

Act of 1985”, was executed by making the amendment to this section, which is section 1261 of the Food Security Act of 1985, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, section related to the establishment in each State of a technical committee to assist the Secretary in the technical considerations relating to implementation of conservation provisions under this chapter, composition of each such committee, and development of standards to be used in the development of guidelines under former section 3862(b) of this title.

Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 110-246, §7511(c)(38), which directed amendment of par. (4) by substituting “National Institute of Food and Agriculture” for “Extension Service”, could not be executed because “Extension Service” did not appear subsequent to amendment by Pub. L. 110-246, §2711. See above.

1996—Subsec. (c)(9) to (12). Pub. L. 104-127 added pars. (9) to (12).

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, except as otherwise provided, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

Amendment by section 7511(c)(38) of Pub. L. 110-246 effective Oct. 1, 2009, see section 7511(c) of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 1522 of Title 7, Agriculture.

§ 3862. Responsibilities

(a) In general

Each State technical committee established under section 3861 of this title shall meet regularly to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to appropriate officials of the Department of Agriculture who are charged with implementing the conservation provisions of this chapter.

(b) Public notice and attendance

Each State technical committee shall provide public notice of, and permit public attendance at, meetings considering issues of concern related to carrying out this chapter.

(c) Role

(1) In general

The role of State technical committees is advisory in nature, and such committees shall have no implementation or enforcement authority. However, the Secretary shall give strong consideration to the recommendations of such committees in administering the programs under this chapter.

(2) Advisory role in establishing program priorities and criteria

Each State technical committee shall advise the Secretary in establishing priorities and criteria for the programs in this chapter, including the review of whether local working groups are addressing those priorities.

(d) FACA requirements

(1) Exemption

Each State technical committee shall be exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) Local working groups

For purposes of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), any local working

group established under this subchapter shall be considered to be a subcommittee of the applicable State technical committee.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, §1262, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XIV, §1446, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3604; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §246(f)(3), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3225; Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §342(b), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1009; Pub. L. 110-234, title II, §2711, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1084; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title II, §2711, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1812.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) to (c), was in the original “this title”, meaning title XII of Pub. L. 99-198, which enacted this chapter and former section 2005a of this title and amended sections 590g, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2009 of this title, sections 4207 and 4209 of Title 7, Agriculture, and provisions set out as a note under section 1981 of Title 7.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (d), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

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—Pub. L. 110-246, §2711, which directed the general amendment of section 1262 of the “Farm Security Act of 1985”, was executed by making the amendment to this section, which is section 1262 of the Food Security Act of 1985, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, section consisted of subsecs. (a) to (d) which related to general responsibilities of committees established under section 3861 of this title, wetland and wildlife habitat protection guidelines, provision of assistance and recommendations with respect to enumerated technical aspects, authority of committees, and FACA requirements.

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-127, §342(b)(1), inserted at end “Each State technical committee shall provide public notice of, and permit public attendance at meetings considering, issues of concern related to carrying out this chapter.”

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 104-127, §342(b)(2), inserted at end “Each State technical committee shall establish criteria and guidelines for evaluating petitions by agricultural producers regarding new conservation practices and systems not already described in field office technical guides.”

Subsec. (c)(7) to (9). Pub. L. 104-127, §342(b)(3), struck out “and” at end of par. (7), added par. (8), and redesignated former par. (8) as (9).

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-354 added subsec. (e).

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 Title 7, Agriculture.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT FOR REVISIONS TO CERTAIN STATE TECHNICAL GUIDES

Pub. L. 104-127, title III, §343, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1009, provided that: “After the date of enactment of this Act [Apr. 4, 1996], the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for public notice and comment under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, with regard to any future revisions to those provisions of the Natural Resources Conservation Service State technical guides that are used to carry out subtitles A, B, and C of title

XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq. [3811 et seq., 3821 et seq.]).”

CHAPTER 59—WETLANDS RESOURCES

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

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SUBCHAPTER II—REVENUES FOR REFUGE OPERATIONS AND THE MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION FUND

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SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 3901. Findings and statement of purpose

(a) Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) wetlands play an integral role in maintaining the quality of life through material contributions to our national economy, food supply, water supply and quality, flood control, and fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and thus to the health, safety, recreation, and economic well-being of all our citizens of the Nation;

(2) wetlands provide habitat essential for the breeding, spawning, nesting, migration, wintering and ultimate survival of a major portion of the migratory and resident fish and wildlife of the Nation; including migratory birds, endangered species, commercially and recreationally important finfish, shellfish and other aquatic organisms, and contain many unique species and communities of wild plants;

(3) the migratory bird treaty obligations of the Nation with Canada, Mexico, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and with various countries in the Western Hemisphere require Federal protection of wetlands that are used by migratory birds for breeding, wintering or migration and needed to achieve and to maintain optimum population levels, distributions, and patterns of migration;

(4) wetlands, and the fish, wildlife, and plants dependent on wetlands, provide significant recreational and commercial benefits, including—

(A) contributions to a commercial marine harvest valued at over \$10,000,000,000 annually;

(B) support for a major portion of the Nation's multimillion dollar annual fur and hide harvest; and

(C) fishing, hunting, birdwatching, nature observation and other wetland-related rec-

reational activities that generate billions of dollars annually;

(5) wetlands enhance the water quality and water supply of the Nation by serving as groundwater recharge areas, nutrient traps, and chemical sinks;

(6) wetlands provide a natural means of flood and erosion control by retaining water during periods of high runoff, thereby protecting against loss of life and property;

(7) wetlands constitute only a small percentage of the land area of the United States, are estimated to have been reduced by half in the contiguous States since the founding of our Nation, and continue to disappear by hundreds of thousands of acres each year;

(8) certain activities of the Federal Government have inappropriately altered or assisted in the alteration of wetlands, thereby unnecessarily stimulating and accelerating the loss of these valuable resources and the environmental and economic benefits that they provide; and

(9) the existing Federal, State, and private cooperation in wetlands conservation should be strengthened in order to minimize further losses of these valuable areas and to assure their management in the public interest for this and future generations.

(b) Purpose

It is the purpose of this chapter to promote, in concert with other Federal and State statutes and programs, the conservation of the wetlands of the Nation in order to maintain the public benefits they provide and to help fulfill international obligations contained in various migratory bird treaties and conventions with Canada, Mexico, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and with various countries in the Western Hemisphere by—

(1) intensifying cooperative efforts among private interests and local, State, and Federal governments for the management and conservation of wetlands; and

(2) intensifying efforts to protect the wetlands of the Nation through acquisition in fee, easements or other interests and methods by local, State, and Federal governments and the private sector.

(Pub. L. 99-645, §2, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3582.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 99-645, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3582, known as the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 99-645, §1, Nov. 10, 1986, 100 Stat. 3582, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, amending sections 460l-8, 460l-9, 707, 715k-3, 715k-5, and 718b of this title, and enacting a provision set out in the table under section 668dd of this title] may be cited as the ‘Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986.’”

§ 3902. Definitions

For the purpose of this chapter:

(1) The term “Committees” means the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries and