

(ii) basic requirements for approval by each State approving agency;

(iii) recommendations with respect to training and coursework to be used during apprenticeships or on-the-job training that will enable a veteran to be eligible for agricultural programs; and

(iv) examples of successful programs and curriculums that have been approved for purposes of chapter 36 of title 38 (with consent of the organization and without any personally identifiable information).

**(2) Review of website**

**(A) In general**

Not later than 5 years after December 20, 2018, and once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine if the website required under subsection (b)(5) is effective in providing veterans the information required under paragraph (1).

**(B) Ineffective website**

If the Secretary determines that the website is not effective under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

(i) notify the agriculture and veterans committees described in subparagraph (C) of that determination; and

(ii) not earlier than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary provides notice under clause (i), terminate the website.

**(C) Agriculture and veterans committees**

The agriculture and veterans committees referred to in subparagraph (B)(i) are—

(i) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;

(iii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

**(e) Consultation required**

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall consult with organizations that serve veterans.

**(f) Report**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison shall submit a report on beginning farmer training for veterans and agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs for veterans to—

(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate.

**(2) Contents of report**

The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a summary of the measures taken to carry out subsections (b) and (c);

(B) a description of the information provided to veterans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b);

(C) recommendations for best informing veterans of the programs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b);

(D) a summary of the contracts or cooperative agreements entered into under subsection (c);

(E) a description of the programs implemented under subsection (c);

(F) a summary of the employment outreach activities directed to veterans;

(G) recommendations for how opportunities for veterans in agriculture should be developed or expanded;

(H) a summary of veteran farm lending data and a summary of shortfalls, if any, identified by the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison in collecting data with respect to veterans engaged in agriculture; and

(I) recommendations, if any, on how to improve activities under subsection (b).

**(g) Public dissemination of information**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 1 year after December 20, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison shall make publicly available and share broadly, including by posting on the website of the Department—

(A) the report of the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison on beginning farmer training for veterans and agricultural vocational and rehabilitation programs; and

(B) the information disseminated under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b).

**(2) Further dissemination**

Not later than the day before the date on which the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison makes publicly available the information under paragraph (1), the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison shall provide that information to the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, and the Department of Labor.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §219, as added Pub. L. 113-79, title XII, §12304, Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 985; amended Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12402, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4971.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 6919, Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §219, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3213, provided that compensation of any officer or employee of the Department on Oct. 13, 1994, was not to be increased as a result of enactment of this chapter, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 105-277, div. A, §101(e) [title III, §362], Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-231, 2681-305.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (b)(5), (6). Pub. L. 115-334, §12402(1), added pars. (5) and (6).

Subsecs. (d) to (g). Pub. L. 115-334, §12402(2), added subsecs. (d) to (g).

**§ 6920. Office of Energy Policy and New Uses**

The Secretary shall establish for the Department, in the Office of the Secretary, an Office of Energy Policy and New Uses.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §220, as added Pub. L. 105-185, title VI, §602, June 23, 1998, 112 Stat. 585.)

### § 6921. Office of Tribal Relations

#### (a) In general

The Secretary shall maintain in the Office of the Secretary an Office of Tribal Relations, which shall advise the Secretary on policies related to Indian tribes and carry out such other functions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

#### (b) Tribal Advisory Committee

##### (1) Definitions

In this subsection:

##### (A) Indian tribe

The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 5304 of title 25.

##### (B) Relevant committees of Congress

The term “relevant committees of Congress” means—

- (i) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;
- (ii) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and
- (iii) the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate.

##### (C) Tribal organization

The term “tribal organization” has the meaning given the term in section 5304 of title 25.

##### (2) Establishment of committee

##### (A) In general

The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee, to be known as the Tribal Advisory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) to provide advice and guidance to the Secretary on matters relating to Tribal and Indian affairs.

##### (B) Facilitation

The Committee shall facilitate, but not supplant, government-to-government consultation between the Department of Agriculture (referred to in this subsection as the “Department”) and Indian tribes.

##### (3) Membership

##### (A) Composition

The Committee shall be composed of 11 members, of whom—

- (i) 3 shall be appointed by the Secretary;
- (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the chairperson of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;
- (iii) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate;
- (iv) 1 shall be appointed by the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;
- (v) 1 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate;
- (vi) 2 shall be appointed by the chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and
- (vii) 2 shall be appointed by the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives.

#### (B) Nominations

The Secretary shall accept nominations for members of the Committee from any of the following:

- (i) An Indian tribe.
- (ii) A tribal organization.
- (iii) A national or regional organization with expertise in issues relating to the duties of the Committee described in paragraph (4).

#### (C) Diversity

To the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary shall ensure that the members of the Committee represent a diverse set of expertise on issues relating to geographic regions, Indian tribes, and the agricultural industry.

#### (D) Limitation

No member of the Committee shall be an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

#### (E) Period of appointment; vacancies

##### (i) In general

- Each member of the Committee—
- (I) subject to clause (ii), shall be appointed to a 3-year term; and
- (II) may be reappointed to not more than 3 consecutive terms.

##### (ii) Initial staggering

The first 3 appointments by the Secretary under paragraph (3)(A)(i) shall be for a 2-year term.

##### (iii) Vacancies

Any vacancy in the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not more than 90 days after the date on which the position becomes vacant.

#### (F) Meetings

##### (i) In general

The Committee shall meet in person not less than twice each year.

##### (ii) Office of Tribal Relations representative

Not fewer than 1 representative from the Office of Tribal Relations of the Department shall be present at each meeting of the Committee.

##### (iii) Department of Interior representative

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior (or a designee) shall be present at each meeting of the Committee.

##### (iv) Nonvoting representatives

The individuals described in clauses (ii) and (iii) shall be nonvoting representatives at meetings of the Committee.

#### (4) Duties of Committee

The Committee shall—

- (A) identify evolving issues of relevance to Indian tribes relating to programs of the Department;
- (B) communicate to the Secretary the issues identified under subparagraph (A);