

§ 6011. Requirement of referendum**(a) In general**

Not later than 24 months after the effective date of the plan first issued under section 6003 of this title, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among growers, grower-shellors, and importers, who during a representative period determined by the Secretary have been engaged in the production or importation of pecans, for the purpose of ascertaining whether growers, grower-shellors, and importers favor continuation, termination, or suspension of the plan.

(b) Other referenda**(1) In general**

After the referendum required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall hold a referendum on request of the Board or 10 percent or more of the total number of growers, grower-shellors, and importers, to determine if growers, grower-shellors, and importers favor the termination or suspension of the plan.

(2) Suspension or termination

The Secretary shall terminate or suspend such plan, in accordance with section 6012(b) of this title, whenever the Secretary determines that such suspension or termination is favored by a majority of those voting in a referendum.

(c) Costs of referendum

The Secretary shall be reimbursed from any assessments collected by the Board for any expenses incurred by the Department in connection with the conduct of any referendum under this chapter, except for the salaries of Government employees.

(d) Manner**(1) In general**

Referenda conducted pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted in such a manner as is determined by the Secretary.

(2) Advance registration

A grower, grower-sheller, or importer who chooses to vote in any referendum conducted under this chapter shall register in person prior to the voting period at the appropriate local office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary, for such grower, grower-sheller, or by mailing such a request to the Secretary on behalf of an importer.

(3) Voting

A grower, grower-sheller, or importer who votes in any referendum conducted under this chapter shall vote in person at the appropriate local office of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, as determined by the Secretary or by mail to the Secretary.

(4) Notice

Each Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office shall notify all growers, grower-shellors, and importers in the area of such office, as determined by the Secretary, at least 30 days prior to a referendum conducted under this chapter. Such notice shall explain the registration and voting procedures established under this subsection.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1916, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3853.)

§ 6012. Suspension or termination of plan**(a) Mandatory suspension or termination**

The Secretary shall, whenever the Secretary finds that the plan or any provision of the plan obstructs or does not tend to effectuate the declared policy of this chapter, terminate or suspend the operation of such plan or provision.

(b) Suspension or termination

If, as a result of any referendum conducted under this chapter, the Secretary determines that suspension or termination of a plan is favored by a majority of the growers, grower-shellors, and importers voting in the referendum, the Secretary shall—

(1) within 6 months after making such determination, suspend or terminate, as the case may be, collection of assessments under the plan; and

(2) suspend or terminate, as the case may be, activities under the plan in an orderly manner as soon as practicable.

(c) Limitation

The termination or suspension of any plan, or any provision thereof, shall not be considered a plan within the meaning of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1917, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3854.)

§ 6013. Authorization of appropriations**(a) In general**

There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as are necessary to carry out this chapter.

(b) Administrative expenses

Funds appropriated to carry out this chapter shall not be available for payment of the expenses or expenditures of the Board in administering any provision of any plan issued under this chapter.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1918, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3854.)

CHAPTER 90—MUSHROOM PROMOTION, RESEARCH, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION

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§ 6101. Findings and declaration of policy**(a) Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) mushrooms are an important food that is a valuable part of the human diet;

(2) the production of mushrooms plays a significant role in the Nation's economy in that

mushrooms are produced by hundreds of mushroom producers, distributed through thousands of wholesale and retail outlets, and consumed by millions of people throughout the United States and foreign countries;

(3) mushroom production benefits the environment by efficiently using agricultural by-products;

(4) mushrooms must be high quality, readily available, handled properly, and marketed efficiently to ensure that the benefits of this important product are available to the people of the United States;

(5) the maintenance and expansion of existing markets and uses, and the development of new markets and uses, for mushrooms are vital to the welfare of producers and those concerned with marketing and using mushrooms, as well as to the agricultural economy of the Nation;

(6) the cooperative development, financing, and implementation of a coordinated program of mushroom promotion, research, and consumer information are necessary to maintain and expand existing markets for mushrooms; and

(7) mushrooms move in interstate and foreign commerce, and mushrooms that do not move in such channels of commerce directly burden or affect interstate commerce in mushrooms.

(b) Policy

It is declared to be the policy of Congress that it is in the public interest to authorize the establishment, through the exercise of the powers provided in this chapter, of an orderly procedure for developing, financing through adequate assessments on mushrooms produced domestically or imported into the United States, and carrying out, an effective, continuous, and coordinated program of promotion, research, and consumer and industry information designed to—

(1) strengthen the mushroom industry's position in the marketplace;

(2) maintain and expand existing markets and uses for mushrooms; and

(3) develop new markets and uses for mushrooms.

(c) Construction

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to provide for the control of production or otherwise limit the right of individual producers to produce mushrooms.

(Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1922, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3855.)

Editorial Notes

CONSTITUTIONALITY

For information regarding the constitutionality of subtitle B of title XIX of Pub. L. 101-624, which enacted this chapter (sections 6101 et seq.), see the Table of Laws Held Unconstitutional in Whole or in Part by the Supreme Court on the Constitution Annotated website, constitution.congress.gov.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-624, title XIX, §1921, Nov. 28, 1990, 104 Stat. 3854, provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle B

(§§1921-1933) of title XIX of Pub. L. 101-624, enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990'."

§ 6102. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) Commerce

The term "commerce" means interstate, foreign, or intrastate commerce.

(2) Consumer information

The term "consumer information" means information and programs that will assist consumers and other persons in making evaluations and decisions regarding the purchase, preparation, and use of mushrooms.

(3) Council

The term "Council" means the Mushroom Council established under section 6104(b) of this title.

(4) Department

The term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(5) First handler

The term "first handler" means any person, as described in an order issued under this chapter, who receives or otherwise acquires mushrooms from a producer and prepares for marketing or markets such mushrooms, or who prepares for marketing or markets mushrooms of that person's own production.

(6) Importer

The term "importer" means any person who imports, on average, over 500,000 pounds of mushrooms annually from outside the United States.

(7) Industry information

The term "industry information" means information and programs that are designed to lead to the development of new markets and marketing strategies, increased efficiency, and activities to enhance the image of the mushroom industry.

(8) Marketing

The term "marketing" means the sale or other disposition of mushrooms in any channel of commerce.

(9) Mushrooms

The term "mushrooms" means all varieties of cultivated mushrooms grown within the United States for the fresh market, or imported into the United States for the fresh market, that are marketed, except that such term shall not include mushrooms that are commercially marinated, canned, frozen, cooked, blanched, dried, packaged in brine, or otherwise processed, as may be determined by the Secretary.

(10) Person

The term "person" means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other legal entity.

(11) Producer

The term "producer" means any person engaged in the production of mushrooms who