

(1) or (3) of subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

**(c) Duties of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights**

The Secretary may delegate to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights responsibility for—

- (1) ensuring compliance with all civil rights and related laws by all agencies and under all programs of the Department;
- (2) coordinating administration of civil rights laws (including regulations) within the Department for employees of, and participants in, programs of the Department; and
- (3) ensuring that necessary and appropriate civil rights components are properly incorporated into all strategic planning initiatives of the Department and agencies of the Department.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §218, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3212; Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(a) [title X, §1001(1)], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681, 2681-41; Pub. L. 107-171, title X, §10704(a), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 518; Pub. L. 112-166, §2(a)(1), Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1283.)

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 112-166, §2(a)(1)(A), substituted “paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection (a)” for “subsection (a)”.

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 112-166, §2(a)(1)(B), (C), which directed that subsec. (b) be amended by striking out subsec. (c) and redesignating subsec. (d) as (c), was executed by making the amendment to the entire section, striking out subsec. (c) and redesignating subsec. (d) as (c), to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, text of subsec. (c) read as follows: “Any official who is serving as Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration or Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations on October 13, 1994, and who was appointed as such Assistant Secretary by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall not be required to be reappointed under subsection (b) of this section to the successor position authorized under subsection (a) of this section if the Secretary establishes the position, and the official occupies the new position, within 180 days after October 13, 1994 (or such later date set by the Secretary if litigation delays rapid succession).”

2002—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 107-171, §10704(a)(1), added par. (3).

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 107-171, §10704(a)(2), added subsec. (d) and struck out former subsecs. (d) and (e), which amended section 5315 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and section 3128 of this title and repealed sections 2212 to 2212c of this title and section 2 of Reorg. Plan No. 2 of 1953, set out as a note under section 2201 of this title.

1998—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 105-277 inserted “and” at end of par. (1), substituted a period for “; and” at end of par. (2), and struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-166 effective 60 days after Aug. 10, 2012, and applicable to appointments made on and after that effective date, including any nomination pending in the Senate on that date, see section 6(a) of Pub. L. 112-166, set out as a note under section 113 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

**§ 6919. Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison**

**(a) Authorization**

The Secretary shall establish in the Department the position of Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison.

**(b) Duties**

The Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison shall—

- (1) provide information to returning veterans about, and connect returning veterans with, beginning farmer training and agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs appropriate to the needs and interests of returning veterans, including assisting veterans in using Federal veterans educational benefits for purposes relating to beginning a farming or ranching career;
- (2) provide information to veterans concerning the availability of, and eligibility requirements for, participation in agricultural programs, with particular emphasis on beginning farmer and rancher programs;
- (3) serve as a resource for assisting veteran farmers and ranchers, and potential farmers and ranchers, in applying for participation in agricultural programs; and
- (4) advocate on behalf of veterans in interactions with employees of the Department.

**(c) Contracts and cooperative agreements**

For purposes of carrying out the duties under subsection (b), the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with the research centers of the Agricultural Research Service, institutions of higher education (as defined in section 1001 of title 20), or nonprofit organizations for—

- (1) the conduct of regional research on the profitability of small farms;
- (2) the development of educational materials;
- (3) the conduct of workshops, courses, and certified vocational training;
- (4) the conduct of mentoring activities; or
- (5) the provision of internship opportunities.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §219, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title XII, §12304, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 985.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6919, Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §219, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3213, provided that compensation of any officer or employee of the Department on Oct. 13, 1994, was not to be increased as a result of enactment of this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(e) [title III, §362], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-305.

**§ 6920. Office of Energy Policy and New Uses**

The Secretary shall establish for the Department, in the Office of the Secretary, an Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §220, as added Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, §602, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 585.)

**§ 6921. Office of Tribal Relations**

The Secretary shall maintain in the Office of the Secretary an Office of Tribal Relations, which shall advise the Secretary on policies re-