

Sections 905 and 940a of this title, referred to in subsec. (c)(6), were repealed by Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §§ 774(a), 780, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1150, 1151.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 917, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 17, as added Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2343, 104 Stat. 4027, related to establishment of technical assistance unit to provide advice and technical assistance to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, § 703(b), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1881.

### § 918. General prohibitions

#### (a) No consideration of borrower's level of general funds

The Secretary shall not deny or reduce any loan or loan advance under this chapter based on a borrower's level of general funds.

#### (b) Loan origination fees

The Secretary may not charge any fee or charge not expressly provided in this chapter in connection with any loan made or guaranteed under this chapter.

#### (c) Consultants

##### (1) In general

To facilitate timely action on applications by borrowers for financial assistance under this chapter and for approvals required of the Rural Electrification Administration pursuant to the terms of outstanding loan or security instruments or otherwise, the Secretary may use consultants funded by the borrower, paid for out of the general funds of the borrower, for financial, legal, engineering, and other technical advice and services in connection with the review of the application by the Rural Electrification Administration.

##### (2) Conflicts of interest

The Secretary shall establish procedures for the selection and the provision of technical services by consultants to ensure that the consultants have no financial or other conflicts of interest in the outcome of the application of the borrower.

##### (3) Payment of costs

The Secretary may not, without the consent of the borrower, require, as a condition of processing an application for approval, that the borrower agree to pay the costs, fees, and expenses of consultants hired to provide technical or advisory services to the Secretary.

##### (4) Contracts, grants, and agreements

The Secretary may enter into such contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements as are necessary to carry out this section.

##### (5) Use of consultants

Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority of the Secretary to retain the services of consultants from funds made available to the Secretary or otherwise.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 18, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, § 2353, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4039; amended Pub. L. 103-129, § 2(c)(4), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1364; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, § 235(a)(13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6602(b)(1), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4776.)

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsecs. (a), (b). Pub. L. 115-334 struck out “and the Governor of the telephone bank” after “The Secretary”.

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” wherever appearing.

1993—Pub. L. 103-129 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

### § 918a. Energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities efficiency grants and loans in rural communities with extremely high energy costs

#### (a) In general

The Secretary, acting through the Rural Utilities Service, may—

(1) in coordination with State rural development initiatives, make grants and loans to persons, States, political subdivisions of States, and other entities organized under the laws of States to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities in which the average residential expenditure for home energy is at least 275 percent of the national average residential expenditure for home energy (as determined by the Energy Information Agency using the most recent data available);

(2) make grants and loans to the Denali Commission established by the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105-277) to acquire, construct, extend, upgrade, and otherwise improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving communities described in paragraph (1); and

(3) make grants to State entities, in existence as of November 9, 2000, to establish and support a revolving fund to provide a more cost-effective means of purchasing fuel where the fuel cannot be shipped by means of surface transportation.

#### (b) Authorization of appropriations

##### (1) In general

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and such sums as are necessary for each subsequent fiscal year.

##### (2) Limitation on planning and administrative expenses

Not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) may be used for planning and administrative expenses.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title I, § 19, as added Pub. L. 106-472, title III, § 301, Nov. 9, 2000, 114 Stat. 2069.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Denali Commission Act of 1998, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is title III of div. C of Pub. L. 105-277, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-637, which is set out as a note under section 3121 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

### § 918b. Acquisition of existing systems in rural communities with high energy costs

On and after November 28, 2001, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of