

§ 2322. Seal

The Plant Variety Protection Office shall have a seal with which documents and certificates evidencing plant variety protection shall be authenticated.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 2, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

§ 2323. Organization

The organization of the Plant Variety Protection Office shall, except as provided herein, be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter called the Secretary). The office shall devote itself substantially exclusively to the administration of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 3, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

§ 2324. Restrictions on employees as to interest in plant variety protection

Employees of the Plant Variety Protection Office shall be ineligible during the periods of their employment, to apply for plant variety protection and to acquire directly or indirectly, except by inheritance or bequest, any right or interest in any matters before that office. This section shall not apply to members of the Plant Variety Protection Board who are not otherwise employees of the Plant Variety Protection Office.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 4, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

§ 2325. Repealed. Pub. L. 96-574, § 2, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3350

Section, Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 5, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542, required employees designated by Secretary to give bond before entering upon their duties.

§ 2326. Regulations

The Secretary may establish regulations, not inconsistent with law, for the conduct of proceedings in the Plant Variety Protection Office after consultations with the Plant Variety Protection Board.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 6, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1542.)

§ 2327. Plant Variety Protection Board**(a) Appointment**

The Secretary shall appoint a Plant Variety Protection Board. The Board shall consist of individuals who are experts in various areas of varietal development covered by this chapter. Membership of the Board shall include farmer representation and shall be drawn approximately equally from the private or seed industry sector and from the sector of government or the public. The Secretary or the designee of the Secretary shall act as chairperson of the Board without voting rights except in the case of ties.

(b) Functions of Board

The functions of the Plant Variety Protection Board shall include:

- (1) Advising the Secretary concerning the adoption of Rules and Regulations to facilitate the proper administration of this chapter;

- (2) Making advisory decisions on all appeals from the examiner. The Board shall determine whether to act as a full Board or by panels it selects; and whether to review advisory decisions made by a panel. For service on such appeals, the Board may select, as temporary members, experts in the area to which the particular appeal relates; and

- (3) Advising the Secretary on all questions under section 2404 of this title.

(c) Compensation of Board

The members of the Plant Variety Protection Board shall serve without compensation except for standard government reimbursable expenses.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 7, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1543; Pub. L. 103-349, § 13(a), Oct. 6, 1994, 108 Stat. 3142.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-349 substituted “the designee of the Secretary shall act as chairperson” for “his designee shall act as chairman” in last sentence.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENT**

Amendment by Pub. L. 103-349 effective 180 days after Oct. 6, 1994, see section 15 of Pub. L. 103-349, set out as a note under section 2401 of this title.

§ 2328. Library

The Secretary shall maintain a library of scientific and other works and periodicals, both foreign and domestic, in the Plant Variety Protection Office to aid the examiners in the discharge of their duties.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 8, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1543; Pub. L. 96-574, § 3, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3350.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

1980—Pub. L. 96-574 substituted “examiners” for “officers”.

§ 2329. Register of protected plant varieties

The Secretary shall maintain a register of descriptions of United States protected plant varieties.

(Pub. L. 91-577, title I, § 9, Dec. 24, 1970, 84 Stat. 1543; Pub. L. 96-574, § 4, Dec. 22, 1980, 94 Stat. 3350.)

Editorial Notes**AMENDMENTS**

1980—Pub. L. 96-574 substituted “descriptions” for “published specifications”, and struck out provisions requiring maintenance of a file for other information.

§ 2330. Publications

(a) The Secretary may publish, or cause to be published, in such format as the Secretary shall determine to be suitable, the following:

- (1) The descriptions of plant varieties protected including drawings and photographs.