

**Editorial Notes**

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

## AMENDMENTS

2022—Subsec. (d)(2). Pub. L. 117-328 substituted “appointing and fixing the compensation of such employees as the Executive Director considers necessary to carry out the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Director” for “staffing of the Office of the Executive Director”.

2021—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 117-58, § 70801(g)(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The heads of agencies listed in section 4370m-1(b)(2)(B) of this title, with the guidance of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and in consultation with the Executive Director, may, after public notice and opportunity for comment, issue regulations establishing a fee structure for project proponents to reimburse the United States for reasonable costs incurred in conducting environmental reviews and authorizations for covered projects.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 117-58, § 70801(g)(2), substituted “through 4370m-7” for “and 4370m-2”.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 117-58, § 70801(g)(3)(A), struck out “and Permitting” after “Review” in heading.

Subsec. (d)(2), (3). Pub. L. 117-58, § 70801(g)(3)(B), added pars. (2) and (3) and struck out former pars. (2) and (3) which read as follows:

“(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Executive Director, without appropriation or fiscal year limitation, solely for the purposes of administering, implementing, and enforcing this subchapter, including the expenses of the Council.

“(3) TRANSFER.—The Executive Director, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, may transfer amounts in the Fund to other agencies to facilitate timely and efficient environmental reviews and authorizations for proposed covered projects.”

**§ 4370m-9. Application**

This subchapter applies to any covered project for which—

- (1) a notice is filed under section 4370m-2(a)(1) of this title; or
- (2) an application or other request for a Federal authorization is pending before a Federal agency 90 days after December 4, 2015.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41010, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

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**§ 4370m-10. GAO report**

Not later than 3 years after December 4, 2015, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes an analysis of whether the provisions of this subchapter could be adapted to streamline the Federal permitting process for smaller projects that are not covered projects.

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41011, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

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**§ 4370m-11. Savings provision**

Nothing in this subchapter amends the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41012, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, which is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of this title and Tables.

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, also known as the FAST Act, and not as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 which comprises this chapter.

**§ 4370m-12. Repealed. Pub. L. 117-58, div. G, title VIII, § 70801(h), Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1294**

Section, Pub. L. 114-94, div. D, title XLI, § 41013, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1761, provided that this subchapter shall terminate 7 years after Dec. 4, 2015.

**CHAPTER 56—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

Sec. 4371.	Congressional findings, declarations, and purposes.
4372.	Office of Environmental Quality.
4373.	Referral of Environmental Quality Reports to standing committees having jurisdiction.
4374.	Authorization of appropriations.
4375.	Office of Environmental Quality Management Fund.

**§ 4371. Congressional findings, declarations, and purposes**

(a) The Congress finds—

- (1) that man has caused changes in the environment;
- (2) that many of these changes may affect the relationship between man and his environment; and
- (3) that population increases and urban concentration contribute directly to pollution and the degradation of our environment.

(b)(1) The Congress declares that there is a national policy for the environment which provides for the enhancement of environmental quality. This policy is evidenced by statutes heretofore enacted relating to the prevention, abatement, and control of environmental pollution, water and land resources, transportation, and economic and regional development.

(2) The primary responsibility for implementing this policy rests with State and local government.

(3) The Federal Government encourages and supports implementation of this policy through

appropriate regional organizations established under existing law.

(c) The purposes of this chapter are—

(1) to assure that each Federal department and agency conducting or supporting public works activities which affect the environment shall implement the policies established under existing law; and

(2) to authorize an Office of Environmental Quality, which, notwithstanding any other provision of law, shall provide the professional and administrative staff for the Council on Environmental Quality established by Public Law 91-190.

(Pub. L. 91-224, title II, §202, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 114.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 91-190, referred to in subsec. (c)(2), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, known as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of this title and Tables.

#### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

##### SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 91-224, title II, §201, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 114, provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970'."

### § 4372. Office of Environmental Quality

#### (a) Establishment; Director; Deputy Director

There is established in the Executive Office of the President an office to be known as the Office of Environmental Quality (hereafter in this chapter referred to as the "Office"). The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality established by Public Law 91-190 shall be the Director of the Office. There shall be in the Office a Deputy Director who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

#### (b) Compensation of Deputy Director

The compensation of the Deputy Director shall be fixed by the President at a rate not in excess of the annual rate of compensation payable to the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

#### (c) Employment of personnel, experts, and consultants; compensation

The Director is authorized to employ such officers and employees (including experts and consultants) as may be necessary to enable the Office to carry out its functions under this chapter and Public Law 91-190, except that he may employ no more than ten specialists and other experts without regard to the provisions of title 5, governing appointments in the competitive service, and pay such specialists and experts without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, but no such specialist or expert shall be paid at a rate in excess of the maximum rate for GS-18

of the General Schedule under section 5332 of title 5.

#### (d) Duties and functions of Director

In carrying out his functions the Director shall assist and advise the President on policies and programs of the Federal Government affecting environmental quality by—

(1) providing the professional and administrative staff and support for the Council on Environmental Quality established by Public Law 91-190;

(2) assisting the Federal agencies and departments in appraising the effectiveness of existing and proposed facilities, programs, policies, and activities of the Federal Government, and those specific major projects designated by the President which do not require individual project authorization by Congress, which affect environmental quality;

(3) reviewing the adequacy of existing systems for monitoring and predicting environmental changes in order to achieve effective coverage and efficient use of research facilities and other resources;

(4) promoting the advancement of scientific knowledge of the effects of actions and technology on the environment and encourage<sup>1</sup> the development of the means to prevent or reduce adverse effects that endanger the health and well-being of man;

(5) assisting in coordinating among the Federal departments and agencies those programs and activities which affect, protect, and improve environmental quality;

(6) assisting the Federal departments and agencies in the development and interrelationship of environmental quality criteria and standards established through the Federal Government;

(7) collecting, collating, analyzing, and interpreting data and information on environmental quality, ecological research, and evaluation.

#### (e) Authority of Director to contract

The Director is authorized to contract with public or private agencies, institutions, and organizations and with individuals without regard to section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41 in carrying out his functions.

(Pub. L. 91-224, title II, §203, Apr. 3, 1970, 84 Stat. 114; 1970 Reorg. Plan No. 2, §102, eff. July 1, 1970, 35 F.R. 7959, 84 Stat. 2085.)

#### Editorial Notes

##### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Public Law 91-190, referred to in subsecs. (a), (c), and (d), is Pub. L. 91-190, Jan. 1, 1970, 83 Stat. 852, known as the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which is classified generally to chapter 55 (§4321 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4321 of this title and Tables.

The General Schedule, referred to in subsec. (c), is set out under section 5332 of Title 5.

##### CODIFICATION

In subsec. (e), "section 3324(a) and (b) of title 31 and section 6101 of title 41" substituted for "sections 3648

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be "encouraging".