

(A) the escrow account shall be closed; and  
 (B) the funds shall be available to the board for disbursement as authorized in the order.

(Pub. L. 104-127, title V, §517, Apr. 4, 1996, 110 Stat. 1042.)

**§ 7416a. Confirmation of authority of Secretary of Agriculture to collect State commodity assessments**

**(a) Collection from marketing assistance loans**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall collect commodity assessments from the proceeds of a marketing assistance loan for a producer if the assessment is required to be paid by the producer or the first purchaser of a commodity pursuant to a State law or pursuant to an authority administered by the Secretary. This collection authority does not extend to a State tax or other revenue collection activity by a State.

**(b) Collection pursuant to agreement**

The collection of an assessment under subsection (a) shall be made as specified in an agreement between the Secretary of Agriculture and the State requesting the collection.

**(c) Prohibition on charging certain fees**

The Secretary may not charge any fees or related costs for the collection of commodity assessments pursuant to this section.

(Pub. L. 108-470, §1, Dec. 21, 2004, 118 Stat. 3894; Pub. L. 110-234, title I, §1616, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1021; Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title I, §1616, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 1749.)

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 made identical amendments to this section. The amendments by Pub. L. 110-234 were repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

Section was not enacted as part of the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 which comprises this subchapter.

**AMENDMENTS**

2008—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-246, §1616(1), substituted “shall” for “may”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-246, §1616(2), added subsec. (c).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT**

Amendment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as an Effective Date note under section 8701 of this title.

**§ 7417. Referenda**

**(a) Initial referendum**

**(1) Optional referendum**

For the purpose of ascertaining whether the persons to be covered by an order favor the order going into effect, the order may provide for the Secretary to conduct an initial referendum among persons to be subject to an assessment under section 7416 of this title who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, engaged in—

(A) the production or handling of the agricultural commodity covered by the order; or  
 (B) the importation of the agricultural commodity.

**(2) Procedure**

The results of the referendum shall be determined in accordance with subsection (e). The Secretary may require that the agricultural commodity industry involved post a bond or other collateral to cover the cost of the referendum.

**(b) Required referenda**

**(1) In general**

For the purpose of ascertaining whether the persons covered by an order favor the continuation, suspension, or termination of the order, the Secretary shall conduct a referendum among persons subject to assessments under section 7416 of this title who, during a representative period determined by the Secretary, have engaged in—

(A) the production or handling of the agricultural commodity covered by the order; or  
 (B) the importation of the agricultural commodity.

**(2) Time for referendum**

The referendum shall be conducted not later than 3 years after assessments first begin under the order.

**(3) Exception**

This subsection shall not apply if an initial referendum was conducted under subsection (a).

**(c) Subsequent referenda**

The Secretary shall conduct a subsequent referendum—

(1) not later than 7 years after assessments first begin under the order;

(2) at the request of the board established under the order; or

(3) at the request of 10 percent or more of the number of persons eligible to vote under subsection (b)(1);

to determine if the persons favor the continuation, suspension, or termination of the order.

**(d) Other referenda**

The Secretary may conduct a referendum at any time to determine whether the continuation, suspension, or termination of the order or a provision of the order is favored by persons eligible to vote under subsection (b)(1).

**(e) Approval of order**

An order may provide for its approval in a referendum—

(1) by a majority of those persons voting;

(2) by persons voting for approval who represent a majority of the volume of the agricultural commodity; or

(3) by a majority of those persons voting for approval who also represent a majority of the volume of the agricultural commodity.

**(f) Costs of referenda**

The board established under an order with respect to which a referendum is conducted under this section shall reimburse the Secretary for