

on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Secretary may appoint not more than 3 other officers or employees of the Executive Branch to serve as ex-officio, nonvoting members of the National Board.

**(5) Term of office**

**(A) In general**

Subject to subparagraph (B), the term of office of a member of the National Board appointed under paragraph (1)(A)<sup>1</sup> shall be for a period of not more than 4 years.

**(B) Staggered terms**

The members of the National Board shall be appointed to serve staggered terms.

**(6) Initial appointments**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall appoint the initial members of the National Board.

**(7) Vacancies**

A vacancy on the National Board shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

**(8) Compensation**

A member of the National Board shall receive no compensation for service on the National Board, but shall be reimbursed for related travel and other expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of the member of the National Board in accordance with section 5702 and 5703 of title 5.

**(9) Chairperson**

The National Board shall select a chairperson from among the members of the National Board.

**(10) Federal status**

For purposes of Federal law, a member of the National Board shall be considered a special Government employee (as defined in section 202(a) of title 18).

**(f) Administrative support**

The Secretary, on a reimbursable basis from funds made available under section 2009dd-7 of this title, may provide such administrative support to the National Board as the Secretary determines is necessary.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §385C, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6030, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 403; amended Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6028, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1184; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6028, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1945.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, referred to in subsec. (e)(1), (6), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-246, which was approved June 18, 2008.

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L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub.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, §6028, amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section provided for certification of Regional Investment Boards.

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.

**§ 2009dd-3. Regional Rural Investment Boards**

**(a) In general**

A Regional Rural Investment Board shall be a multijurisdictional and multisectoral group that—

(1) represents the long-term economic, community, and cultural interests of a region;

(2) is certified by the Secretary to establish a rural investment strategy and compete for regional innovation grants;

(3) is composed of residents of a region that are broadly representative of diverse public, nonprofit, and private sector interests in investment in the region, including (to the maximum extent practicable) representatives of—

(A) units of local, multijurisdictional, or State government, including not more than 1 representative from each State in the region;

(B) nonprofit community-based development organizations, including community development financial institutions and community development corporations;

(C) agricultural, natural resource, and other asset-based related industries;

(D) in the case of regions with federally recognized Indian tribes, Indian tribes;

(E) regional development organizations;

(F) private business organizations, including chambers of commerce;

(G)(i) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1001(a) of title 20);

(ii) tribally controlled colleges or universities (as defined in section 1801(a) of title 25); and

(iii) tribal technical institutions;

(H) workforce and job training organizations;

(I) other entities and organizations, as determined by the Regional Board;

(J) cooperatives; and

(K) consortia of entities and organizations described in subparagraphs (A) through (J);

(4) represents a region inhabited by—

(A) more than 25,000 individuals, as determined in the latest available decennial census conducted under section 141(a) of title 13; or

(B) in the case of a region with a population density of less than 2 individuals per square mile, at least 10,000 individuals, as determined in that latest available decennial census;

(5) has a membership of which not less than 25 percent, nor more than 40 percent, represents—

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be “paragraph (1)”.

(A) units of local government and Indian tribes described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of paragraph (3);

(B) nonprofit community and economic development organizations and institutions of higher education described in subparagraphs (B) and (G) of paragraph (3); or

(C) private business (including chambers of commerce and cooperatives) and agricultural, natural resource, and other asset-based related industries described in subparagraphs (C) and (F) of paragraph (3);

(6) has a membership that may include an officer or employee of a Federal agency, serving as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Regional Board to represent the agency; and

(7) has organizational documents that demonstrate that the Regional Board will—

(A) create a collaborative public-private strategy process;

(B) develop, and submit to the Secretary for approval, a regional investment strategy that meets the requirements of section 2009dd-4 of this title, with benchmarks—

(i) to promote investment in rural areas through the use of grants made available under this subchapter; and

(ii) to provide financial and technical assistance to promote a broad-based regional development program aimed at increasing and diversifying economic growth, improved community facilities, and improved quality of life;

(C) implement the approved regional investment strategy;

(D) provide annual reports to the Secretary and the National Board on progress made in achieving the benchmarks of the regional investment strategy, including an annual financial statement; and

(E) select a non-Federal organization (such as a regional development organization) in the local area served by the Regional Board that has previous experience in the management of Federal funds to serve as fiscal manager of any funds of the Regional Board.

#### (b) Urban areas

A resident of an urban area may serve as an ex-officio member of a Regional Board.

#### (c) Duties

A Regional Board shall—

(1) create a collaborative planning process for public-private investment within a region;

(2) develop, and submit to the Secretary for approval, a regional investment strategy;

(3) develop approaches that will create permanent resources for philanthropic giving in the region, to the maximum extent practicable;

(4) implement an approved strategy; and

(5) provide annual reports to the Secretary and the National Board on progress made in achieving the strategy, including an annual financial statement.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, § 385D, as added Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, § 6030, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 405; amended Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, § 6028, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1187; Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title VI, § 6028, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1948.)

#### 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, § 6028, amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to establishment of National Board on Rural America.

#### 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.

#### § 2009dd-4. Regional investment strategy grants

##### (a) In general

The Secretary shall make regional investment strategy grants available to Regional Boards for use in developing, implementing, and maintaining regional investment strategies.

##### (b) Regional investment strategy

A regional investment strategy shall provide—

(1) an assessment of the competitive advantage of a region, including—

(A) an analysis of the economic conditions of the region;

(B) an assessment of the current economic performance of the region;

(C) an overview of the population, geography, workforce, transportation system, resources, environment, and infrastructure needs of the region; and

(D) such other pertinent information as the Secretary may request;

(2) an analysis of regional economic and community development challenges and opportunities, including—

(A) incorporation of relevant material from other government-sponsored or supported plans and consistency with applicable State, regional, and local workforce investment strategies or comprehensive economic development plans; and

(B) an identification of past, present, and projected Federal and State economic and community development investments in the region;

(3) a section describing goals and objectives necessary to solve regional competitiveness challenges and meet the potential of the region;

(4) an overview of resources available in the region for use in—

(A) establishing regional goals and objectives;

(B) developing and implementing a regional action strategy;

(C) identifying investment priorities and funding sources; and

(D) identifying lead organizations to execute portions of the strategy;

(5) an analysis of the current state of collaborative public, private, and nonprofit participation and investment, and of the strategic roles of public, private, and nonprofit entities