficking crime), or 15 years (in the case of any other offense)” for “imprisoned not more than 10 years” in third par.

1994—Pub. L. 103–322, § 330016(1)(G), which directed the amendment of this section by substituting “under this title” for “not more than $500”, could not be executed because the words “not more than $500” did not appear in text subsequent to amendment by Pub. L. 103–322, § 130009(a)(1). See below.

Pub. L. 103–322, § 130009(a)(1), substituted “under this title, imprisoned not more than 10 years” for “not more than $500 or imprisoned not more than one year” in last par.
Effective Date of 1996 Amendment

Amendment by Pub. L. 104–208 applicable with respect to offenses occurring on or after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 211(c) of Pub. L. 104–208, set out as a note under section 1028 of this title.