

sions relating to a producer-paid assessment at a rate of \$1 per bale, with a possible per-bale supplement not to exceed 1 per centum of the value of the cotton, along with other provisions relating to use of assessment funds, referendums and procedures concerning any supplemental assessments, and judicial action to collect assessments.

1976—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 94-366, §3, inserted provisions which authorized Secretary to appoint consumer advisors up to 15 per centum of the membership of the Cotton Board, and authorized reimbursing such advisors for expenses incurred in attending the Board meetings.

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 94-366, §2, inserted provisions authorizing reimbursement of the Secretary up to \$200,000 for expenses incurred in conducting a referendum pursuant to section 2107 of this title and for administrative costs incurred by him for supervisory work up to five employee years after an order or an amendment to an order has been issued and made effective, inserted provisions authorizing assessment of a bale of cotton more than once if called for by a provision in this subsection, and inserted provisions authorizing Secretary to amend the rate order to supplement the rate in each marketing year by an additional per bale amount not to exceed 1 per centum of the value of the cotton as determined by the Cotton Board and the Secretary.

§ 2107. Referenda

(a) Referendum and cotton producer approval of orders

The Secretary shall conduct a referendum among persons who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production of cotton for the purpose of ascertaining whether the issuance of an order is approved or favored by producers. No order issued pursuant to this chapter shall be effective unless the Secretary determines that the issuance of such order is approved or favored by not less than two-thirds of the producers voting in such referendum, or by the producers of not less than two-thirds of the cotton produced during the representative period by producers voting in such referendum and by not less than a majority of the producers voting in such referendum.

(b) Referendum on proposed amendment to order implementing provisions of 1990 amendments to this chapter

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 2103 and 2104 of this title, not later than 150 days after the date of enactment of the Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990 [November 28, 1990], and after notice and opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall issue a proposed amendment to the order implementing the provisions of such Act, which shall become effective as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), the Secretary shall, within a period not to exceed 8 months after November 28, 1990, conduct a referendum among persons who have been cotton producers during a representative period, as determined by the Secretary, and persons who are importers of cotton and who, during a 12-month period ending not later than 90 days prior to the conduct of the referendum under this section imported a quantity of cotton in excess of the de minimis quantity (if any) established by the Secretary under section 2116(c)(2) of this title, for the purpose of ascertaining if a majority of those voting approve the

proposed amendment to the order issued by the Secretary under paragraph (1). The Secretary shall announce the results of the referendum within 30 days after the date of such referendum. If the amendment is approved in the referendum, within a period not to exceed 90 days from the date of announcement of the results of such referendum, the Secretary shall publish the amendment to the order and regulations implementing the amendment provided for in this subsection.

(c) Future referendums every five years or by request of cotton producers and importers

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 2103 and 2104 of this title, once every five years after the date of the referendum provided for under subsection (b), the Secretary shall conduct a review to ascertain whether a referendum is needed to determine whether producers and importers favor continuation of the amendment to the order provided for in the Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990 if such amendment is then in effect or, if such an amendment is not in effect, whether they favor approval of such amendment. The Secretary shall make a public announcement of the results of the review within 60 days after each fifth anniversary date of the referendum provided for under subsection (b). If the Secretary determines to provide for such a referendum, the Secretary shall conduct the referendum within 12 months after a public announcement of the determination to conduct the referendum.

(2) If the Secretary does not provide for such a referendum on the Secretary's own initiative, the Secretary shall conduct such a referendum upon the request of 10 percent or more of the number of cotton producers and importers voting in the most recent referendum, except that, in counting such requests for a referendum, not more than 20 percent of such requests may be from producers from any one State or importers of cotton. Producers and importers may sign up to request such a referendum at the county office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or county extension agent, or by mailing such a request to the Secretary, as prescribed in regulations. The sign-up period shall be for a period not to exceed 90 days, shall commence 60 days after the Secretary makes a public announcement of a determination not to provide for a referendum on the Secretary's own initiative, and shall be publicized by the Secretary and the Cotton Board immediately after such public announcement. The referendum shall be held within 12 months after the end of the sign-up period, if requested by the requisite number of persons.

(3) The amendment to the order provided for in this subsection shall not be effective if it is disapproved by a majority of cotton producers and importers of cotton voting in the referendum.

(Pub. L. 89-502, §8, July 13, 1966, 80 Stat. 283; Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1993, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3911; Pub. L. 102-237, title VIII, §808(a)(2), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1883.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Cotton Research and Promotion Act Amendments of 1990, referred to in subsecs. (b)(1) and (c)(1), is

subtitle G [§§1990–1998] of title XIX of Pub. L. 101–624, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3909, which amended sections 2101, 2106 to 2110, and 2116 of this title and enacted provisions set out as notes under section 2101 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1990 Amendment note set out under section 2101 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 102–237 made technical amendment to reference to section 2116(c)(2) of this title to correct error in corresponding reference in original act.

1990—Pub. L. 101–624 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a) and added subsecs. (b) and (c).

§ 2108. Suspension and termination of orders

(a) Discretionary suspension or termination by Secretary

The Secretary shall, whenever he finds that any order issued under this chapter, or any provision thereof, obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of this chapter, terminate or suspend the operation of such order or such provision thereof.

(b) Suspension or termination resulting from referendum with cotton producers and importers

The Secretary may conduct a referendum at any time, and shall hold a referendum on request of a number of producers and importers (if subject to the order) equivalent to at least 10 percent of those persons voting in the most recent referendum, to determine whether cotton producers and importers subject to the order favor the termination or suspension of the order, except that in counting such requests for a referendum, not more than 20 percent of such requests may be from producers from any one State or importers of cotton (if subject to the order). The Secretary shall suspend or terminate the order at the end of the marketing year, as defined in the order, whenever the Secretary determines suspension or termination of the order is approved by a majority of producers and importers (subject to the order) voting in the referendum who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production and importation of cotton and who produced and imported more than 50 percent of the volume of cotton produced and imported by those voting in the referendum.

(c) Suspension or termination of any order not deemed order within meaning of this chapter

The termination or suspension of any order, or any provision thereof, shall not be considered an order within the meaning of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 89–502, §9, July 13, 1966, 80 Stat. 283; Pub. L. 101–624, title XIX, §1994, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3912.)

AMENDMENTS

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101–624 amended subsec. (b) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (b) read as follows: “The Secretary may conduct a referendum at any time, and shall hold a referendum on request of 10 percent or more of the number of cotton producers voting in the referendum approving the order, to determine whether cotton producers favor the termination or suspension of the order, and he shall suspend or terminate such order at the end of the marketing year, as

defined in the order, whenever he determines that suspension or termination of the order is approved or favored by a majority of the producers of cotton voting in such referendum who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production of cotton, and who produced more than 50 percent of the volume of the cotton produced by the cotton producers voting in the referendum.”

§ 2109. Provisions applicable to amendments

(a) Provisions applicable to amendments to orders

Except as provided in subsection (b), the provisions of this chapter applicable to orders shall be applicable to amendments to orders.

(b) Approval of amendments by cotton producers and importers

No amendment to an order issued under this chapter shall be effective unless the Secretary determines that—

(1) with respect to an amendment referred to in subsection (b) or (c) of section 2107 of this title, the amendment is approved by producers and importers of cotton as provided in such section; or

(2) with respect to any other amendment, that the amendment is approved by a majority of cotton producers and importers subject to the order voting in the referendum.

(c) Disapproval of any amendment to order not deemed to invalidate such order

The disapproval of any amendment to an order issued under this chapter shall not be deemed to invalidate such order.

(Pub. L. 89–502, §10, July 13, 1966, 80 Stat. 283; Pub. L. 101–624, title XIX, §1995, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3912; Pub. L. 102–237, title VIII, §808(a)(3), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1883.)

AMENDMENTS

1991—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 102–237 substituted “subsection (b) or (c) of section 2107” for “section 2107(b) or 2107(c)”.

1990—Pub. L. 101–624 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, section read as follows: “The provisions of this chapter applicable to orders shall be applicable to amendments to orders.”

§ 2110. Refund of producer assessments

(a) Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter and except as provided in subsection (b), any cotton producer against whose cotton any assessment is made and collected from him under the authority of this chapter and who is not in favor of supporting the research and promotion program as provided for herein shall have the right to demand and receive from the Cotton Board a refund of such assessment: *Provided*, That such demand shall be made personally by such producer in accordance with regulations and on a form and within a time period prescribed by the Board and approved by the Secretary, but in no event less than ninety days, and upon submission of proof satisfactory to the Board that the producer paid the assessment for which refund is sought, and any such refund shall be made within sixty days after demand therefor.

(b) The right of a producer to demand a refund under subsection (a) shall terminate if the pro-