

“(c) ISSUANCE OF FINAL AMENDMENTS.—Not later than 150 days after publication of such amendment, and after notice and opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall issue the amendments to the plan, as described in subsection (a), if the Secretary has reason to believe that such amendments will tend to effectuate the declared policy of this subtitle [see Short Title of 1990 Amendment note set out under section 2611 of this title].

“(d) REFERENDUM.—Not later than 24 months after the date of issuance of such amendments to the plan, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among producers and importers who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production or importation of potatoes. The amendments shall be continued only if the Secretary determines that the amendments to the plan have been approved by a majority of the total number of producers and importers voting in the referendum.

“(e) REFUNDS.—The board shall—

“(1) establish an escrow account to be used for assessment refunds, and place funds in such account in accordance with paragraph (2) during the period beginning on the effective date of the amendments to the plan issued under subsection (c) and ending on the date of the referendum on the amendments to the plan;

“(2) place in the account established under paragraph (1), from assessments collected under the plan during the period referred to in paragraph (1), an amount equal to the product obtained by multiplying the total amount of assessments collected during such period by 10 percent;

“(3) subject to paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), provide that for the period referred to in paragraph (1) any producer or importer shall have the right to demand and receive from the board a one-time refund of assessments collected from such producer or importer during such period if—

“(A) such producer or importer is responsible for paying such assessments;

“(B) such producer or importer does not support the program established under the plan; and

“(C) the amendments to the plan to eliminate provisions for refunds of assessments are not approved pursuant to a referendum conducted under subsection (d);

“(4) require such demand to be made in accordance with regulations, on a form, and within a time period prescribed by the board;

“(5) require such refund to be made on submission of proof satisfactory to the board that such producer or importer paid the assessment for which refund is demanded; and

“(6) if the amount in the escrow account required to be established by paragraph (1) is not sufficient to refund the total amount of assessments demanded by all eligible producers and importers under this subsection, prorate the amount of such refunds among all eligible producers and importers who demand such refund.

“(f) TERMINATION.—If such amendments to the plan are not approved, the Secretary shall terminate the amendments and the plan shall continue in effect without the amendments.

“(g) AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE 50 STATES.—Notwithstanding any provision of the Act, the Secretary shall, upon request of a producer or a producer organization, issue an amendment to the plan to include the 50 States of the United States. Such amendment shall not be subject to a referendum.”

### § 2626. 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 this chapter and of the application of such provision to other persons and circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 91-670, title III, §317, Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2047.)

### § 2627. Authorization

There is hereby made available from the funds provided by section 612c of this title such sums as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter: *Provided*, That no such sum shall be used for the payment of any expenses or expenditures of the board in administering any provision of any plan issued under authority of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-670, title III, §318, Jan. 11, 1971, 84 Stat. 2047.)

## CHAPTER 59—RURAL FIRE PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

### SUBCHAPTER I—RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

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(f) Commodity Credit Corporation.

2670. Repealed.

SUBCHAPTER I—RURAL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION

**§§ 2651 to 2654. Repealed. Pub. L. 95-313, § 16(a)(6), formerly § 13(a)(6), July 1, 1978, 92 Stat. 374; renumbered § 16(a)(6), Pub. L. 101-624, title XII, § 1215(1), Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3525**

Section 2651, Pub. L. 92-419, title IV, §401, Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 670; Pub. L. 91-524, title VIII, §816(a), as added Pub. L. 93-86, §1(27)(B), Aug. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 240, related to purpose and findings for provisions relating to rural community fire protection assistance.

Section 2652, Pub. L. 92-419, title IV, §402, Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 670; Pub. L. 95-113, title XV, §1504, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1021, related to terms and conditions, funding requirements, etc., for cooperative agreements with State officials.

Section 2653, Pub. L. 92-419, title IV, §403, Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 671, related to reporting requirements for Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 2654, Pub. L. 92-419, title IV, §404, Aug. 30, 1972, 86 Stat. 671; Pub. L. 91-524, title VIII, §816(b), as added Pub. L. 93-86, §1(27)(B), Aug. 10, 1973, 87 Stat. 240; amended Pub. L. 95-113, title XV, §1505, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1021, related to authorization of appropriations for assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 1978, see section 17 of Pub. L. 95-313, set out as an Effective Date note under section 2101 of Title 16, Conservation.

**§ 2655. Rural firefighters and emergency personnel grant program**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary of Agriculture may make grants to units of general local government and Indian tribes (as defined in section 450b of title 25) to pay the cost of training firefighters and emergency medical personnel in firefighting, emergency medical practices, and responding to hazardous materials and bioagents in rural areas.

**(b) Use of funds**

**(1) Scholarships**

**(A) In general**

Not less than 60 percent of the amounts made available for competitively-awarded grants under this section shall be used to provide grants to fund partial scholarships for training of individuals at training centers approved by the Secretary.

**(B) Priority**

In awarding grants under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give priority to grant applicants that provide for training within the region (or locality) of the applicant.

**(2) Grants for training centers**

**(A) In general**

A grant under subsection (a) of this section may be used to provide financial assistance to State and regional centers that pro-

vide training for firefighters and emergency medical personnel for improvements to the training facility, equipment, curricula, and personnel.

**(B) Limitation**

Not more than \$750,000 shall be provided to any single training center for any fiscal year under this paragraph.

**(c) Funding**

Of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, to remain available until expended.

(Pub. L. 107-171, title VI, §6405, May 13, 2002, 116 Stat. 430.)

SUBCHAPTER II—RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SMALL FARM RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SUBCHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This subchapter is referred to in section 917 of this title.

**§ 2661. Statement of purposes and goals**

(a) The overall purpose of this subchapter is to foster a balanced national development that provides opportunities for increased numbers of the people of the United States to work and enjoy a high quality of life dispersed throughout our Nation by providing the essential knowledge necessary for successful programs of rural development. It is further the purpose of this subchapter to—

(1) provide multistate regional agencies, States, counties, cities, multicounty planning and development districts, businesses, industries, Indian tribes on Federal and State reservations or other federally recognized Indian tribal groups and others involved with public services and investments in rural areas or that provide or may provide employment in these areas the best available scientific, technical, economic, organizational, environmental, and management information and knowledge useful to them, and to assist and encourage them in the interpretation and application of this information to practical problems and needs in rural development;

(2) provide research and investigations in all fields that have as their purpose the development of useful knowledge and information to assist those planning, carrying out, managing, or investing in facilities, services, businesses, or other enterprises, public and private, that may contribute to rural development;

(3) increase the capabilities of, and encourage, colleges and universities to perform the vital public service roles of research, and the transfer and practical application of knowledge, in support of rural development;

(4) expand small farm research and extend training and technical assistance to small farm families in assessing their needs and opportunities and in using the best available knowledge on sound economic approaches to small farm operations and on existing services offered by the Department of Agriculture and