

SUBCHAPTER IV—RURAL TELEPHONE  
BANK

**§ 941. Telephone Bank**

**(a) Establishment**

There is hereby established a body corporate to be known as the Rural Telephone Bank (hereinafter called the telephone bank).

**(b) General purposes**

The general purposes of the telephone bank shall be to obtain an adequate supply of supplemental funds to the extent feasible from non-Federal sources, to utilize said funds in the making of loans under section 948 of this title, and to conduct its operations to the extent practicable on a self-sustaining basis.

**(c) Status; payments in lieu of property taxes**

The telephone bank shall be deemed to be an instrumentality of the United States, and shall, for the purposes of jurisdiction and venue, be deemed a citizen and resident of the District of Columbia. The telephone bank is authorized to make payments to State, territorial, and local governments in lieu of property taxes upon real property and tangible personal property which was subject to State, territorial, and local taxation before acquisition by the telephone bank. Such payment may be in the amounts, at the times, and upon such terms as the telephone bank deems appropriate but the telephone bank shall be guided by the policy of making payments not in excess of the taxes which would have been payable upon such property in the condition in which it was acquired.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, § 401, as added Pub. L. 92-12, § 2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 30.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective May 7, 1971, see section 7 of Pub. L. 92-12, set out as a note under section 921a of this title.

**§ 942. General powers**

To carry out the specific powers herein authorized, the telephone bank shall have power to (a) adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal; (b) sue and be sued in its corporate name; (c) make contracts, leases, and cooperative agreements, or enter into other transactions as may be necessary in the conduct of its business, and on such terms as it may deem appropriate; (d) acquire, in any lawful manner, hold, maintain, use, and dispose of property: *Provided*, That the telephone bank may only acquire property needed in the conduct of its banking operations or pledged or mortgaged to secure loans made hereunder or in temporary operation or maintenance thereof: *Provided further*, That any such pledged or mortgaged property so acquired shall be disposed of as promptly as is consistent with prudent liquidation practices, but in no event later than five years after such acquisition; (e) accept gifts or donations of services or of property in aid of any of the purposes herein authorized; (f) appoint such officers, attorneys, agents, and employees, vest them with such powers and duties, fix and pay such compensation to them for their services as the telephone bank may determine; (g) determine the character of and the necessity

for its obligations and expenditures, and the manner in which they shall be incurred, allowed, and paid; (h) execute, in accordance with its by-laws, all instruments necessary or appropriate in the exercise of any of its powers; (i) collect or compromise all obligations assigned to or held by it and all legal or equitable rights accruing to it in connection with the payment of such obligations until such time as such obligations may be referred to the Attorney General for suit or collection; and (j) exercise all such other powers as shall be necessary or incidental to carrying out its functions under this subchapter.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, § 402, as added Pub. L. 92-12, § 2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 30.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective May 7, 1971, see section 7 of Pub. L. 92-12, set out as a note under section 921a of this title.

**§ 943. Special provisions governing telephone bank as a Federal agency until conversion of ownership, control, and operation**

Until the ownership, control, and operation of the telephone bank is converted as provided in section 950(a) of this title and not thereafter—

**(a) Supervision and direction of Secretary of Agriculture; free postage and priority of debts restrictions**

the telephone bank shall be an agency of the United States and shall be subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter called the Secretary): *Provided, however*, That the telephone bank shall at no time be entitled to transmission of its mail free of postage, nor shall it have the priority of the United States in the payment of debts out of bankrupt, insolvent, and decedents' estates;

**(b) Use of facilities and services of employees of Secretary of Agriculture**

in order to perform its responsibilities under this subchapter, the telephone bank may partially or jointly utilize the facilities and the services of employees of the Secretary, without cost to the telephone bank;

**(c) Wholly owned Government corporation**

the telephone bank shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 91 of title 31, in the same manner and to the same extent as if it were included in the definition of "wholly owned Government corporation" as set forth in section 9101 of title 31;

**(d) Appointment and compensation of personnel**

the telephone bank may without regard to the civil service<sup>1</sup> classification laws appoint and fix the compensation of such officers and employees of the telephone bank as it may deem necessary;

**(e) Tort claims and litigation**

the telephone bank shall be subject to the provisions of sections 517, 519, and 2679 of title 28.

<sup>1</sup> So in original. The word "and" probably should appear after "civil service".