

whether a decision is appealable shall be administratively final.

(e) Division personnel

(1) In general

The Director shall recommend to the Secretary persons for appointment as hearing officers as are necessary for the conduct of hearings under section 6997 of this title. The Director shall appoint such other employees as are necessary for the administration of the Division. A hearing officer or other employee of the Division shall have no duties other than those that are necessary to carry out this subchapter. Each position of the Division shall be filled by an individual who is not a political appointee.

(2) Political appointee

In this subsection, the term “political appointee” means an individual occupying—

(A) a position described under sections 5312 through 5316 of title 5 (relating to the Executive Schedule);

(B) a noncareer position in the Senior Executive Service, as described under section 3132(a)(7) of that title;

(C) a position in the executive branch of the Government of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations; or

(D) a position which has been excepted from the competitive service by reason of its confidential, policy-determining, policy-making, or policy-advocating character.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §272, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3229; Pub. L. 113-79, title I, §1610(a), Feb. 7, 2014, 128 Stat. 709; Pub. L. 115-334, title XII, §12412, Dec. 20, 2018, 132 Stat. 4980.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (e), was in the original “this subtitle”, meaning subtitle H (§§271-283) of title II of Pub. L. 103-354, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3228, which enacted this subchapter, amended sections 2006 and 5101 to 5106 of this title and section 2202e of Title 12, Banks and Banking, and repealed sections 1433e and 1983b of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 115-334 amended subsec. (e) generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Director shall appoint such hearing officers and other employees as are necessary for the administration of the Division. A hearing officer or other employee of the Division shall have no duties other than those that are necessary to carry out this subchapter.”

2014—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 113-79 added subsec. (c) and struck out former subsec. (c). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Director shall be free from the direction and control of any person other than the Secretary. The Division shall not receive administrative support (except on a reimbursable basis) from any agency other than the Office of the Secretary. The Secretary may not delegate to any other officer or employee of the Department, other than the Director, the authority of the Secretary with respect to the Division.”

§ 6993. Transfer of functions

There are transferred to the Division all functions exercised and all administrative appeals

pending before the effective date of this subchapter (including all related functions of any officer or employee) of or relating to—

(1) the National Appeals Division established by section 1433e(c)¹ of this title (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994);

(2) the National Appeals Division established by subsections (d) through (g) of section 1983b¹ of this title (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994);

(3) appeals of decisions made by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; and

(4) appeals of decisions made by the Soil Conservation Service (as in effect on the day before October 13, 1994).

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §273, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3230.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The effective date of this subchapter, referred to in text, probably means the date of enactment of Pub. L. 103-354, which was approved Oct. 13, 1994.

Section 1433e of this title, referred to in par. (1), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §281(b), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3233.

Section 1983b of this title, referred to in par. (2), was repealed by Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §281(c), Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3233.

§ 6994. Notice and opportunity for hearing

Not later than 10 working days after an adverse decision is made that affects the participant, the Secretary shall provide the participant with written notice of such adverse decision and the rights available to the participant under this subchapter or other law for the review of such adverse decision.

(Pub. L. 103-354, title II, §274, Oct. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 3230.)

§ 6995. Informal hearings

(a) In general

If an officer, employee, or committee of an agency makes an adverse decision, the agency shall hold, at the request of the participant, an informal hearing on the decision.

(b) Farm Service Agency

With respect to programs carried out through the Farm Service Agency (or other office, agency, or administrative unit of the Department assigned to carry out the programs authorized for the Farm Service Agency under section 6932 of this title), the Secretary shall maintain the informal appeals process applicable to such programs, as in effect on October 13, 1994.

(c) Mediation

If a mediation program is available under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) as a part of the informal hearing process, the participant shall—

(1) be offered the right to choose such mediation; and

(2) to the maximum extent practicable, be allowed to use both informal agency review and mediation to resolve disputes under that title.

¹ See References in Text note below.