

SUBCHAPTER V—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

§ 3851. Agriculture conservation experienced services program

(a) Establishment and purpose

The Secretary shall establish a conservation experienced services program (in this section referred to as the “ACES Program”) for the purpose of utilizing the talents of individuals who are age 55 or older, but who are not employees of the Department of Agriculture or a State agriculture department, to provide technical services in support of the conservation-related programs and authorities carried out by the Secretary. Such technical services may include conservation planning assistance, technical consultation, and assistance with design and implementation of conservation practices.

(b) Program agreements

(1) Relation to older American community service employment program

Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, to carry out the ACES program during a fiscal year, the Secretary may enter into agreements with nonprofit private agencies and organizations eligible to receive grants for that fiscal year under the Community Service Senior Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 3056 et seq.) to secure participants for the ACES program who will provide technical services under the ACES program.

(2) Required determination

Before entering into an agreement under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that the agreement would not—

- (A) result in the displacement of individuals employed by the Department, including partial displacement through reduction of non-overtime hours, wages, or employment benefits;
- (B) result in the use of an individual under the ACES program for a job or function in a case in which a Federal employee is in a lay-off status from the same or a substantially-equivalent job or function with the Department; or
- (C) affect existing contracts for services.

(c) Funding source

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary may carry out the ACES program using funds made available to carry out each program under this chapter.

(2) Exclusions

Funds made available to carry out the following programs may not be used to carry out the ACES program:

- (A) The conservation reserve program.
- (B) The wetlands reserve program.
- (C) The grassland reserve program.
- (D) The conservation stewardship program.

(d) Liability

An individual providing technical services under the ACES program is deemed to be an em-

ployee of the United States Government for purposes of chapter 171 of title 28 if the individual—

- (1) is providing technical services pursuant to an agreement entered into under subsection (b); and
- (2) is acting within the scope of the agreement.

(Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, § 1252, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title II, § 2710, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1082, and Pub. L. 110-246, § 4(a), title II, § 2710, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1810.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Community Service Senior Opportunities Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is title V of Pub. L. 89-73, as added Pub. L. 109-365, title V, § 501, Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2563, which is classified generally to subchapter IX (§3056 et seq.) of chapter 35 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3001 of Title 42 and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (c)(1), 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.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234, § 2710, and Pub. L. 110-246, § 2710, which directed the amendment of subtitle F of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 by inserting this section after section 1251, was executed by inserting this section between subtitles E and G of title XII of that Act to reflect the probable intent of Congress, because subtitle F and section 1251 (16 U.S.C. 2005a) of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 were repealed by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 336(e), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1007.

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1252 of Pub. L. 99-198, title XII, Dec. 23, 1985, 99 Stat. 1516, amended sections 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2009 of this title, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 104-127, title III, § 336(e), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1007.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment 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 a note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

SUBCHAPTER VI—STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

§ 3861. Establishment of State technical committees

(a) Establishment

The Secretary shall establish a technical committee in each State to assist the Secretary in the considerations relating to implementation and technical aspects of the conservation programs under this chapter.

(b) Standards

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary shall develop—

- (1) standard operating procedures to standardize the operations of State technical committees; and