

Forestry of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(Pub. L. 107-171, title I, §1611(b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 219.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, referred to in par. (1), is act Feb. 16, 1938, ch. 30, 52 Stat. 31, as amended. Part I of subtitle B of title III of the Act was classified generally to subpart I (§1311 et seq.) of part B of subchapter II of chapter 35 of this title prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108-357, title VI, §611(a), Oct. 22, 2004, 118 Stat. 1522. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1281 of this title and Tables.

§ 7995. Assignment of payments

The provisions of section 590h(g) of title 16, relating to assignment of payments, shall apply to payments made under the authority of this Act. The producer making the assignment, or the assignee, shall provide the Secretary with notice, in such manner as the Secretary may require, of any assignment made under this section.

(Pub. L. 107-171, title I, §1612, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 219.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 107-171, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 134, known as the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 7901 of this title and Tables.

§ 7996. Equitable relief from ineligibility for loans, payments, or other benefits

(a) Definitions

In this section:

(1) Agricultural commodity

The term “agricultural commodity” means any agricultural commodity, food, feed, fiber, or livestock that is subject to a covered program.

(2) Covered program

(A) In general

The term “covered program” means—

- (i) a program administered by the Secretary under which price or income support, or production or market loss assistance, is provided to producers of agricultural commodities; and
- (ii) a conservation program administered by the Secretary.

(B) Exclusions

The term “covered program” does not include—

- (i) an agricultural credit program carried out under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.); or
- (ii) the crop insurance program carried out under the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.).

(3) Participant

The term “participant” means a participant in a covered program.

(4) State Conservationist

The term “State Conservationist” means the State Conservationist with respect to a

program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

(5) State Director

The term “State Director” means the State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency with respect to a program administered by the Farm Service Agency.

(b) Equitable relief

The Secretary may provide relief to any participant that is determined to be not in compliance with the requirements of a covered program, and therefore ineligible for a loan, payment, or other benefit under the covered program, if the participant—

- (1) acting in good faith, relied on the action or advice of the Secretary (including any authorized representative of the Secretary) to the detriment of the participant; or
- (2) failed to comply fully with the requirements of the covered program, but made a good faith effort to comply with the requirements.

(c) Forms of relief

The Secretary may authorize a participant in a covered program to—

- (1) retain loans, payments, or other benefits received under the covered program;
- (2) continue to receive loans, payments, and other benefits under the covered program;
- (3) continue to participate, in whole or in part, under any contract executed under the covered program;
- (4) in the case of a conservation program, reenroll all or part of the land covered by the program; and
- (5) receive such other equitable relief as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(d) Remedial action

As a condition of receiving relief under this section, the Secretary may require the participant to take actions designed to remedy any failure to comply with the covered program.

(e) Equitable relief by State Directors and State Conservationists

(1) In general

A State Director, in the case of programs administered by the State Director, and the State Conservationist, in the case of programs administered by the State Conservationist, may grant relief to a participant in accordance with subsections (b) through (d) if—

- (A) the amount of loans, payments, and benefits for which relief will be provided to the participant under this subsection is less than \$20,000;
- (B) the total amount of loans, payments, and benefits for which relief has been previously provided to the participant under this subsection is not more than \$5,000; and
- (C) the total amount of loans, payments, and benefits for which relief is provided to similarly situated participants under this subsection is not more than \$1,000,000, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) Consultation, approval, and reversal

The decision by a State Director or State Conservationist to grant relief under this subsection—