

ducer's membership in or contract with an association of producers, nor require a handler to deal with an association of producers.

(Pub. L. 90-288, § 5, Apr. 16, 1968, 82 Stat. 95.)

**§ 2305. Enforcement provisions**

**(a) Civil actions by persons aggrieved; preventive relief; attorneys' fees; security**

Whenever any handler has engaged or there are reasonable grounds to believe that any handler is about to engage in any act or practice prohibited by section 2303 of this title, a civil action for preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order, may be instituted by the person aggrieved. In any action commenced pursuant hereto, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs. The court may provide that no restraining order or preliminary injunction shall issue except upon the giving of security by the applicant, in such sum as the court deems proper, for the payment of such costs and damages as may be incurred or suffered by any party who is found to have been wrongfully enjoined or restrained.

**(b) Civil actions by Attorney General; Federal jurisdiction; complaint; preventive relief**

Whenever the Secretary of Agriculture has reasonable cause to believe that any handler, or group of handlers, has engaged in any act or practice prohibited by section 2303 of this title, he may request the Attorney General to bring civil action in his behalf in the appropriate district court of the United States by filing with it a complaint (1) setting forth facts pertaining to such act or practice, and (2) requesting such preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order against the handler, or handlers, responsible for such acts or practices. Upon receipt of such request, the Attorney General is authorized to file such complaint.

**(c) Suits by persons injured; Federal jurisdiction; amount of recovery; attorneys' fees; limitation of actions**

Any person injured in his business or property by reason of any violation of, or combination or conspiracy to violate, any provision of section 2303 of this title may sue therefor in the appropriate district court of the United States without respect to the amount in controversy, and shall recover damages sustained. In any action commenced pursuant to this subsection, the court may allow the prevailing party a reasonable attorney's fee as a part of the costs. Any action to enforce any cause of action under this subsection shall be forever barred unless commenced within two years after the cause of action accrued.

**(d) Federal jurisdiction; exhaustion of other remedies; State laws and jurisdiction unaffected**

The district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction of proceedings instituted pursuant to this section and shall exercise the same without regard to whether the aggrieved party shall have exhausted any administrative or other remedies that may be provided by law.

The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to change or modify existing State law nor to deprive the proper State courts of jurisdiction.

(Pub. L. 90-288, § 6, Apr. 16, 1968, 82 Stat. 95.)

**§ 2306. Separability**

If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of the chapter and of the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 90-288, § 7, Apr. 16, 1968, 82 Stat. 95.)

**CHAPTER 57—PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION**

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### § 2321. Establishment

There is hereby established in the Department of Agriculture an office to be known as the Plant Variety Protection Office, which shall have the functions set forth in this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, §1, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542; Pub. L. 96-574, §1, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3350.)

### Editorial Notes

#### AMENDMENTS

1980—Pub. L. 96-574 substituted “an office” for “a bureau”.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 91-577, title III, §141, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1558, provided that: “This Act [this chapter] shall take effect upon enactment [Dec. 24, 1970]. Applications may be filed with the Secretary and held by him until the Office of Plant Variety Protection is organized and in operation”.

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1994 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 103-349, §1(a), Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3136, provided that: “This Act [amending sections 2327, 2330, 2353, 2354, 2357, 2401, 2402, 2404, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2442, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2482, 2483, 2486, 2501, 2504, 2532, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2561, 2566, 2567, 2568, and 2570 of this title, repealing sections 2463, 2502 and 2503 of this title, and enacting provisions set out as notes under section 2401 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Plant Variety Protection Act Amendments of 1994’.”

#### SHORT TITLE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 102-560, §1, Oct. 28, 1992, 106 Stat. 4230, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 2570 of this title and section 296 of Title 35, Patents, amending section 2541 of this title and section 271 of Title 35, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 2541 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Patent and Plant Variety Protection Remedy Clarification Act’.”

#### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 91-577, title III, §145, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1559, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter, section 1611 of this title, and sections 1545 and 2353 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, amending section 1562 of this title and sections 1338 and 1498 of Title 28, and enacting provisions set out as notes under this section] may be cited as the ‘Plant Variety Protection Act’.”

### § 2322. Seal

The Plant Variety Protection Office shall have a seal with which documents and certificates evidencing plant variety protection shall be authenticated.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, §2, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

### § 2323. Organization

The organization of the Plant Variety Protection Office shall, except as provided herein, be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter called the Secretary). The office shall devote itself substantially exclusively to the administration of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, §3, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

### § 2324. Restrictions on employees as to interest in plant variety protection

Employees of the Plant Variety Protection Office shall be ineligible during the periods of their employment, to apply for plant variety protection and to acquire directly or indirectly, except by inheritance or bequest, any right or interest in any matters before that office. This section shall not apply to members of the Plant Variety Protection Board who are not otherwise employees of the Plant Variety Protection Office.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, §4, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)