

CUSTOMS REGULA-
TIONS.
Ante, p. 982.
Ownership by cus-
toms officials in vessels,
cargoes, etc., prohib-
ited.

Penalty.

Punishment for re-
ceiving gratuities, etc.,
for services, by officials.

Prima facie evidence.

Punishment for brib-
ing, etc., customs offi-
cials.

Prima facie evidence.

Officials making sei-
zures to report and turn
over to collector, vessel,
vehicle, goods, etc.

Report by collector
to Solicitor of the Treas-
ury and district attor-
ney.

Accompanying state-
ment.

Duty of district attor-
ney.

of a felony and liable to the same penalties as are imposed by section 593 of this Act.

SEC. 599. INTERESTED OFFICERS.—No person employed under the authority of the United States, in the collection of duties on imports or tonnage, shall own, either in whole or in part, any vessel, or act as agent, attorney, or consignee for the owner or owners of any vessel, or of any cargo or lading on board the same; nor shall any such person import, or be concerned directly or indirectly in the importation, of any merchandise for sale into the United States. Every person who violates this section shall be liable to a penalty of \$500.

SEC. 600. GRATUITY.—Any officer or employee of the United States who, except in payment of the duties or exactions fixed by law, solicits, demands, exacts, or receives from any person, directly or indirectly, any gratuity, money, or thing of value, for any service performed under the customs laws, or in consideration of any official act to be performed by him, or of the omission of performance of any such act, in connection with or pertaining to the importation, entry, inspection or examination, or appraisement of merchandise or baggage, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both, and evidence, satisfactory to the court in which the trial is had, of such soliciting, demanding, exacting, or receiving shall be prima facie evidence that the same was contrary to law.

SEC. 601. BRIBERY.—Any person who gives, or offers to give, or promises to give, any money or thing of value, directly or indirectly, to any officer or employee of the United States in consideration of or for any act or omission contrary to law in connection with or pertaining to the importation, appraisement, entry, examination, or inspection of merchandise or baggage, or of the liquidation of the entry thereof, or by threats or demands or promises of any character attempts to improperly influence or control any such officer or employee of the United States as to the performance of his official duties, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both, and evidence of such giving, offering or promising to give, or attempting to influence or control, satisfactory to the court in which such trial is had, shall be prima facie evidence that the same was contrary to law.

SEC. 602. SEIZURE PROCEDURE—REPORT.—It shall be the duty of any officer, agent, or other person authorized by law to make seizures of merchandise or baggage subject to seizure for violation of the customs laws, to report every such seizure immediately to the collector for the district in which such violation occurred, and to turn over and deliver to such collector any vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage seized by him, and to report immediately to such collector every violation of the customs laws.

SEC. 603. SAME—FACTS TO REPORT.—It shall be the duty of the collector whenever a seizure of merchandise has been made for a violation of the customs laws to report the same to the Solicitor of the Treasury, and promptly also to report any such seizure or violation of the customs laws to the United States attorney for the district in which such violation has occurred, or in which such seizure was made, including in such report a statement of all the facts and circumstances of the case within his knowledge, with the names of the witnesses, and citation of the statute or statutes believed to have been violated, and on which reliance may be had for forfeiture or conviction.

SEC. 604. SAME—PROSECUTION.—It shall be the duty of every United States district attorney immediately to inquire into the facts

of cases reported to him by collectors and the laws applicable thereto, and, if it appears probable that any fine, penalty, or forfeiture has been incurred by reason of such violation, for the recovery of which the institution of proceedings in the United States district court is necessary, forthwith to cause the proper proceedings to be commenced and prosecuted, without delay, for the recovery of such fine, penalty, or forfeiture in such case provided, unless, upon inquiry and examination, such district attorney decides that such proceedings can not probably be sustained or that the ends of public justice do not require that they should be instituted or prosecuted, in which case he shall report the facts to the Secretary of the Treasury for his direction in the premises.

CUSTOMS REGULA-
TIONS.

Report to Secretary
if proceedings not rec-
ommended.

SEC. 605. SAME—CUSTODY.—All vessels, vehicles, merchandise, and baggage seized under the provisions of the customs laws, or laws relating to the navigation, registering, enrolling or licensing, or entry or clearance, of vessels, unless otherwise provided by law, shall be placed and remain in the custody of the collector for the district in which the seizure was made to await disposition according to law.

Collector to retain
seized vessels, etc.

SEC. 606. SAME—APPRAISEMENT.—The collector shall require the appraiser to determine the domestic value, at the time and place of appraisement, of any vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage seized under the customs laws.

Appraisement

SEC. 607. SAME—VALUE \$1,000 OR LESS.—If such value of such vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage returned by the appraiser, does not exceed \$1,000, the collector shall cause a notice of the seizure of such articles and the intention to forfeit and sell the same to be published for at least three successive weeks in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury may direct.

Publication of seiz-
ure, sale, etc., if not
valued over \$1,000.

SEC. 608. SAME—CLAIMS.—Any person claiming such vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage may at any time within twenty days from the date of the first publication of the notice of seizure file with the collector a claim stating his interest therein. Upon the filing of such claim, and the giving of a bond to the United States in the penal sum of \$250, with sureties to be approved by the collector, conditioned that in case of condemnation of the articles so claimed the obligor shall pay all the costs and expenses of the proceedings to obtain such condemnation, the collector shall transmit such claim and bond, with a duplicate list and description of the articles seized, to the United States attorney for the district in which seizure was made, who shall proceed to a condemnation of the merchandise or other property in the manner prescribed by law.

Claim for property
may be filed.

Condemnation pro-
ceedings on filing bond.

SEC. 609. SAME—SALE.—If no such claim is filed or bond given within the twenty days hereinbefore specified, the collector shall declare the vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage forfeited, and shall sell the same at public auction in the same manner as merchandise abandoned to the United States is sold, and shall deposit the proceeds of sale, after deducting the actual expenses of seizure, publication and sale, in the Treasury of the United States.

Forfeiture and sale
if no claim filed

Proceeds

SEC. 610. SAME—VALUE MORE THAN \$1,000.—If the value returned by the appraiser of any vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage so seized is greater than \$1,000, the collector shall transmit a report of the case, with the names of available witnesses, to the United States attorney for the district in which the seizure was made for the institution of the proper proceedings for the condemnation of such property.

Report to district
attorney if valued over
\$1,000.

SEC. 611. SAME—CONDITIONAL SALES.—If the sale of any vessel, vehicle, merchandise, or baggage forfeited under the customs laws in the district in which seizure thereof was made be prohibited by the laws of the State in which such district is located, or if a sale may be made more advantageously in any other district, the Secretary of the

Sale in another dis-
trict if laws of place
where seized, etc., pro-
hibit