

**§ 2209j. Permanent debarment from participation in Department of Agriculture programs for fraud**

**(a) In general**

Subject to subsection (b), the Secretary of Agriculture shall permanently debar an individual, organization, corporation, or other entity convicted of a felony for knowingly defrauding the United States in connection with any program administered by the Department of Agriculture from any subsequent participation in Department of Agriculture programs.

**(b) Exceptions**

**(1) Secretary determination**

The Secretary may reduce a debarment under subsection (a) to a period of not less than 10 years if the Secretary considers it appropriate.

**(2) Food assistance**

A debarment under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to participation in domestic food assistance programs (as defined by the Secretary).

(Pub. L. 110-234, title XIV, §14211, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1464; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XIV, §14211, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2226.)

CODIFICATION

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 L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub.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.

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 this title.

**§ 2210. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; appointment**

There is established in the Department of Agriculture the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(Mar. 26, 1934, ch. 89, title I, 48 Stat. 467; Pub. L. 94-561, §1(c)(1), Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2643.)

CODIFICATION

Provisions of this section which prescribed the basic compensation of the Under Secretary were omitted to conform to the provisions of act July 31, 1956. See section 5314 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section was formerly classified to section 514a of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-561 substituted “Deputy Secretary of Agriculture” for “Under Secretary of Agriculture”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-561 effective Oct. 19, 1976, see section 5 of Pub. L. 94-561, set out as a note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions of all officers, agencies, and employees of Department of Agriculture transferred, with certain ex-

ceptions, to Secretary of Agriculture by 1953, Reorg. Plan No. 2, §1, eff. June 4, 1953, 18 F.R. 3219, 67 Stat. 633, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

STATUS OF INCUMBENT UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Pub. L. 94-561, §1(d), Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2643, provided that: “The officer occupying the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture, on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 19, 1976], may assume the duties of the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. The individual assuming such duties shall not be required to be reappointed by reason of the enactment of this Act.”

**§ 2211. Powers and duties of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture**

The Deputy Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to exercise the functions and perform the duties of the first assistant of the Secretary of Agriculture within the meaning of section 3345 of title 5 and shall perform such other duties as may be required by law or prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

(June 5, 1939, ch. 181, 53 Stat. 809; Pub. L. 94-561, §1(c)(2), Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2643.)

CODIFICATION

“Section 3345 of title 5” substituted in text for “section 177 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (U.S.C., title 5, sec. 4)” on authority of Pub. L. 89-554, §7(b), Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 631, the first section of which enacted Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Section was formerly classified to section 514b of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, §1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

AMENDMENTS

1976—Pub. L. 94-561 substituted “Deputy Secretary of Agriculture” for Under Secretary of Agriculture.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1976 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 94-561 effective Oct. 19, 1976, see section 5 of Pub. L. 94-561, set out as a note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

**§ 2211a. Omitted**

CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 95-501, title V, §501(a), Oct. 21, 1978, 92 Stat. 1691, which related to establishment in Department of Agriculture of position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs, was omitted in the complete revision of Pub. L. 95-501 by Pub. L. 101-624, title XV, §1531, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3668. See section 5691 of this title.

REDESIGNATION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND COMMODITY PROGRAMS

Pub. L. 95-501, title V, §501(c), Oct. 21, 1978, 92 Stat. 1691, which prohibited the use of the designation of “Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs” after Oct. 21, 1978, was omitted in the complete revision of Pub. L. 95-501 by Pub. L. 101-624, title XV, §1531, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3668.

**§§ 2211b to 2211c. Repealed. Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §§ 218(e)(2)-(6), 231(f)(1), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3213, 3219**

Section 2211b, Pub. L. 96-355, §3(a), Sept. 24, 1980, 94 Stat. 1173, authorized appointment of an Under Sec-

retary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development.

Section 2212, acts Feb. 9, 1889, ch. 122, § 2, 25 Stat. 659; June 30, 1906, ch. 3913, 34 Stat. 670, authorized appointment of an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 2212a, Pub. L. 92-419, title VI, § 604(a), Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 676, authorized appointment of an additional Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 2212b, Pub. L. 94-561, § 2, Oct. 19, 1976, 90 Stat. 2643, authorized appointment of an additional Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 2212c, Pub. L. 97-325, § 8(a), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1605, authorized appointment of an additional Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

#### § 2213. Omitted

##### CODIFICATION

Section, acts June 5, 1952, ch. 369, ch. XI, § 1101, 66 Stat. 121; 1953 Reorg. Plan No. 2, § 3, eff. June 4, 1953, 18 F.R. 3219, 67 Stat. 633; June 28, 1955, ch. 189, § 12(c)(16), 69 Stat. 182; Aug. 14, 1964, Pub. L. 88-426, title III, § 307, 78 Stat. 432, related to the position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration established by section 3 of Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1953. Section 3 of Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1953 was repealed by Pub. L. 97-325, § 8(d), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1606. See section 2212c of this title.

Section was formerly classified to section 517b of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

#### § 2214. General Counsel; appointment

(a) The President shall appoint on and after July 31, 1956, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture.

(b) The existing office of General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture shall be abolished effective upon the appointment and qualification of the General Counsel provided for by subsection (a) or April 1, 1957, whichever is earlier.

(July 31, 1956, ch. 804, title III, § 301, 70 Stat. 742.)

##### CODIFICATION

Section is based on that part of section 301 of act July 31, 1956, relating to the General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture. That part of such section 301 relating to the General Counsel of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare [now Health and Human Services], is classified to section 3504 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. That part of such section 301 relating to the General Counsel of the Post Office Department was enacted as section 307 of Title 39 by Pub. L. 86-682, Sept. 2, 1960, 74 Stat. 580. Such provisions were eliminated from Title 39 by the Postal Reorganization Act, Pub. L. 91-375, Aug. 12, 1970, 84 Stat. 719.

Section was formerly classified to section 518a of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

#### § 2215. Chief clerk

The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a chief clerk.

(R.S. § 523; Feb. 9, 1889, ch. 122, §§ 1, 4, 25 Stat. 659; Feb. 10, 1925, ch. 200, 43 Stat. 822.)

##### CODIFICATION

R.S. § 523 derived from act May 15, 1862, ch. 72, § 4, 12 Stat. 388.

Section was formerly classified to section 519 of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title

5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

##### CHANGE OF NAME

“Secretary of Agriculture” substituted in text for “Commissioner of Agriculture” pursuant to sections 1 and 4 of act Feb. 9, 1889, which are classified to section 2202 of this title. See, also, section 2205 of this title.

#### § 2216. Repealed. Pub. L. 92-310, title II, § 221(a), June 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 205

Section. R.S. § 524; acts Mar. 2, 1895, ch. 177, § 5, 28 Stat. 807; May 10, 1934, ch. 277, § 512(b), 48 Stat. 759, related to the bond of the chief clerk of the Department of Agriculture.

Section was formerly classified to section 520 of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

#### § 2217. Oaths, affirmations, and affidavits taken by officers, agents, or employees of Department; use and effect

Such officers, agents, or employees of the Department of Agriculture of the United States as are designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose are authorized and empowered to administer to or take from any person an oath, affirmation, or affidavit whenever such oath, affirmation, or affidavit is for use in any prosecution or proceeding under or in the enforcement of any law committed to or which may be committed to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture or any bureau or subdivision thereof for administration. Any such oath, affirmation, or affidavit administered or taken by or before such officer, agent, or employee when certified under his hand and authenticated by the seal of the Department of Agriculture may be offered or used in any court of the United States and shall have like force and effect as if administered or taken before a clerk of such court without further proof of the identity or authority of such officer, agent, or employee.

(Jan. 31, 1925, ch. 124, § 1, 43 Stat. 803.)

##### CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 521 of Title 5 prior to the general revision and enactment of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, by Pub. L. 89-554, § 1, Sept. 6, 1966, 80 Stat. 378.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR PERSONNEL

Provisions of this section were made applicable to such officers, agents, or employees of Department of the Interior performing functions of former Bureau of Biological Survey as are designated by Secretary of the Interior for purposes named herein by 1939 Reorg. Plan No. II, § 4(g), eff. July 1, 1939, 4 F.R. 2731, 53 Stat. 1433, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees. See also sections 401 to 404 of said plan for provisions relating to transfer of functions, records, property, personnel, and funds. Bureau of Biological Survey was subsequently consolidated with Bureau of Fisheries into Fish and Wildlife Service in Department of the Interior by 1940 Reorg. Plan No. III, § 3, eff. June 30, 1940, 5 F.R. 2107, 54 Stat. 1232, also set out in the Appendix to Title 5.

#### § 2218. Fee for administering or taking oaths, affirmations, and affidavits

No officer, agent, or employee of the Department of Agriculture shall demand or accept any