

Public Law 103-188
103d Congress

An Act

Dec. 14, 1993
[S. 717]

To amend the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act to modify the provisions governing the rate of assessment, to expand the exemption of egg producers from such Act, and for other purposes.

Egg Research
and Consumer
Information Act
Amendments of
1993.
7 USC 2701 note.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Egg Research and Consumer Information Act Amendments of 1993".

SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT RATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 8(e) of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2707(e)) is amended—

(1) by designating the first and second sentences as paragraph (1);

(2) by designating the fifth and sixth sentences as paragraph (3); and

(3) by striking the third and fourth sentences and inserting the following new paragraph:

"(2)(A) The assessment rate shall be prescribed by the order. The rate shall not exceed 20 cents per case (or the equivalent of a case) of commercial eggs.

"(B) The order may be amended to increase the rate of assessment if the increase is recommended by the Egg Board and approved by egg producers in a referendum conducted under section 9(b).

"(C) The order may be amended to decrease the assessment rate after public notice and opportunity for comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, and without regard to sections 556 and 557 of such title."

(b) **REFERENDUM.**—Section 9 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

(1) by designating the first and second sentences as subsection (a);

(2) by designating the last sentence as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) (as designated by paragraph (1)) the following new subsection:

"(b)(1) If the Egg Board determines, based on a scientific study, marketing analysis, or other similar competent evidence, that an increase in the assessment rate is needed to ensure that assessments under the order are set at an appropriate level to effectuate the policy declared in section 2, the Egg Board may request that the Secretary conduct a referendum, as provided in paragraph (2).

“(2)(A) If the Egg Board requests the Secretary to conduct a referendum under paragraph (1) or (3), the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among egg producers not exempt from this Act who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have been engaged in the production of commercial eggs, for the purpose of ascertaining whether the producers approve the change in the assessment rate proposed by the Egg Board.

“(B) The change in the assessment rate shall become effective if the change is approved or favored by—

“(i) not less than two-thirds of the producers voting in the referendum; or

“(ii) a majority of the producers voting in the referendum, if the majority produced not less than two-thirds of all the commercial eggs produced by the producers voting during a representative period defined by the Secretary.

“(3)(A) In the case of the order in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection, the Egg Board shall determine under paragraph (1), as soon as practicable after such date of enactment, whether to request that the Secretary conduct a referendum under paragraph (2).

“(B) If the Egg Board makes such a request on the basis of competent evidence, as provided in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct the referendum as soon as practicable, but not later than—

“(i) 120 days after receipt of the request from the Egg Board; or

“(ii) if the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the change in the assessment rate is a significant action that requires review by the Director, 170 days after receipt of the request from the Egg Board.

“(4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, if an increase in the assessment rate and the authority for additional increases is approved by producers in a referendum conducted under this subsection, the Secretary shall amend the order to reflect the vote of the producers. The amendment to the order shall become effective on the date of issuance of the amendment.”

Effective date.

SEC. 3. RESEARCH.

Section 8(d) of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2707(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: “In preparing a budget for each of the 1994 and subsequent fiscal years, the Egg Board shall, to the maximum extent practicable, allocate a proportion of funds for research projects under this Act that is comparable to the proportion of funds that were allocated for research projects under this Act in the budget of the Egg Board for fiscal year 1993.”

SEC. 4. EXEMPTED PRODUCERS.

Section 12(a)(1) of the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2711(a)(1)) is amended by striking “30,000 laying hens” and inserting “75,000 laying hens”.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENT TO ORDER.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall issue amendments to the egg promotion and research order issued under the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) to implement the amendments made by

7 USC 2703 note.

this Act. The amendments shall be issued after public notice and opportunity for comment in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, and without regard to sections 556 and 557 of such title. The Secretary shall issue the proposed amendments to the order not later than 80 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments to the egg promotion and research order required by paragraph (1) shall become effective not later than—

(A) 30 days after the proposed amendments are issued;

or

(B) if the Director of the Office of Management and Budget determines that the amendments are a significant action that requires review by the Director, 50 days after the proposed amendments are issued.

(3) **REFERENDUM.**—The amendments referred to in paragraph (2) shall not be subject to a referendum conducted under the Egg Research and Consumer Information Act.

Approved December 14, 1993.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 717 (H.R. 3515):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 103-394 accompanying H.R. 3515 (Comm. on Agriculture).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 139 (1993):

Nov. 20, S. 717 considered and passed Senate. H.R. 3515 considered and passed House.

Nov. 21, S. 717 considered and passed House.