

such other personnel as are necessary to enable the Authority to carry out the duties of the Authority.

**(ii) Exception**

Compensation under clause (i) shall not exceed the maximum rate for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

**(B) Executive director**

The executive director shall be responsible for—

- (i) the carrying out of the administrative duties of the Authority;
- (ii) direction of the Authority staff; and
- (iii) such other duties as the Authority may assign.

**(C) No Federal employee status**

No member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority (except the Federal co-chairperson of the Authority, the alternate and staff for the Federal cochairperson, and any Federal employee detailed to the Authority under subsection (e)(5)) shall be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose.

**(i) Conflicts of interest**

**(1) In general**

Except as provided under paragraph (2), no State member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority shall participate personally and substantially as a member, alternate, officer, or employee of the Authority, through decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation, or otherwise, in any proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other matter in which, to knowledge of the member, alternate, officer, or employee—

(A) the member, alternate, officer, or employee;

(B) the spouse, minor child, partner, or organization (other than a State or political subdivision of the State) of the member, alternate, officer, or employee, in which the member, alternate, officer, or employee is serving as officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee; or

(C) any person or organization with whom the member, alternate, officer, or employee is negotiating or has any arrangement concerning prospective employment;

has a financial interest.

**(2) Disclosure**

Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the State member, alternate, officer, or employee—

(A) immediately advises the Authority of the nature and circumstances of the proceeding, application, request for a ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, or other particular matter presenting a potential conflict of interest;

(B) makes full disclosure of the financial interest; and

(C) before the proceeding concerning the matter presenting the conflict of interest, receives a written determination by the Authority that the interest is not so substantial as to be likely to affect the integrity of the services that the Authority may expect from the State member, alternate, officer, or employee.

**(3) Violation**

Any person that violates this subsection shall be fined not more than \$10,000, imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both.

**(j) Validity of contracts, loans, and grants**

The Authority may declare void any contract, loan, or grant of or by the Authority in relation to which the Authority determines that there has been a violation of any provision under subsection (h)(4), subsection (i), or sections 202 through 209 of title 18.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §382B, as added Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title V, §503], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-269; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6027(a), (b), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 373; Pub. L. 108-447, div. C, title V, §506, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 2963; Pub. L. 111-85, title IV, §402, Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2878.)

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 111-85, which directed amendment of section 382B(c) of the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000 by adding par. (1) and striking out former par. (1), was executed to this section, which is section 382B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(A) TEMPORARY METHOD.—During the period beginning on May 13, 2002, and ending on December 31, 2008, a decision by the Authority shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal cochairperson and a majority of the State members (not including any member representing a State that is delinquent under subsection (g)(2)(C) of this section) to be effective.”

“(B) PERMANENT METHOD.—Effective beginning on January 1, 2009, a decision by the Authority shall require a majority vote of the Authority (not including any member representing a State that is delinquent under subsection (g)(2)(C) of this section) to be effective.”

2004—Subsec. (c)(1)(A). Pub. L. 108-447, §506(1), substituted “2008” for “2004”.

Subsec. (c)(1)(B). Pub. L. 108-447, §506(2), substituted “2009” for “2005”.

2002—Subsec. (c)(1). Pub. L. 107-171, §6027(a), added par. (1) and struck out heading and text of former par. (1). Text read as follows: “A decision by the Authority shall require a majority vote of the Authority (not including any member representing a State that is delinquent under subsection (g)(2)(C) of this section) to be effective.”

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 107-171, §6027(b), substituted “, rules, and regulations” for “and rules”.

**§ 2009aa-2. Economic and community development grants**

**(a) In general**

The Authority may approve grants to States and public and nonprofit entities for projects, approved in accordance with section 2009aa-8 of this title—

(1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of the region for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region (ex-

cept that grants for this purpose may only be made to a State or local government);

(2) to assist the region in obtaining the job training, employment-related education, and business development (with an emphasis on entrepreneurship) that are needed to build and maintain strong local economies;

(3) to provide assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped areas that lack financial resources for improving basic public services;

(4) to provide assistance to severely distressed and underdeveloped areas that lack financial resources for equipping industrial parks and related facilities; and

(5) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subchapter.

**(b) Funding**

**(1) In general**

Funds for grants under subsection (a) may be provided—

(A) entirely from appropriations to carry out this section;

(B) in combination with funds available under another Federal or Federal grant program; or

(C) from any other source.

**(2) Priority of funding**

To best build the foundations for long-term economic development and to complement other Federal and State resources in the region, Federal funds available under this subchapter shall be focused on the activities in the following order or priority:

(A) Basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.

(B) Transportation infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.

(C) Business development, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.

(D) Job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §382C, as added Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title V, §503], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-274; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6027(c), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 373.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 107-171 struck out heading and text of par. (3). Text read as follows: “Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in any grant program, funds appropriated to carry out this section may be used to increase a Federal share in a grant program, as the Authority determines appropriate.”

**§ 2009aa-3. Supplements to Federal grant programs**

**(a) Finding**

Congress finds that certain States and local communities of the region, including local development districts, may be unable to take maximum advantage of Federal grant programs for which the States and communities are eligible because—

(1) the States or communities lack the economic resources to provide the required matching share; or

(2) there are insufficient funds available under the applicable Federal law authorizing the Federal grant program to meet pressing needs of the region.

**(b) Federal grant program funding**

Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share, the areas eligible for assistance, or the authorizations of appropriations of any Federal grant program, and in accordance with subsection (c), the Authority, with the approval of the Federal cochairperson and with respect to a project to be carried out in the region—

(1) may increase the Federal share of the costs of a project under the Federal grant program to not more than 90 percent (except as provided in section 2009aa-5(b) of this title); and

(2) shall use amounts made available to carry out this subchapter to pay the increased Federal share.

**(c) Certifications**

**(1) In general**

In the case of any project for which all or any portion of the basic Federal share of the costs of the project is proposed to be paid under this section, no Federal contribution shall be made until the Federal official administering the Federal law that authorizes the Federal grant program certifies that the project—

(A) meets (except as provided in subsection (b)) the applicable requirements of the applicable Federal grant program; and

(B) could be approved for Federal contribution under the Federal grant program if funds were available under the law for the project.

**(2) Certification by Authority**

**(A) In general**

The certifications and determinations required to be made by the Authority for approval of projects under this Act in accordance with section 2009aa-8 of this title—

(i) shall be controlling; and

(ii) shall be accepted by the Federal agencies.

**(B) Acceptance by Federal cochairperson**

In the case of any project described in paragraph (1), any finding, report, certification, or documentation required to be submitted with respect to the project to the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government responsible for the administration of the Federal grant program under which the project is carried out shall be accepted by the Federal cochairperson.

(Pub. L. 87-128, title III, §382D, as added Pub. L. 106-554, §1(a)(4) [div. B, title V, §503], Dec. 21, 2000, 114 Stat. 2763, 2763A-275; amended Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6027(d), May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 373.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (c)(2)(A), refers to the Agricultural Act of 1961, Pub. L. 87-128, Aug. 8, 1961, 75