

(A) the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics;

(B) the Research, Education, and Extension Office; and

(C) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture; or

(7) the authority of the Secretary to establish in the Department the Office of Advocacy and Outreach in accordance with section 6934 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §296, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3238; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title X, §1001(4)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-42; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10704(c), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 518; Pub. L. 110-234, title VII, §7511(b), title XIV, §14013(b), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1267, 1453; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VII, §7511(b), title XIV, §14013(b), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2028, 2215.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 103-354, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3209, known as the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6901 of this title and Tables.

Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), is Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1953, June 4, 1953, 18 F.R. 3219, 67 Stat. 633, as amended, which is set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 110-246, §7511(b), added par. (6).

Subsec. (b)(7). Pub. L. 110-246, §14013(b), added par. (7).

2002—Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 107-171 added par. (5).

1998—Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 105-277 added par. (4).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER X—FREEDOM TO E-FILE

CODIFICATION

This subchapter was enacted as part of the Freedom to E-File Act, and not as part of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 which in part comprises this chapter.

§ 7031. Electronic filing and retrieval

(a) In general

Not later than 180 days after June 20, 2000, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this subchapter as the “Secretary”) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, establish an Internet-based system that enables agricultural producers to access all forms of the agencies of the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this subchapter as the “Department”) specified in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Applicability

The agencies referred to in subsection (a) of this section are the following:

(1) The Farm Service Agency.

(2) The Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(3) The rural development components of the Department included in the Secretary’s service center initiative regarding State and field office collocation implemented pursuant to section 6915 of this title.

(4) The agricultural producer programs component of the Commodity Credit Corporation administered by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(c) Implementation

In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) provide a method by which agricultural producers may—

(A) download from the Internet the forms of the agencies specified in subsection (b) of this section; and

(B) submit completed forms via electronic facsimile, mail, or similar means;

(2) redesign the forms by incorporating into the forms user-friendly formats and self-help guidance materials; and

(3) ensure that the agencies specified in subsection (b) of this section—

(A) use computer hardware and software that is compatible among the agencies and will operate in a common computing environment; and

(B) develop common Internet user-interface locations and applications to consolidate the agencies’ news, information, and program materials.

(d) Progress reports

Not later than 180 days after June 20, 2000, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes the progress made toward implementing the Internet-based system required under this section.

(Pub. L. 106-222, §2, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 353.)

§ 7032. Accessing information and filing over the Internet

(a) In general

Not later than 2 years after June 20, 2000, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall expand implementation of the Internet-based system established under section 7031 of this title by enabling agricultural producers to access and file all forms and, at the option of the Secretary, selected records and information of the agencies of the Department specified in section 7031(b) of this title.

(b) Implementation

In carrying out subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary shall ensure that an agricultural producer is able—

(1) to file electronically or in paper form, at the option of the agricultural producer, all forms required by agencies of the Department specified in section 7031(b) of this title;

(2) to file electronically or in paper form, at the option of the agricultural producer, all