

(4) is responsible for functions that otherwise would be or should be performed by Federal employees; or

(5) does not serve or has ceased to serve an essential public function.

(Pub. L. 95-113, title XVIII, §1806, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1042; Pub. L. 97-98, title XI, §1116(a), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1271.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, referred to in par. (2), is Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, as amended, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

AMENDMENTS

1981—Pub. L. 97-98 substituted provision relating to termination of advisory committees for provision relating to advisory committee charter requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 97-98 effective Dec. 22, 1981, see section 1801 of Pub. L. 97-98, set out as an Effective Date note under section 4301 of this title.

§§ 2287 to 2289. Omitted

Sections 2287 to 2289 of this title were omitted in the general amendment of this chapter by Pub. L. 97-98, title XI, §1116(a), Dec. 22, 1981, 95 Stat. 1270.

Section 2287, Pub. L. 95-113, title XVIII, §1807, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1043, related to transmission of an annual report. See section 2284 of this title.

Section 2288, Pub. L. 95-113, title XVIII, §1808, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1044, related to budget prohibitions. See section 2285 of this title.

Section 2289, Pub. L. 95-113, title XVIII, §1809, Sept. 29, 1977, 91 Stat. 1044, related to termination of advisory committees. See section 2286 of this title.

CHAPTER 56—UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES AFFECTING PRODUCERS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

Sec.	
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§ 2301. Congressional findings and declaration of policy

Agricultural products are produced in the United States by many individual farmers and ranchers scattered throughout the various States of the Nation. Such products in fresh or processed form move in large part in the channels of interstate and foreign commerce, and such products which do not move in these channels directly burden or affect interstate com-

merce. The efficient production and marketing of agricultural products by farmers and ranchers is of vital concern to their welfare and to the general economy of the Nation. Because agricultural products are produced by numerous individual farmers, the marketing and bargaining position of individual farmers will be adversely affected unless they are free to join together voluntarily in cooperative organizations as authorized by law. Interference with this right is contrary to the public interest and adversely affects the free and orderly flow of goods in interstate and foreign commerce.

It is, therefore, declared to be the policy of Congress and the purpose of this chapter to establish standards of fair practices required of handlers in their dealings in agricultural products.

(Pub. L. 90-288, §2, Apr. 16, 1968, 82 Stat. 93.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 90-288 provided that: "This Act [enacting this chapter] shall be known as the 'Agricultural Fair Practices Act of 1967'."

§ 2302. Definitions

When used in this chapter—

(a) The term "handler" means any person engaged in the business or practice of (1) acquiring agricultural products from producers or associations of producers for processing or sale; or (2) grading, packaging, handling, storing, or processing agricultural products received from producers or associations of producers; or (3) contracting or negotiating contracts or other arrangements, written or oral, with or on behalf of producers or associations of producers with respect to the production or marketing of any agricultural product; or (4) acting as an agent or broker for a handler in the performance of any function or act specified in clause (1), (2), or (3) of this paragraph.

(b) The term "producer" means a person engaged in the production of agricultural products as a farmer, planter, rancher, dairyman, fruit, vegetable, or nut grower.

(c) The term "association of producers" means any association of producers of agricultural products engaged in marketing, bargaining, shipping, or processing as defined in section 1141j(a) of title 12, or in section 291 of this title.

(d) The term "person" includes individuals, partnerships, corporations, and associations.

(e) The term "agricultural products" shall not include cotton or tobacco or their products.

(Pub. L. 90-288, §3, Apr. 16, 1968, 82 Stat. 94.)

§ 2303. Prohibited practices

It shall be unlawful for any handler knowingly to engage or permit any employee or agent to engage in the following practices:

(a) To coerce any producer in the exercise of his right to join and belong to or to refrain from joining or belonging to an association of producers, or to refuse to deal with any producer because of the exercise of his right to join and belong to such an association; or

(b) To discriminate against any producer with respect to price, quantity, quality, or other terms of purchase, acquisition, or other han-