

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 93-112, Sept. 26, 1973, 87 Stat. 355, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 16 (§701 et seq.) of Title 29, Labor. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 701 of Title 29 and Tables.

§ 2279e. Civil penalty**(a) In general**

Any person that causes harm to, or interferes with, an animal used for the purposes of official inspections by the Department of Agriculture, may, after notice and opportunity for a hearing on the record, be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary of Agriculture not to exceed \$10,000.

(b) Factors in determining civil penalty

In determining the amount of a civil penalty, the Secretary shall take into account the nature, circumstance, extent, and gravity of the offense.

(c) Settlement of civil penalties

The Secretary may compromise, modify, or remit, with or without conditions, any civil penalty that may be assessed under this section.

(d) Finality of orders**(1) In general**

The order of the Secretary assessing a civil penalty shall be treated as a final order reviewable under chapter 158 of title 28. The validity of the order of the Secretary may not be reviewed in an action to collect the civil penalty.

(2) Interest

Any civil penalty not paid in full when due under an order assessing the civil penalty shall thereafter accrue interest until paid at the rate of interest applicable to civil judgments of the courts of the United States.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title V, §501, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 455.)

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 2279f of this title.

§ 2279f. Subpoena authority**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall have power to subpoena the attendance and testimony of any witness, and the production of all documentary evidence relating to the enforcement of section 2279e of this title or any matter under investigation in connection with this section and section 2279e of this title.

(b) Location of production

The attendance of any witness and the production of documentary evidence may be required from any place in the United States at any designated place of hearing.

(c) Enforcement of subpoena

In the case of disobedience to a subpoena by any person, the Secretary may request the Attorney General to invoke the aid of any court of the United States within the jurisdiction in

which the investigation is conducted, or where the person resides, is found, transacts business, is licensed to do business, or is incorporated, in requiring the attendance and testimony of any witness and the production of documentary evidence. In case of a refusal to obey a subpoena issued to any person, a court may order the person to appear before the Secretary and give evidence concerning the matter in question or to produce documentary evidence. Any failure to obey the court's order may be punished by the court as a contempt of the court.

(d) Compensation

Witnesses summoned by the Secretary shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid to witnesses in courts of the United States, and witnesses whose depositions are taken, and the persons taking the depositions shall be entitled to the same fees that are paid for similar services in the courts of the United States.

(e) Procedures

The Secretary shall publish procedures for the issuance of subpoenas under this section. Such procedures shall include a requirement that subpoenas be reviewed for legal sufficiency and signed by the Secretary. If the authority to sign a subpoena is delegated, the agency receiving the delegation shall seek review for legal sufficiency outside that agency.

(f) Scope of subpoena

Subpoenas for witnesses to attend court in any judicial district or testify or produce evidence at an administrative hearing in any judicial district in any action or proceeding arising under section 2279e of this title may run to any other judicial district.

(Pub. L. 106-224, title V, §502, June 20, 2000, 114 Stat. 455.)

CHAPTER 55A—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEES

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CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in sections 390b, 390c, 450i, 3124a, 3129a, 3152, 3196 of this title; title 19 section 2155; title 21 section 679a.

§ 2281. Congressional declaration of purpose

The purposes of this chapter are to—

- (1) require strict financial and program accounting by advisory committees of the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) assure balance and objectivity in the membership of such advisory committees; and
- (3) prevent the formation or continuation of unnecessary advisory committees by the Department of Agriculture.