

Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

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Secretary or as determined by the Secretary alone. No member or alternate shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The term of office shall begin on April 1. Each Board member and alternate member shall continue to serve until the member's or alternate's successor meets all qualifications and is appointed by the Secretary.

[66 FR 21830, May 1, 2001]

§ 1240.32 Nominations.

All nominations to the Board authorized under § 1240.30 herein shall be made in the following manner.

(a) *Establishment of National Honey Nominations Committee.*

(1) There is established a National Honey Nominations Committee, which shall consist of not more than one member from each State, appointed by the Secretary from nominations submitted by each State beekeeper association. Wherever there is more than one eligible association within a State, the Secretary shall designate the association most representative of the honey producers, handlers, and importers not exempt under § 1240.42 (a) and (b) to make nominations for that State.

(2) If a State Association does not submit a nomination for the Committee, the Secretary may select a member of the honey industry from that State to represent that State on the Committee. However, if a State which is not one of the top twenty honey producing States (as determined by the Secretary) does not submit a nomination, such State shall not be represented on the Committee.

(3) Members of the Committee shall serve for three-year terms, except that the term of appointments to the Committee may be staggered periodically, as determined by the Secretary. No member shall serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. The term of office shall begin on July 1.

(4) The Committee shall select its Chairperson by a majority vote.

(5) The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in performing their duties as members of the Committee and approved by the Board.

Such expenses shall be paid from funds collected by the Board pursuant to § 1240.41.

(b) *Nominations to the Board.*

(1) The Committee shall nominate the members and alternate members of the Board and submit such nominations promptly to the Secretary for approval.

(2) The Committee shall meet annually to make such nominations, or, at the determination of the Chairperson, the Committee may conduct its business by mail ballot in lieu of an annual meeting.

(3) A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for voting at an annual meeting. In the event of a mail ballot, votes must be received from a majority of the Committee to constitute a quorum.

(4) At least 50 percent of the members from the twenty leading honey-producing states must vote in any nomination of members to the Board.

(5) For the purpose of nominating producer members to the Board, the Secretary shall establish seven regions on the basis of the production of honey. For the purpose of facilitating initial nominations to the Honey Board, the following regions shall be the initial regions:

Region 1: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, Utah, Alaska, and Hawaii.

Region 2: Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Region 3: North Dakota and South Dakota.

Region 4: Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Region 5: Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Region 6: Florida, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.

Region 7: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine.

(6) In nominating producer members to the Board, no producer-packer who, during any three of the preceding five years, purchased for resale more honey than the producer-packer produced shall be eligible for nomination or appointment to the Board as a producer or as an alternate to a producer.

(7) In nominating importer members to the Board, no importer who, during any three of the preceding five years, did not receive at least 75 percent of the gross income generated by the sale of honey and honey products from the sale of imported honey and honey products shall be eligible for nomination or appointment to the Board as an importer or as an alternate to an importer.

(8) Six months before the new Board term begins, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary nominations for positions on the Board. The number of nominations will directly correspond to the number of producer, handler, importer, and cooperative member positions due to become vacant. Selection of nominees by the Committee will be pursuant to the following:

(i) Nominations for producer members and alternate producer members will be from the regions in which one or more vacancies will occur;

(ii) Nominations for handler members and alternate handler members will be based on recommendations made by qualified national organizations representing handler interests, or, if the Secretary determines that there is not a qualified national organization representing handler interests, by individual handlers who have paid assessments to the Board on honey or honey products handled;

(iii) Nominations for importer members and alternate importer members will be based on recommendations made by qualified national organizations representing importer interests, or, if the Secretary determines that there is not a qualified national organization representing importer interests, by individual importers who have paid assessments to the Board on imported honey or honey products; and

(iv) Nominations for a member and alternate member who are officers, directors, or employees of national honey marketing cooperatives will be based on recommendations made by qualified national honey marketing cooperatives.

(9) *Qualified national organization representing handler interests.* To be certified by the Secretary as a qualified national organization representing handler interests, an association or or-

ganization must meet the following criteria, as evidenced in a factual report submitted by the association or organization to the Secretary:

(i) The organization's membership is comprised primarily of honey handlers;

(ii) The organization represents a substantial number of handlers who handle a substantial volume of honey in at least 20 states;

(iii) The organization has a history of stability and permanency;

(iv) A primary or overriding purpose of the organization is to promote the economic welfare of honey handlers;

(v) A portion of the operating funds of the organization are derived from handlers; and

(vi) The organization demonstrates the ability and willingness to further the purposes of the Act.

(10) *Qualified national organization representing importer interests.* To be certified as a qualified national organization representing importer interests, an association or organization must meet the following criteria, as evidenced in a factual report submitted by the association or organization to the Secretary:

(i) The organization's total paid membership is comprised of a significant number of importers or the organization's total paid membership represents at least a majority of the volume of honey imported into the United States;

(ii) The organization has a history of stability and permanency;

(iii) A primary or overriding purpose of the organization is to promote the economic welfare of honey importers;

(iv) Substantial geographic territory is covered by the active membership of the organization;

(v) A portion of the operating funds of the organization are derived from importers; and

(vi) The organization demonstrates the ability and willingness to further the purposes of the Act.

(11) As a condition of certification by the Secretary as a qualified national organization representing handler or importer interests, an organization shall agree to:

(i) Notify handlers and importers who are not members of the organization of Board nomination opportunities for

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which the organization is certified to make recommendations to the Committee; and

(ii) Consider the nomination of handlers and importers who are not members when making the nominations of the organization to the Committee, if nonmembers indicate an interest in serving on the Board.

(12) A certification determination by the Secretary of a qualified organization representing handler or importer interests shall be final.

[51 FR 26148, July 21, 1986; 51 FR 29210, Aug. 15, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 37456, Aug. 7, 1991; 66 FR 21830, May 1, 2001]

§ 1240.33 Board reconstitution.

(a) Every five years, the Board shall review the geographic distribution of the quantities of domestically produced honey assessed under this subpart and the changes in the annual average percentage of assessments owed by importers under this subpart relative to assessments owed by producers of domestic honey. The Board shall conduct the initial review required by this paragraph prior to the first continuance referendum conducted after May 31, 2001.

(b)(1) If warranted as a result of this review, the Board shall recommend for the Secretary's approval:

(i) Changes in the regional representation of honey producers; and/or

(ii) The addition of Board members.

(2) If such allocations are necessary to reflect changes in the proportion of domestic and imported honey assessed under this subpart or the source of assessments on imported honey or honey products, the Board may not recommend the addition of members pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section unless the proportion of assessments owed by importers compared with the proportion of assessments owed on domestic honey by producers changed by more than 6 percent from the base period proportion determined in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, recommendations made under paragraph (b) of this section shall be based on the 5-year average annual assessments, excluding the 2 years containing the highest and low-

est disparity between the proportion of assessments owed from imported and domestic honey or honey products, determined pursuant to the review that is conducted under paragraph (a) of this section.

(d) The base period proportions for determining the magnitude of change under paragraph (c) of this section shall be the proportions determined during the prior review conducted under this section. In the case of the initial review, the base period proportions shall be the proportions determined by the Board for fiscal period 1996.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, at least 50 percent of the members of the Board shall be honey producers.

(f) Any such reallocation or addition of members shall be made at least six months prior to the date on which terms of office of the Board begin each year and shall become effective at least 30 days prior to such date.

[66 FR 21831, May 1, 2001]

§ 1240.34 Vacancies.

(a) In the event any member of the Board ceases to be a member of the category of members from which the member was appointed to the Board, such position shall automatically become vacant: *Provided*, That if, as a result of Board reconstitution pursuant to § 1240.33, a producer member or alternate is no longer from the region from which such person was appointed, the affected member and/or alternate may serve out the term for which such person was appointed, or if a member, whose position is based on the member's status as an importer is subject to reallocation by the Board, the affected member and/or alternate may serve out the term for which such person was appointed.

(b) If a member of the Board consistently refuses to perform the duties of a member of the Board, or if a member of the Board engages in acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct, the Board may recommend to the Secretary that the member be removed from office. If the Secretary finds the recommendation of the Board shows adequate cause, the Secretary shall remove such member from office.