

CHAPTER 96—GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

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§ 6701. Global Climate Change Program**(a) Establishment**

For the purpose of having within the Department of Agriculture a focal point for coordinating all issues of climate change, the Secretary of Agriculture (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall establish a Global Climate Change Program (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Program”). The Secretary shall designate a director of the Program who shall be responsible to the Secretary for carrying out the duties specified in subsections (b) and (c).

(b) General duties

The Director shall—

- (1) coordinate policy analysis, long range planning, research, and response strategies relating to climate change issues;
- (2) provide liaison with other Federal agencies, through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, regarding issues of climate change;
- (3) inform the Department of scientific developments and policy issues relating to the effects of climate change on agriculture and forestry, including broader issues that affect the impact of climate change on the farms and forests of the United States;
- (4) recommend to the Secretary alternative courses of action with which to respond to such scientific developments and policy issues; and
- (5) ensure that recognition of the potential for climate change is fully integrated into the research, planning, and decision-making processes of the Department.

(c) Specific responsibilities

The Director shall—

- (1) coordinate the global climate change studies required by section 6702 of this title;
- (2) provide, through such other agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, competitive grants for research in climatology relating to the potential impact of climate change on agriculture;
- (3) coordinate the participation of the Department in interagency climate-related activities;
- (4) consult with the National Academy of Sciences and private, academic, State, and local groups with respect to climate research and related activities;
- (5) represent the Department to the Office of Science and Technology Policy and coordinate

the activities of the Department in response to requirements of this chapter;

(6) represent the Department on the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change; and

(7) review all Department budget items relating to climate change issues, including specifically the research budget to be submitted by the Secretary to the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIV, § 2402, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4058.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c)(5), was in the original “this title”, meaning title XXIV of Pub. L. 101-624, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4058, known as the Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of title XXIV to the Code, see Short Title note below and Tables.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-624, title XXIV, § 2401, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 4058, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter and amending sections 1601 and 1602 of Title 16, Conservation] may be cited as the ‘Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1990.’”

§ 6702. Study of global climate change, agriculture, and forestry**(a) Crops****(1) In general**

The Secretary shall study the effects of global climate change on agriculture and forestry. The study shall, at a minimum address—

- (A) the effects of simultaneous increases in temperature and carbon dioxide on crops of economic significance;
- (B) the effects of more frequent or more severe weather events on such crops;
- (C) the effects of potential changes in hydrologic regimes on current crop yields;
- (D) the economic effects of widespread and increased drought frequency in the south, midwest, and plains States; and
- (E) changes in pest problems due to higher temperatures.

(2) Further studies

If the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1) warrant, the Secretary shall conduct further studies that address the means of mitigating the effects of global climate change on crops of economic significance that shall, at a minimum—

- (A) identify whether climate change tolerance can be bred into these crops, the amount of time necessary for any such breeding, and the effects on the income of farmers;
- (B) evaluate existing genetic resource and breeding programs for crops for their ability to develop new varieties that can tolerate potential climate changes; and
- (C) assess the potential for the development of crop varieties that are tolerant to