

"Department of Agriculture Abolishment Act"

A BILL

To abolish the Department of Agriculture and its sub-agencies, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Agriculture Abolishment Act".

SECTION 2. ABOLISHMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

(a) In General.—Effective on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (established under the Act of May 15, 1862 (12 Stat. 387; chapter 72)) is abolished.

(b) Sub-Agencies and Functions.—All sub-agencies, bureaus, offices, and programs within the Department of Agriculture, including but not limited to the Agricultural Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Farm Service Agency, Food and Nutrition Service, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, Forest Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rural Development, and Risk Management Agency, are abolished on the effective date described in subsection (a).

SECTION 3. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

(a) Determination by President.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a plan for the transfer or termination of any essential functions previously performed by the Department of Agriculture or its sub-agencies to other appropriate Federal departments or agencies, such as the Department of the Interior, the Department of Health and Human Services, or the Department of Commerce, as determined necessary to protect public health, safety, and national interests.

(b) Non-Transferable Functions.—Any functions not transferred under the plan described in subsection (a) shall terminate on the effective date described in section 2(a).

SECTION 4. TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

(a) Assets.—All property, records, unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds employed, held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with the functions of the Department of Agriculture or its sub-agencies shall be transferred in accordance with the plan submitted under section 3(a) or, if not transferred, shall revert to the general fund of the Treasury.

(b) Liabilities.—Any liabilities of the Department of Agriculture or its sub-agencies shall be assumed by the United States and paid from the general fund of the Treasury.

SECTION 5. PERSONNEL.

(a) Termination of Employment.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the employment of all officers and employees of the Department of Agriculture and its sub-agencies shall terminate on the effective date described in section 2(a).

(b) Transfer of Personnel.—Personnel necessary to carry out transferred functions under section 3 may be transferred to other Federal departments or agencies in accordance with the plan submitted under section 3(a), subject to applicable civil service laws.

SECTION 6. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZING LAWS.

The following provisions of law are repealed:

(1) The Act of May 15, 1862 (12 Stat. 387; chapter 72), establishing the Department of Agriculture.

(2) Any other provision of law authorizing or relating to the establishment, operation, or functions of the Department of Agriculture or its sub-agencies that is inconsistent with this Act.

SECTION 7. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of

Management and Budget, in consultation with the heads of affected Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to Congress proposed conforming amendments to existing laws to reflect the abolishment and transfers under this Act.

SECTION 8. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

Nothing in this Act shall affect any pending legal proceedings, contracts, or obligations entered into by the Department of Agriculture or its sub-agencies before the effective date described in section 2(a), which shall be continued or assumed by the successor entities as provided in the plan under section 3(a).

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise provided, this Act shall take effect on the date of its enactment.