

fueled from a solar, wind, hydropower, biomass, or geothermal source of energy.

**(b) Loans**

In addition to any other funds or authorities otherwise made available under this chapter, the Secretary may make electric loans under this subchapter for electric generation from renewable energy resources for resale to rural and nonrural residents.

**(c) Rate**

The rate of a loan under this section shall be equal to the average tax-exempt municipal bond rate of similar maturities.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title III, §317, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6108, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1198, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6108, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1959.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.

**§ 940h. Bonding requirements**

The Secretary shall review the bonding requirements for all programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service under this chapter to ensure that bonds are not required if—

- (1) the interests of the Secretary are adequately protected by product warranties; or
- (2) the costs or conditions associated with a bond exceed the benefit of the bond.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title III, §318, as added Pub. L. 110-234, title VI, §6109, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1198, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title VI, §6109, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1960.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of this title.

**§ 940i. Cybersecurity and grid security improvements**

**(a) Definition of cybersecurity and grid security improvements**

In this section, the term “cybersecurity and grid security improvements” means investment in the development, expansion, and modernization of rural utility infrastructure that addresses known cybersecurity and grid security risks.

**(b) Loans and loan guarantees**

The Secretary may make or guarantee loans under this subchapter and subchapter I for cybersecurity and grid security improvements.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title III, §319, as added Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6507, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4775.)

SUBCHAPTER IV—RURAL TELEPHONE BANK

**§§ 941 to 950b. Repealed. Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, § 6602(a), (b)(15), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4776, 4777**

Section 941, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §401, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 30, established the Rural Telephone Bank and set out its status and purpose.

Section 942, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §402, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 30, set out the general powers of the telephone bank.

Section 943, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §403, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 31; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(9), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, related to special provisions governing telephone bank as a Federal agency until conversion of ownership, control, and operation.

Section 944, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §404, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 31; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(10), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, required the the Secretary to designate an official of the Department of Agriculture to serve as the chief executive officer or governor of the telephone bank, who would perform all functions, powers, and duties of the telephone bank, except as otherwise provided.

Section 944a, Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §1414, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-27, provided for publication of rural telephone bank policies and regulations.

Section 945, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §405, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 32; amended Pub. L. 93-32, §4, May 11, 1973, 87 Stat. 70; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2363(a), (b)(1), (c), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4042-4044; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(7), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, created a board of directors for the telephone bank and set out its membership requirements.

Section 946, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §406, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 33; amended Pub. L. 93-32, §5, May 11, 1973, 87 Stat. 70; Pub. L. 94-273, §2(2), Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 375; Pub. L. 97-98, title XVI, §1607, Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1347; Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §1413(a), (c), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-26; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §§2364, 2367(a), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4044; Pub. L. 103-129, §2(c)(9), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1365; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(11), (13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §772(b)(3), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1149, related to capitalization of the telephone bank.

Section 947, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §407, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 34; amended Pub. L. 92-324, §2, June 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 390; Pub. L. 93-32, §§6, 7, May 11, 1973, 87 Stat. 70, authorized the telephone bank to obtain funds through the public or private sale of its bonds, debentures, notes, and other evidences of indebtedness.

Section 948, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §408, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 35; amended Pub. L. 93-32, §§8, 9, May 11, 1973, 87 Stat. 70, 71; Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §§1411(b)(1), (c), 1412, Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-22, 1330-23, 1330-26; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §§2365, 2366, 2367(b), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4044; Pub. L. 103-129, §2(a)(2), Nov. 1, 1993, 107 Stat. 1361; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 104-66, title I, §1011(y), Dec. 21, 1995, 109 Stat. 711, granted the telephone bank lending power subject to certain terms and conditions.

Section 949, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §409, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 36, provided that receipts from telephone bank activities would be available for all obligations and expenditures of the telephone bank.

Section 950, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §410, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 36; amended Pub. L. 94-273, §2(2), Apr. 21, 1976, 90 Stat. 375; Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2363(b)(2), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4043; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(11), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, related to the transfer of ownership, control and power from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Telephone Bank Board.

Section 950a, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §411, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 37, related to the liquidation or dissolution of the telephone bank.

Section 950b, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title IV, §412, as added Pub. L. 92-12, §2, May 7, 1971, 85 Stat. 37; amended Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221, limited loans under section 922 of this title for any borrower with a net worth in excess of 20 percent of its assets.

#### CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS COVERING INTEREST RATES AND LOAN PREPAYMENTS

Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §1411(a), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-22, which set out congressional findings related to interest rates and loan prepayments and was formerly set out as a note under section 948 of this title, was repealed by Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6602(b)(16), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4777.

#### PREPAYMENT REGULATIONS

Pub. L. 100-203, title I, §1411(b)(2), Dec. 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 1330-23, which directed the Governor of the Rural Telephone Bank to issue regulations to carry out the amendment to this section by section 1411(b)(1) of Pub. L. 100-203 and was formerly set out as a note under section 948 of this title, was repealed by Pub. L. 115-334, title VI, §6602(b)(16), Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4777.

### SUBCHAPTER V—RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#### § 950aa. Additional powers and duties

The Secretary shall—

(1) provide advice and guidance to electric borrowers under this chapter concerning the effective and prudent use by such borrowers of the investment authority under section 940b of this title to promote rural development;

(2) provide technical advice, troubleshooting, and guidance concerning the operation of programs or systems that receive assistance under this chapter;

(3) establish and administer various pilot projects through electric and telephone borrowers that the Secretary determines are useful or necessary, and recommend specific rural development projects for rural areas;

(4) act as an information clearinghouse and conduit to provide information to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter concerning useful and effective rural development efforts that such borrowers may wish to apply in their areas of operation and concerning State, regional, or local plans for long-term rural economic development;

(5) provide information to electric and telephone borrowers under this chapter concerning the eligibility of such borrowers to apply for financial assistance, loans, or grants from other Federal agencies and non-Federal sources to enable such borrowers to expand their rural development efforts; and

(6) promote local partnerships and other coordination between borrowers under this chapter and community organizations, States,

counties, or other entities, to improve rural development.

(May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title V, §501, as added Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2345, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4029; amended Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, §703(c), Dec. 13, 1991, 105 Stat. 1881; Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(12), (13), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3221; Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, §781(b), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1151.)

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Par. (7). Pub. L. 104-127 struck out par. (7) which read as follows: “administer a Rural Business Incubator Fund (as established under section 950aa-1 of this title) that shall provide technical assistance, advice, loans, or capital to business incubator programs or for the creation or operation of small business incubators in rural areas.”

1994—Pub. L. 103-354 struck out “of REA Administrator” at end of section catchline and substituted “Secretary” for “Administrator” in introductory provisions and par. (3).

1991—Pars. (6) to (8). Pub. L. 102-237 inserted “and” at end of par. (6), redesignated par. (8) as (7), and struck out former par. (7) which read as follows: “review the advice and recommendations of the Rural Educational Opportunities Board as established under section 601(f); and”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1991 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-237 effective as if included in the provision of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, to which the amendment relates, see section 1101(b)(8) of Pub. L. 102-237, set out as a note under section 1421 of this title.

#### § 950aa-1. Repealed. Pub. L. 104-127, title VII, § 781(a), Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1151

Section, act May 20, 1936, ch. 432, title V, §502, as added Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIII, §2345, 104 Stat. 4030; amended Dec. 13, 1991, Pub. L. 102-237, title VII, §703(d), 105 Stat. 1881; Oct. 13, 1994, Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §235(a)(13), 108 Stat. 3221, provided for establishment of Rural Business Incubator Fund.

### SUBCHAPTER VI—RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS

#### § 950bb. Access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas

##### (a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide grants, provide loans, and provide loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of the construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in rural areas.

##### (b) Definitions

In this section:

##### (1) Broadband service

The term “broadband service” means any technology identified by the Secretary as having the capacity to transmit data to enable a subscriber to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video.

##### (2) Incumbent service provider

The term “incumbent service provider”, with respect to an application submitted under this section, means an entity that, as of the date of submission of the application, is