

# ★ FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS ★

## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Established - February 8, 1889

- Provides information and assistance to farmers.
- Promotes conservation and administers the Forest Service.

- Operates federal food stamp and school lunch programs.
- Tests and enforces food quality and safety.

## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Established - March 4, 1913

- Conducts the census, as required by the Constitution.
- Administers the U.S. Weather Service.

- Runs the U.S. Patent Office.
- Regulates foreign and domestic commerce.

## **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Established - September 18, 1947

- Coordinates and manages the armed forces.

- Conducts research and engineering of military products.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Established - September 27, 1979

- Coordinates federal aid to state and local schools.

- Promotes research to improve the quality of schools.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

Established - August 4, 1977

- Administers hydroelectric and nuclear projects.
- Provides education for conserving energy.

- Promotes research on the production of energy.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Established - September 27, 1979

- Runs the social security program.
- Coordinates various health services.

- Promotes research into causes and treatments of diseases.

## **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

Established - September 9, 1965

- Conducts and coordinates city planning.
- Promotes fair housing.

- Regulates and oversees various federal housing projects.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Established - March 3, 1849

- Conducts mapping projects through the Geological Survey.
- Runs the national parks system.

- Provides services to Native Americans through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

## **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

Established - June 22, 1870

- Enforces the federal system of laws.
- Supervises the FBI and federal prison system.

- Represents the United States in legal matters.

## **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Established - March 4, 1913

- Enforces laws related to working conditions.

- Supervises various federal unemployment programs.

## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Established - September 15, 1789

- Conducts foreign affairs on behalf of the United States.
- Administers various foreign aid programs.

- Operates embassies and consulates in foreign nations.
- Issues passports.

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Established - October 15, 1966

- Oversees federal funds for building and improving roads, airports, and waterways.

- Administers air safety through the Federal Aviation Agency.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

Established - September 2, 1789

- Collects federal taxes through the Internal Revenue Service.

- Coins and prints all monies.
- Enforces customs laws.

## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Established - March 15, 1989

- Provides medical benefits to veterans.

- Provides burial benefits for veterans.