

if the person is an officer or employee of the Board or the Department, shall be removed from office.

**(n) Other terms and conditions**

The order shall provide such terms and conditions, not inconsistent with this section, as are necessary to carry out the order, including provisions for the assessment of a penalty for the late payment of an assessment due under the order.

(Pub. L. 103-407, § 5, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4213.)

**§ 7105. Referenda**

**(a) Initial referendum**

**(1) In general**

Following the issuance of an order under section 7103 of this title, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among producers, feeders, and importers who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products for the purpose of ascertaining whether the order shall go into effect.

**(2) Approval of order**

The order shall become effective only if the Secretary determines that the order has been approved by not less than a majority of the producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum or at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the production represented by persons voting in the referendum.

**(b) Additional referenda**

**(1) In general**

After the initial referendum, on the request of a representative group comprising 10 percent or more of the producers, feeders, and importers who, during a representative period as determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production, feeding, importation, or processing of sheep or sheep products, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum of producers, feeders, and importers to determine whether the producers, feeders, and importers favor the termination or suspension of the order.

**(2) Suspension or termination**

If the Secretary determines that suspension or termination of the order is favored by a majority of the producers, feeders, and importers voting in the referendum or at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the production represented by the persons voting in the referendum, the Secretary shall suspend or terminate—

(A) collection of assessments under the order not later than 180 days after the determination; and

(B) the order in an orderly manner as soon as practicable after the determination.

**(c) Procedures**

**(1) Reimbursement**

**(A) In general**

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Board shall reimburse the Secretary for any expenses incurred by the Secretary in

connection with the conduct of any referendum under this section.

**(B) Federal employee salaries**

The Board shall not be required to reimburse the Secretary for the salaries of Federal employees under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the reimbursement would be overly burdensome and costly.

**(2) Date**

Each referendum under this section shall be conducted on a date established by the Secretary, under a procedure by which producers, feeders, and importers intending to vote in the referendum shall certify that the producers, feeders, and importers were engaged in the production, feeding, or importation of sheep or sheep products during the representative period and, on the same day, shall be provided an opportunity to vote in the referendum.

**(3) Place**

Referenda under this section shall be conducted at locations determined by the Secretary. Absentee mail ballots shall be furnished by the Secretary on request made in person, by mail, or by telephone.

**(4) Allocation of production**

The Secretary shall determine a method of allocating, by a pro rata percentage of annual projected or actual assessments from importers, the volume of production represented by importers in referenda conducted pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 103-407, § 6, Oct. 22, 1994, 108 Stat. 4223.)

**§ 7106. Petition and review**

**(a) Petition**

**(1) In general**

A person subject to an order issued under this chapter may file with the Secretary a petition—

(A) stating that the order, any provision of the order, or any obligation imposed in connection with the order is not established in accordance with law; and

(B) requesting a modification of the order or an exemption from the order.

**(2) Hearings**

The petitioner shall be given an opportunity for a hearing on the petition, in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary.

**(3) Ruling**

After the hearing, the Secretary shall make a ruling on the petition. The ruling shall be final if the ruling is in accordance with law.

**(b) Review**

**(1) Commencement of action**

The district court of the United States for any district in which a person who is a petitioner under subsection (a) resides or carries on business shall have jurisdiction to review the ruling on the petition of the person, if a complaint for that purpose is filed not later than 20 days after the date of the entry of the ruling by the Secretary under subsection (a)(3).