

Public Law 94-574  
94th Congress

An Act

To amend chapter 7, title 5, United States Code, with respect to procedure for judicial review of certain administrative agency action, and for other purposes.

Oct. 21, 1976

[S. 800]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That sections 702 and 703 of title 5, United States Code, are amended to read as follows:

Administrative  
agency action.  
Judicial review  
procedures.

“§ 702. Right of review

“A person suffering legal wrong because of agency action, or adversely affected or aggrieved by agency action within the meaning of a relevant statute, is entitled to judicial review thereof. An action in a court of the United States seeking relief other than money damages and stating a claim that an agency or an officer or employee thereof acted or failed to act in an official capacity or under color of legal authority shall not be dismissed nor relief therein be denied on the ground that it is against the United States or that the United States is an indispensable party. The United States may be named as a defendant in any such action, and a judgment or decree may be entered against the United States: *Provided*, That any mandatory or injunctive decree shall specify the Federal officer or officers (by name or by title), and their successors in office, personally responsible for compliance. Nothing herein (1) affects other limitations on judicial review or the power or duty of the court to dismiss any action or deny relief on any other appropriate legal or equitable ground; or (2) confers authority to grant relief if any other statute that grants consent to suit expressly or impliedly forbids the relief which is sought.

“§ 703. Form and venue of proceeding

“The form of proceeding for judicial review is the special statutory review proceeding relevant to the subject matter in a court specified by statute or, in the absence or inadequacy thereof, any applicable form of legal action, including actions for declaratory judgments or writs of prohibitory or mandatory injunction or habeas corpus, in a court of competent jurisdiction. If no special statutory review proceeding is applicable, the action for judicial review may be brought against the United States, the agency by its official title, or the appropriate officer. Except to the extent that prior, adequate, and exclusive opportunity for judicial review is provided by law, agency action is subject to judicial review in civil or criminal proceedings for judicial enforcement.”

SEC. 2. Section 1331(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking the final period and inserting a comma and adding thereafter the following: “except that no such sum or value shall be required in any such action brought against the United States, any agency thereof, or any officer or employee thereof in his official capacity.”

District courts,  
civil action  
amounts.

SEC. 3. The first paragraph of section 1391(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

District courts,  
venue.

“(e) A civil action in which a defendant is an officer or employee of the United States or any agency thereof acting in his official capacity or under color of legal authority, or an agency of the United States,

or the United States, may, except as otherwise provided by law, be brought in any judicial district in which (1) a defendant in the action resides, or (2) the cause of action arose, or (3) any real property involved in the action is situated, or (4) the plaintiff resides if no real property is involved in the action. Additional persons may be joined as parties to any such action in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and with such other venue requirements as would be applicable if the United States or one of its officers, employees, or agencies were not a party.”

28 USC app.

Approved October 21, 1976.

#### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-1656 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

SENATE REPORT No. 94-996 (Comm. on the Judiciary).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):

July 1, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 1, considered and passed House.