

Public Law 100-108
100th Congress

An Act

Aug. 20, 1987
[H.R. 2971]

To provide continuing authority to the Secretary of Agriculture for recovering costs associated with cotton classing services, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Uniform Cotton
Classing Fees
Act of 1987.
Agriculture and
agricultural
commodities.
7 USC 471 note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

That this Act may be cited as the "Uniform Cotton Classing Fees Act of 1987".

SEC. 2. COTTON CLASSIFICATION SERVICES AND FEES.

Effective date.

Effective for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending September 30, 1992, section 3a of the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 473a) is amended—

(1) by amending the first sentence to read as follows: "Effective for the fiscal years ending September 30, 1987, September 30, 1988, September 30, 1989, September 30, 1990, September 30, 1991, and September 30, 1992, the Secretary of Agriculture shall make cotton classification services available to producers of cotton and shall provide for the collection of classification fees from participating producers, or agents who voluntarily agree to collect and remit the fees on behalf of producers.";

(2) in the second sentence by striking out the proviso and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "Provided, That (1) the uniform per bale classification fee to be collected from producers, or their agents, for such classification service in any year shall be the uniform fee collected in the previous year, exclusive of adjustments to such fee made in the previous year under clauses (2), (3), and (4) of this proviso, and as may be adjusted by the percentage change in the Implicit Price Deflator for Gross National Product as indexed during the most recent twelve-month period for which statistics are available; (2) the fee calculated in accordance with clause (1) for a crop year may be increased by an amount not to exceed 1 per centum for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be produced in such crop year below the level of 12,500,000 running bales, or decreased by an amount not to exceed 1 per centum for every 100,000 running bales, or portion thereof, that the Secretary estimates will be produced in such crop year above the level of 12,500,000 running bales; (3) adjustments made under clause (2) shall not exceed 15 per centum, except when the Secretary estimates that income generated by fees, surcharges, and other sources of income will not provide an ending accumulated operating reserve for a fiscal year of at least 10 per centum of the estimated cost of operating the program; (4) if the Secretary projects an accumulated operating reserve at the end of a fiscal year of less than 25 per centum of the estimated cost of operating the program, the Secretary may

add a special surcharge, not to exceed 5 cents per bale, applicable to such fiscal year, to ensure sufficient funds are available; (5) notwithstanding the previous clauses, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall not establish a fee which, when combined with all other sources of revenue and adjusted for expenses, would result in a projected operating reserve of more than 25 per centum; (6) the Secretary should continue to recognize that central billing and collection can reduce administrative costs, and offer appropriate discounts where practicable; and (7) the Secretary shall announce the uniform classification fee and any surcharge for the crop not later than June 1 of the year in which the fee applies, except that for fiscal year 1987, such announcement shall be made as soon as practicable following enactment of this proviso.”; and

(3) in the third sentence by striking out “clauses (1) and (2)” and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “clauses (1), (2), and (3)”.

SEC. 3. STUDY ON PROCESSING CERTAIN COTTON GRADES.

7 USC 473a note.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study, and perform such testing as necessary, of the differences between processing efficiency and product quality for Light Spotted and White grade cottons. The Secretary shall also conduct a survey and research to determine why an increasing proportion of the cotton crop is being classified as Light Spotted.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than October 1, 1988, the Secretary shall submit an initial report describing the results of the studies required under subsection (a) to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate. A final report shall be submitted to such committees as soon as practicable after submission of the initial report.

Approved August 20, 1987.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2971:

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-242 (Comm. on Agriculture).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 133 (1987):

July 27, considered and passed House.

Aug. 5, considered and passed Senate.