

DISTRIBUTION OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES

Pub. L. 97-253, title I, §191, Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 787, provided that:

“(a) The Congress finds that—

“(1) for an increasing number of people in the United States, these are times of great suffering and deprivation;

“(2) rising unemployment, decreasing appropriations for social services, and increasingly adverse economic conditions have all contributed to produce hunger and want on a scale not experienced since the time of the Great Depression;

“(3) the demand for every conceivable form of assistance for the hungry and needy people of the United States grows more critical daily, while the availability of goods and services to meet the needs of such people is rapidly diminishing;

“(4) soup kitchens, food banks, and other organizations which provide food to the hungry report an astronomical increase in the number of persons seeking the assistance of such organizations;

“(5) according to a study completed by the General Accounting Office [now Government Accountability Office] in 1977, one hundred and thirty-seven million tons of food, or more than 20 per centum of this country's total annual food production, is wasted or discarded in the United States each year;

“(6) at wholesale and retail food distributors, shipping terminals, and other establishments all across the country, enormous quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables and dated dairy and bakery products are discarded each day, while growing numbers of Americans go to bed hungry and undernourished each night;

“(7) in these times of budget constraints and appeals for reductions in Federal spending, the use of private resources to meet the basic food requirements of our citizens should be encouraged; and

“(8) many States and local governments have not enacted laws which limit the liability of food donors, such as so-called Good Samaritan Acts and donor liability laws, and thus have discouraged donation of food to the needy by private persons.

“(b) It is the sense of the Congress that—

“(1) departments and agencies of the Federal Government should take such steps as may be necessary to distribute to hungry people of the United States surplus food or food which would otherwise be discarded;

“(2) State and local governments which have not yet enacted so-called Good Samaritan or donor liability laws to encourage private cooperative efforts to provide food for hungry people within their respective jurisdictions should do so as quickly as possible; and

“(3) wholesale and retail food distributors, shipping terminals, and other establishments should work more closely with religious, community, and other charitable organizations to make wholesome food which is currently being wasted or discarded by such establishments available for immediate distribution to hungry people of the United States.”

§ 1625. Transfer and consolidation of functions, powers, bureaus, etc.

In order to facilitate administration and to increase the effectiveness of the marketing research, service, and regulatory work of the Department of Agriculture to the fullest extent practicable, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, to transfer, group, coordinate, and consolidate the functions, powers, duties, and authorities of each and every agency, division, bureau, service, section, or other administrative unit in the Department of Agriculture primarily concerned with research, service, or regulatory activities in connection with the marketing,

transportation, storage, processing, distribution of, or service or regulatory activities in connection with, the utilization of, agricultural products, into a single administrative agency. In making such changes as may be necessary to carry out effectively the purposes of this chapter, the records, property, personnel, and funds of such agencies, divisions, bureaus, services, sections, or other administrative units in the Department of Agriculture affected are authorized to be transferred to and used by such administrative agency to which the transfer may be made, but such unexpended balances of appropriations so transferred shall be used only for the purposes for which such appropriations were made.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, §206, 60 Stat. 1090.)

§ 1626. Definitions

When used in this chapter, the term “agricultural products” includes agricultural, horticultural, viticultural, and dairy products, livestock and poultry, bees, forest products, fish and shellfish, and any products thereof, including processed and manufactured products, and any and all products raised or produced on farms and any processed or manufactured product thereof, and the term “State” when used in this chapter¹ shall include the Virgin Islands and Guam.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, §207, 60 Stat. 1091; Pub. L. 92-318, title V, §506(f), June 23, 1972, 86 Stat. 351.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text inserted by Pub. L. 92-318, probably means title II of act Aug. 14, 1946, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1621 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1972—Pub. L. 92-318 inserted “, and the term ‘State’ when used in this chapter shall include the Virgin Islands and Guam” before period at end.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1972 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 92-318 effective after June 30, 1970, see section 506(n) of Pub. L. 92-318, set out as a note under section 326a of this title.

§ 1627. Appointment of personnel; compensation; employment of specialists

The Secretary of Agriculture shall have the power to appoint, remove, and fix, in accordance with existing law, the compensation of such officers and employees, and to make such expenditures as he deems necessary, including expenditures for rent outside the District of Columbia, travel, supplies, books, equipment, and such other expenditures as may be necessary to the administration of this chapter: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may appoint any technically qualified person, firm, or organization by contract or otherwise on a temporary basis and for a term not to exceed six months in any fiscal year to perform research, inspection, classification, technical, or other special services, without regard to the civil-service laws.

¹ See References in Text note below.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title II, § 208, 60 Stat. 1091.)

CODIFICATION

Provisions that authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to “fix the compensation” of any technically qualified person, firm, or organization by contract or otherwise on a temporary basis and for a term not to exceed six months in any fiscal year to perform research, inspection, classification, technical or other special services, without regard to the “Classification Act of 1923, as amended” were omitted as obsolete. Sections 1202 and 1204 of the Classification Act of 1949, 63 Stat. 972, 973 repealed the 1923 Act and all laws or parts of laws inconsistent with the 1949 Act. While section 1106(a) of the 1949 Act provided that references in other laws to the 1923 Act should be held and considered to mean the 1949 Act, it did not have the effect of continuing the exceptions contained in this subsection because of section 1106(b) which provided that the application of the 1949 Act to any position, officer, or employee shall not be affected by section 1106(a). The Classification Act of 1949 was repealed by Pub. L. 89-554, § 8(a), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 632 (of which section 1 revised and enacted Title 5, U.S.C., into law). Section 5102 of Title 5, now contains the applicability provisions of the 1949 Act, and section 5103 of Title 5 authorizes the Office of Personnel Management to determine the applicability to specific positions and employees.

§ 1628. Repealed. Pub. L. 93-86, § 2, Aug. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 246

Section, acts Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title III, § 301, 60 Stat. 1091; Dec. 29, 1967, Pub. L. 90-233, 81 Stat. 752, provided for establishment and staffing of a national advisory committee to aid in implementing the research and service work authorized under the act of Aug. 14, 1946, and set forth functions of such committee.

§ 1629. Establishment of committees to assist in research and service programs

In the furtherance of the research and service work authorized by this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may, in addition to the national advisory committee, establish appropriate committees, including representatives of producers, industry, government and science, to assist in effectuating specific research and service programs.

(Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, title III, § 302, 60 Stat. 1091.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is act Aug. 14, 1946, ch. 966, 60 Stat. 1082, which enacted this chapter and sections 427h to 427j of this title and amended section 427 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Tables.

The national advisory committee, referred to in text, was established by section 1628 of this title, which was subsequently repealed by Pub. L. 93-86, § 2, Aug. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 246.

CODIFICATION

Section was not enacted as part of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 which comprises this chapter.

§ 1630. Omitted

CODIFICATION

Section, act June 4, 1956, ch. 355, title V, § 508, 70 Stat. 241, which provided for availability of appropriations for committee expenses in effectuating research and service work, was from the Department of Agriculture and Farm Credit Administration Appropriation Act, 1957, and was not repeated in subsequent appropriation

acts. Similar provisions were contained in the following prior appropriation acts:

May 23, 1955, ch. 43, title V, § 509, 69 Stat. 64.

June 29, 1954, ch. 409, title V, § 509, 68 Stat. 319.

§ 1631. Protection for purchasers of farm products

(a) Congressional findings

Congress finds that—

(1) certain State laws permit a secured lender to enforce liens against a purchaser of farm products even if the purchaser does not know that the sale of the products violates the lender's security interest in the products, lacks any practical method for discovering the existence of the security interest, and has no reasonable means to ensure that the seller uses the sales proceeds to repay the lender;

(2) these laws subject the purchaser of farm products to double payment for the products, once at the time of purchase, and again when the seller fails to repay the lender;

(3) the exposure of purchasers of farm products to double payment inhibits free competition in the market for farm products; and

(4) this exposure constitutes a burden on and an obstruction to interstate commerce in farm products.

(b) Declaration of purpose

The purpose of this section is to remove such burden on and obstruction to interstate commerce in farm products.

(c) Definitions

For the purposes of this section—

(1) The term “buyer in the ordinary course of business” means a person who, in the ordinary course of business, buys farm products from a person engaged in farming operations who is in the business of selling farm products.

(2) The term “central filing system” means a system for filing effective financing statements or notice of such financing statements on a statewide basis and which has been certified by the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture; the Secretary shall certify such system if the system complies with the requirements of this section; specifically under such system—

(A) effective financing statements or notice of such financing statements are filed with the office of the Secretary of State of a State;

(B) the Secretary of State records the date and hour of the filing of such statements;

(C) the Secretary of State compiles all such statements into a master list—

(i) organized according to farm products;

(ii) arranged within each such product—

(I) in alphabetical order according to the last name of the individual debtors, or, in the case of debtors doing business other than as individuals, the first word in the name of such debtors; and

(II) in numerical order according to the social security number, or other approved unique identifier, of the individual debtors or, in the case of debtors doing business other than as individuals, the Internal Revenue Service taxpayer