

Public Law 96-182
96th Congress

An Act

To amend the Water Bank Act for the purposes of authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust payment rates with respect to initial conservation agreements and to designate certain areas as wetlands, and for other purposes.

Jan. 2, 1980

[H.R. 2043]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the third sentence of section 3 of the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1302) is amended to read as follows: "The Secretary shall, beginning in 1980, reexamine the payment rates at the beginning of the fifth year of any such ten-year initial or renewal period and before the beginning of any renewal period, in the light of the then current land and crop values, and make needed adjustments in rates for any such initial or renewal period as provided in section 5 of this Act. In addition, the Secretary shall, beginning in 1980, reexamine the payment rates in any agreement that has been in effect for five years or more in the light of current land and crop values and make any needed adjustments in rates."

Water Bank Act,
amendment.

16 USC 1304.

SEC. 2. The fourth sentence of section 3 of the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1302) is amended to read as follows: "As used in this Act, the term 'wetlands' means (1) the inland fresh areas described as types 1 through 7 in Circular 39, Wetlands of the United States, published by the United States Department of the Interior (or the inland fresh areas corresponding to such types in any successor wetland classification system developed by the Department of the Interior), (2) artificially developed inland fresh areas that meet the description of the inland fresh areas described in clause (1) of this sentence, and (3) such other wetland types as the Secretary may designate."

"Wetlands."

SEC. 3. Section 5 of the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1304) is amended by adding at the end thereof a new sentence as follows: "The rates of annual payment shall be adjusted, to the extent provided for in advance by appropriation Acts, in accordance with section 3 of the Act."

SEC. 4. Section 11 of the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1310) is amended by—

(1) inserting after "program," in the second sentence the following: "in each fiscal year through the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980,"; and

(2) adding at the end thereof two new sentences as follows: "In carrying out the program, in each fiscal year after the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980, the Secretary shall not enter into agreements with owners and operators which would require payments to owners or operators in any calendar year under such agreements in excess of \$30,000,000. Not more than 15 percent of the funds authorized to be appropriated in any fiscal year after the fiscal year ending September 30, 1980, may be used for agreements entered into with owners or operators in any one State."

Approved January 2, 1980.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 96-171 (Comm. on Merchant Marine and Fisheries).

SENATE REPORT No. 96-449 accompanying S. 837 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 125 (1979):

July 9, considered and passed House.

Dec. 18, S. 837 considered in Senate; H.R. 2043 considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 837.

Dec. 20, House agreed to Senate amendment.