

Sec.	
7812.	Regulations.
7813.	Authorization of appropriations.

acting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘Hass Avocado Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 2000.’

**§ 7801. Findings and declaration of policy**

**(a) Findings**

Congress finds the following:

(1) Hass avocados are an integral food source in the United States that are a valuable and healthy part of the human diet and are enjoyed by millions of persons every year for a multitude of everyday and special occasions.

(2) Hass avocados are a significant tree fruit crop grown by many individual producers, but virtually all domestically produced Hass avocados for the commercial market are grown in the State of California.

(3) Hass avocados move in interstate and foreign commerce, and Hass avocados that do not move in interstate or foreign channels of commerce but only in intrastate commerce directly affect interstate commerce in Hass avocados.

(4) In recent years, large quantities of Hass avocados have been imported into the United States from other countries.

(5) The maintenance and expansion of markets in existence on October 28, 2000, and the development of new or improved markets or uses for Hass avocados are needed to preserve and strengthen the economic viability of the domestic Hass avocado industry for the benefit of producers and other persons associated with the producing, marketing, processing, and consuming of Hass avocados.

(6) An effective and coordinated program of promotion, research, industry information, and consumer information regarding Hass avocados is necessary for the maintenance, expansion, and development of domestic markets for Hass avocados.

**(b) Purpose**

It is the purpose of this chapter to authorize the establishment, through the exercise of the powers provided in this chapter, of an orderly procedure for the development and financing (through an adequate assessment on Hass avocados sold by producers and importers in the United States) of an effective and coordinated program of promotion, research, industry information, and consumer information, including funds for marketing and market research activities, that is designed to—

(1) strengthen the position of the Hass avocado industry in the domestic marketplace; and

(2) maintain, develop, and expand markets and uses for Hass avocados in the domestic marketplace.

**(c) Limitation**

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to provide for the control of production or otherwise limit the right of any person to produce, handle, or import Hass avocados.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1202], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-79.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1201], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-79, provided that: “This title [en-

**§ 7802. Definitions**

As used in this chapter:

**(1) Board**

The terms “Avocado Board” and “Board” mean the Hass Avocado Board established under section 7804 of this title.

**(2) Conflict of interest**

The term “conflict of interest” means a situation in which a member or employee of the Board has a direct or indirect financial interest in a person that performs a service for, or enters into a contract with, the Board for anything of economic value.

**(3) Consumer information**

The term “consumer information” means any action or program that provides information to consumers and other persons on the use, nutritional attributes, and other information that will assist consumers and other persons in making evaluations and decisions regarding the purchase, preparation, and use of Hass avocados.

**(4) Customs**

The term “Customs” means the United States Customs Service.

**(5) Department**

The term “Department” means the United States Department of Agriculture.

**(6) Hass avocado**

**(A) In general**

The term “Hass avocado” includes—

(i) the fruit of any Hass variety avocado tree; and

(ii) any other type of avocado fruit that the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, determines is so similar to the Hass variety avocado as to be indistinguishable to consumers in fresh form.

**(B) Form of fruit**

Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the term includes avocado fruit described in subparagraph (A) whether in fresh, frozen, or any other processed form.

**(C) Exceptions**

In any case in which a handler further processes avocados described in subparagraph (A), or products of such avocados, for sale to a retailer, the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may determine that such further processed products do not constitute a substantial value of the product and that, based on its determination, the product shall not be treated as a product of Hass avocados subject to assessment under the order. In addition, the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may exempt certain frozen avocado products from assessment under the order.

**(7) Handler**

**(A) First handler**

The term “first handler” means a person operating in the Hass avocados marketing

system that sells domestic or imported Hass avocados for United States domestic consumption, and who is responsible for remitting assessments to the Board. The term includes an importer or producer who sells directly to consumers Hass avocados that the importer or producer has imported into the United States or produced, respectively.

**(B) Exempt handler**

The term “exempt handler” means a person who would otherwise be considered a first handler, except that all avocados purchased by the person have already been subject to the assessment under section 7804(h) of this title.

**(8) Importer**

The term “importer” means any person who imports Hass avocados into the United States.

**(9) Industry information**

The term “industry information” means information and programs that are designed to increase efficiency in processing, enhance the development of new markets and marketing strategies, increase marketing efficiency, and activities to enhance the image of Hass avocados and the Hass avocado industry domestically.

**(10) Order**

The term “order” means the Hass avocado promotion, research, and information order issued under this chapter.

**(11) Person**

The term “person” means any individual, group of individuals, firm, partnership, corporation, joint stock company, association, cooperative, or other legal entity.

**(12) Producer**

The term “producer” means any person who—

(A) is engaged in the domestic production of Hass avocados for commercial use; and

(B) owns, or shares the ownership and risk of loss, of such Hass avocados.

**(13) Promotion**

The term “promotion” means any action to advance the image, desirability, or marketability of Hass avocados, including paid advertising, sales promotion, and publicity, in order to improve the competitive position and stimulate sales of Hass avocados in the domestic marketplace.

**(14) Research**

The term “research” means any type of test, study, or analysis relating to market research, market development, and marketing efforts, or relating to the use, quality, or nutritional value of Hass avocados, other related food science research, or research designed to advance the image, desirability, and marketability of Hass avocados.

**(15) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

**(16) State**

The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Co-

lumbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

**(17) United States**

The term “United States” means the United States collectively.

(Pub. L. 106-387, §1(a) [title XII, §1203], Oct. 28, 2000, 114 Stat. 1549, 1549A-79.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of functions, personnel, assets, and liabilities of the United States Customs Service of the Department of the Treasury, including functions of the Secretary of the Treasury relating thereto, to the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 203(1), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6. For establishment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the Department of Homeland Security, treated as if included in Pub. L. 107-296 as of Nov. 25, 2002, see section 211 of Title 6, as amended generally by Pub. L. 114-125, and section 802(b) of Pub. L. 114-125, set out as a note under section 211 of Title 6.

**§ 7803. Issuance of orders**

**(a) In general**

**(1) Issuance**

To effectuate the policy of this chapter specified in section 7801(b) of this title, the Secretary, subject to the procedures provided in subsection (b), shall issue orders under this chapter applicable to producers, importers, and first handlers of Hass avocados.

**(2) Scope**

Any order shall be national in scope.

**(3) One order**

Not more than one order shall be in effect at any one time.

**(b) Procedures**

**(1) Proposal for an order**

An existing organization of avocado producers established pursuant to a State statute, or any other person who will be affected by this chapter, may request the issuance of, and submit a proposal for an order.

**(2) Publication of proposal**

The Secretary shall publish a proposed order and give notice and opportunity for public comment on the proposed order not later than 60 days after receipt by the Secretary of a proposal for an order from an existing organization of avocado producers established pursuant to a State statute, as provided in paragraph (1).

**(3) Issuance of order**

**(A) In general**

After notice and opportunity for public comment are provided in accordance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall issue the order, taking into consideration the com-