

Public Law 95-460
95th Congress

An Act

To require foreign persons who acquire, transfer, or hold interests in agricultural land to report such transactions and holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture and to direct the Secretary to analyze information contained in such reports and determine the effects such transactions and holdings have, particularly on family farms and rural communities, and for other purposes.

Oct. 14, 1978

[S. 3384]

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

Agricultural
Foreign
Investment
Disclosure Act
of 1978.

7 USC 3501 note.

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978".

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SEC. 2. (a) Any foreign person who acquires or transfers any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land shall submit a report to the Secretary of Agriculture not later than 90 days after the date of such acquisition or transfer. Such report shall be submitted in such form and in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary may require and shall contain—

Land interests,
acquisitions or
transfers.
7 USC 3501.

(1) the legal name and the address of such foreign person;

(2) in any case in which such foreign person is an individual, the citizenship of such foreign person;

(3) in any case in which such foreign person is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such foreign person is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such foreign person;

(4) the type of interest in agricultural land which such foreign person acquired or transferred;

(5) the legal description and acreage of such agricultural land;

(6) the purchase price paid for, or any other consideration given for, such interest;

(7) in any case in which such foreign person transfers such interest, the legal name and the address of the person to whom such interest is transferred and—

(A) in any case in which such transferee is an individual, the citizenship of such transferee; and

(B) in any case in which such transferee is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such transferee is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such transferee;

(8) the agricultural purposes for which such foreign person intends, on the date on which such report is submitted to the Secretary, to use such agricultural land; and

(9) such other information as the Secretary may require by regulation.

(b) Any foreign person who holds any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land on the day before the effective date of this section shall submit a report to the Secretary not later than 180 days after such effective date. Such report shall be submitted in such form and in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary may require and shall contain—

- (1) the legal name and the address of such foreign person;
- (2) in any case in which such foreign person is an individual, the citizenship of such foreign person;
- (3) in any case in which such foreign person is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such foreign person is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such foreign person;
- (4) the type of interest in agricultural land which is held by such foreign person;
- (5) the legal description and acreage of such agricultural land;
- (6) the purchase price paid for, or any other consideration given for, such interest;
- (7) the agricultural purposes for which such foreign person—
 - (A) is using such agricultural land on the date on which such report is submitted to the Secretary; and
 - (B) intends, as of such date, to use such agricultural land;
 and
- (8) such other information as the Secretary may require by regulation.

(c) Any person who holds or acquires (on or after the effective date of this section) any interest, other than a security interest, in agricultural land at a time when such person is not a foreign person and who subsequently becomes a foreign person shall submit a report to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date on which such person becomes a foreign person. Such report shall be submitted in such form and in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary may require and shall contain the information required by subsection (b) of this section. This subsection shall not apply with respect to any person who is required to submit a report with respect to such land under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Any foreign person who holds or acquires (on or after the effective date of this section) any interest, other than a security interest, in land at a time when such land is not agricultural land and such land subsequently becomes agricultural land shall submit a report to the Secretary not later than 90 days after the date on which such land becomes agricultural land. Such report shall be submitted in such form and in accordance with such procedures as the Secretary may require and shall contain the information required by subsection (b) of this section. This subsection shall not apply with respect to any person who is required to submit a report with respect to such land under subsection (b) of this section.

(e) With respect to any foreign person, other than an individual or a government, who is required by subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this section to submit a report, the Secretary may, in addition, require such foreign person to submit to the Secretary a report containing—

- (A) the legal name and the address of each person who holds any interest in such foreign person;
- (B) in any case in which the holder of such interest is an individual, the citizenship of such holder; and
- (C) in any case in which the holder of such interest is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding

the interest, the country in which such holder is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such holder.

(f) With respect to any person, other than an individual or a government, whose legal name is contained in any report submitted under subsection (e) of the section, the Secretary may require such person to submit to the Secretary a report containing—

(A) the legal name and the address of any person who holds any interest in the person submitting the report under this subsection;

(B) in any case in which the holder of such interest is an individual, the citizenship of such holder; and

(C) in any case in which the holder of such interest is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such holder is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such holder.

CIVIL PENALTY

SEC. 3. (a) If the Secretary determines that a person—

7 USC 3502.

(1) has failed to submit a report in accordance with the provisions of section 2, or

(2) has knowingly submitted a report under section 2—

(A) which does not contain all the information required to be in such report, or

(B) which contains information that is misleading or false,

such person shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Secretary. The amount of any such civil penalty shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section. Any such civil penalty shall be recoverable in a civil action brought by the Attorney General of the United States in an appropriate district court of the United States.

(b) The amount of any civil penalty imposed by the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section shall be such amount as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to carry out the purposes of this Act, except that such amount shall not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, on the date of the assessment of such penalty, of the interest in agricultural land with respect to which such violation occurred.

INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS

SEC. 4. The Secretary may take such actions as the Secretary considers necessary to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Act and to determine whether the information contained in any report submitted under section 2 accurately and fully reveals the ownership interest of all foreign persons in any foreign person who is required to submit a report under such section.

7 USC 3503.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

SEC. 5. (a) In accordance with the schedule set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary shall—

7 USC 3504.

(1) with respect to each period set forth in such subsection, analyze information obtained by the Secretary under section 2 and determine the effects of foreign persons acquiring, transferring, and holding agricultural land, particularly the effects of such acquisitions, transfers, and holdings on family farms and rural communities; and

(2) transmit to the President and each House of the Congress a report on the Secretary's findings and conclusions regarding—

(A) each analysis and determination made under paragraph (1); and

(B) the effectiveness and efficiency of the reporting requirements contained in section 2 in providing the information required to be reported by such section.

(b) An analysis and determination shall be made, and a report on the Secretary's findings and conclusions regarding such analysis and determination transmitted, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section—

(1) with respect to information obtained by the Secretary under section 2 during the 6-month period following the effective date of section 2, within 9 months after such effective date;

(2) with respect to information obtained by the Secretary under section 2 during the 12-month period following the effective date of section 2, within 15 months after such effective date; and

(3) with respect to each calendar year following the 12-month period referred to in paragraph (2), within 90 days after the end of such calendar year.

REPORTS TO THE STATES

7 USC 3505. SEC. 6. Not later than 30 days after the end of each 6-month period beginning after the effective date of section 2, the Secretary shall transmit to each State department of agriculture, or such other appropriate State agency as the Secretary considers advisable, a copy of each report which was submitted to the Secretary under section 2 during such 6-month period and which involved agricultural land located in such State.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

7 USC 3506. SEC. 7. Any report submitted to the Secretary under section 2 shall be available for public inspection at the Department of Agriculture located in the District of Columbia not later than 10 days after the date on which such report is received by the Secretary.

REGULATIONS

7 USC 3507. SEC. 8. Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe regulations for purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

DEFINITIONS

7 USC 3508. SEC. 9. For purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "agricultural land" means any land located in one or more States and used for agricultural, forestry, or timber production purposes as determined by the Secretary under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary;

(2) the term "foreign government" means any government other than the Federal Government or any government of a State or a political subdivision of a State;

(3) the term "foreign person" means—

(A) any individual—

(i) who is not a citizen or national of the United States;

(ii) who is not a citizen of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; or

- (iii) who is not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, or paroled into the United States, under the Immigration and Nationality Act;
- (B) any person, other than an individual or a government, which is created or organized under the laws of a foreign government or which has its principal place of business located outside of all the States;
- (C) any person, other than an individual or a government—
- (i) which is created or organized under the laws of any State; and
 - (ii) in which, as determined by the Secretary under regulations which the Secretary shall prescribe, a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held—
- (I) by any individual referred to in subparagraph (A);
 - (II) by any person referred to in subparagraph (B);
 - (III) by any foreign government; or
 - (IV) by any combination of such individuals, persons, or governments; and
- (D) any foreign government;
- (4) the term "person" includes any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, trust, estate, or any other legal entity;
- (5) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture; and
- (6) the term "State" means any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATES

- SEC. 10. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, this Act shall become effective on the date of the enactment of this Act. 7 USC 3501 note.
- (b) Section 2 shall become effective on the date on which regulations prescribed by the Secretary under section 8 become effective.

Approved October 14, 1978.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 95-1570 accompanying H.R. 13356 (Comm. on Agriculture).
 SENATE REPORT No. 95-1072 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).
 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 124 (1978):

Aug. 11, considered and passed Senate.

Sept. 26, H.R. 13356 considered and passed House; passage vacated and S. 3384, amended, passed in lieu.

Oct. 2, Senate concurred in House amendments.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS, Vol. 14, No. 42:

Oct. 14, Presidential statement.