

## 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.

## DEFINITION OF “SECRETARY”

“Secretary” as meaning the Secretary of Agriculture, see section 8701 of this title.

**§ 2279a. Fair and equitable treatment of socially disadvantaged producers**

**(a) Fair crop acreage bases and farm program payment yields**

If the Secretary of Agriculture determines that crop acreage bases or farm program payment yields established for farms owned or operated by socially disadvantaged producers are not established in accordance with title V of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.), the Secretary shall adjust the bases and yields to conform to the requirements of such title and make available any appropriate commodity program benefits.

**(b) Fair application of Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act**

If the Secretary of Agriculture determines that application of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.) with respect to socially disadvantaged producers is not consistent with the requirements of such Act, the Secretary shall make such changes in the administration of such Act as the Secretary considers necessary to provide for the fair and equitable treatment of socially disadvantaged producers under such Act.

**(c) Report on treatment of socially disadvantaged producers**

**(1) Report required**

The Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare a report to determine—

(A) whether socially disadvantaged producers are underrepresented on State, county, area, or local committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of title 16 or local review committees established under section 1363 of this title because of racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice; and

(B) if such underrepresentation exists, whether it inhibits or interferes with the participation of socially disadvantaged producers in programs of the Department of Agriculture.

**(2) Submission of report**

Not later than February 1, 1995, the Comptroller General shall submit the report required by this subsection to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

**(d) “Socially disadvantaged producer” defined**

For purposes of this section, the term “socially disadvantaged producer” means a producer who is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title III, § 305, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3240.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Agricultural Act of 1949, referred to in subsec. (a), is act Oct. 31, 1949, ch. 792, 63 Stat. 1051, as amended. Title V of the Act, which was classified generally to subchapter IV (§1461 et seq.) of chapter 35A of this title, was omitted from the Code. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1421 of this title and Tables.

The Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, referred to in subsec. (b), is title III of Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8, 1961, 75 Stat. 307, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 50 (§1921 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1921 of this title and Tables.

**§ 2279b. Department of Agriculture educational, training, and professional development activities**

**(a) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Graduate School**

The term “Graduate School” means the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture.

**(2) Board**

The term “Board” means the General Administration Board of the Graduate School.

**(3) Director**

The term “Director” means the Director of the Graduate School.

**(4) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

**(b) Operation as nonappropriated fund instrumentality**

**(1) Cease operations**

Not later than October 1, 2009, the Secretary of Agriculture shall cease to maintain or operate a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States to develop, administer, or provide educational training and professional development activities, including educational activities for Federal agencies, Federal employees, non-profit organizations, other entities, and members of the general public.

**(2) Transition**

**(A) In general**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to use funds available to the Department of Agriculture and such resources of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate (including the assignment of such employees of the Department as the Secretary considers appropriate) to assist the General Administrative Board of the Graduate School in the conversion of the Graduate School to an entity that is non-governmental and not a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States, including such privatization activities not otherwise inconsistent with law or regulation.

**(B) Termination of authority**

The authority under paragraph (1) shall terminate on the earlier of—

- (i) the completion of the transition of the Graduate School to an entity that is non-governmental and not a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States, as determined by the Secretary; or
- (ii) September 30, 2009.

**(c) Activities of Graduate School**

Under the general supervision of the Secretary, the Graduate School shall develop, administer, and provide educational, training, and professional development activities, including educational activities for Federal agencies, Federal employees, nonprofit organizations, other entities, and members of the general public.

**(d) Fees and donations**

**(1) Collection of fees**

The Graduate School may charge and retain fair and reasonable fees for the activities provided by the Graduate School. The amount of the fees shall be based on the cost of the activities to the Graduate School.

**(2) Acceptance of donations**

**(A) Acceptance and use authorized**

The Graduate School may accept, use, hold, dispose, and administer gifts, bequests, and devises of money, securities, and other real or personal property made for the benefit of, or in connection with, the Graduate School.

**(B) Exception**

The Graduate School shall not accept a donation from a person that is actively engaged in a procurement activity with the Graduate School or has an interest that may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of an official duty of a member of the Board or an employee of the Graduate School.

**(3) Not Federal funds**

Fees collected under paragraph (1) and amounts received under paragraph (2) shall not be considered to be Federal funds and shall not be required to be deposited in the Treasury of the United States.

**(e) General Administration Board and Director**

**(1) Appointment as governing board**

The Secretary shall appoint a General Administration Board to serve as a governing board for the Graduate School and to supervise and direct the activities of the Graduate School. The Board shall be subject to regulation by the Secretary.

**(2) Duties of Board**

The Board shall—

- (A) formulate broad policies in accordance with which the Graduate School shall be administered;
- (B) take all steps necessary to ensure that the highest possible educational standards are maintained by the Graduate School;
- (C) exercise general supervision over the administration of the Graduate School; and
- (D) establish such bylaws, rules, and procedures as may be necessary for the fulfillment of the duties described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

**(3) Appointment of Director and other officers**

The Board shall select a Director and such other officers as the Board considers necessary to administer the Graduate School. The Director and other officers shall serve on such terms and perform such duties as the Board may prescribe.

**(4) Duties of Director**

The Director shall be responsible, subject to the supervision and direction of the Board, for carrying out the functions of the Graduate School.

**(5) Borrowing and investment authority**

The Board may authorize the Director—

- (A) to borrow money on the credit of the Graduate School; and
- (B) to invest funds held in excess of the current operating requirements of the Graduate School for purposes of maintaining a reasonable reserve.

**(6) Liability**

The Director and the members of the Board shall not be held personally liable for any loss or damage that may accrue to the funds of the Graduate School as the result of any act or exercise of discretion performed in carrying out their duties under this section.

**(f) Employees**

Employees of the Graduate School are employees of a nonappropriated fund instrumentality and shall not be considered to be Federal employees.

**(g) Not a Federal agency**

The Graduate School shall not be considered to be a Federal agency for purposes of—

- (1) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.);
- (2) section 552 or 552a of title 5; or
- (3) chapter 171 of title 28.

**(h) Acquisition and disposal of property**

In order to carry out the activities of the Graduate School, the Graduate School may—

- (1) acquire real property in the District of Columbia and in other places by lease, purchase, or otherwise;
- (2) maintain, enlarge, or remodel any such property;
- (3) have sole control of any such property; and
- (4) dispose of real and personal property without regard to chapters 1 to 11 of title 40 and division C (except sections 3302, 3307(e), 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41.

**(i) Contract authority**

The Graduate School may enter into contracts without regard to chapters 1 to 11 of title 40 and division C (except sections 3302, 3307(e), 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41 or any other law that prescribes procedures for the procurement of property or services by an executive agency.

**(j) Use of Department facilities and resources**

The Graduate School may use the facilities and resources of the Department of Agriculture,

on the condition that any costs incurred by the Department that are attributable solely to Graduate School operations and all costs incurred by the Graduate School arising out of such operations shall be paid using funds of the Graduate School. Federal funds may not be used to pay the costs.

**(k) Audits of records**

The financial records of the Graduate School (including records relating to contracts or agreements entered into under subsection (c)) shall be made available to the Comptroller General for purposes of conducting an audit.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title IX, §921, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1191; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10705(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 518; Pub. L. 110-234, title XIV, §14213(a), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1465; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XIV, §14213(a), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2227.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in subsec. (g)(1), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

CODIFICATION

In subsecs. (h)(4) and (i), “chapters 1 to 11 of title 40 and division C (except sections 3302, 3307(e), 3501(b), 3509, 3906, 4710, and 4711) of subtitle I of title 41” substituted for “the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.)” on authority of Pub. L. 107-217, §5(c), Aug. 21, 2002, 116 Stat. 1303, which Act enacted Title 40, Public Buildings, Property, and Works, and Pub. L. 111-350, §6(c), Jan. 4, 2011, 124 Stat. 3854, which Act enacted Title 41, Public Contracts.

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, §14213(a)(1), substituted “Department of Agriculture educational, training, and professional development activities” for “Operation of Graduate School of Department of Agriculture as non-appropriated fund instrumentality” in section catchline.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-246, §14213(a)(2), added subsec. (b) and struck out former subsec. (b). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “On and after April 4, 1996, the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture shall continue to operate as a nonappropriated fund instrumentality of the United States under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture.”

2002—Subsec. (k). Pub. L. 107-171 added subsec. (k).

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10705(c), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 519, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and repealing section 5922 of this title] take effect on October 1, 2002.”

PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

Pub. L. 110-234, title XIV, §14213(b), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1466, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XIV, §14213(b), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2228, provided

that: “Notwithstanding the amendments made by subsection (a) [amending this section], effective on the date of the enactment of this Act [June 18, 2008], the Graduate School of the Department of Agriculture shall be subject to Federal procurement laws and regulations in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as a private entity providing services to the Federal Government.”

[Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical provisions. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.]

**§ 2279c. Student internship programs**

**(a) Student intern subsistence program**

**(1) “Student intern” defined**

In this subsection, the term “student intern” means a person who—

(A) is employed by the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Department”) to assist scientific, professional, administrative, or technical employees of the Department; and

(B) is a student in good standing at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20) pursuing a course of study related to the field in which the person is employed by the Department.

**(2) Payment of certain expenses by the Secretary**

The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) may, out of user fee funds or funds appropriated to any agency of the Department, pay for lodging expenses, subsistence expenses, and transportation expenses of a student intern at the agency (including expenses of transportation to and from the student intern’s residence at or near the institution of higher education attended by the student intern and the official duty station at which the student intern is employed).

**(b) Cooperation with associations of colleges and universities**

**(1) Authority to cooperate**

Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements on an annual basis with 1 or more associations of institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20) for the purpose of providing for Department participation in internship programs for graduate and undergraduate students who are selected by the associations from students attending member institutions of the associations and other institutions of higher education.

**(2) Internship program**

An internship program supported under this subsection (referred to in this subsection as an “internship program”) shall provide work assignments for students within the Department and such other activities as the association that enters into the cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) with respect to the internship program (referred to in this subsection as the “cooperating association”) and the Secretary shall determine. The nature of Department participation in an internship program shall be developed jointly by the Secretary and the cooperating association.