



Public Law 105-225

(formerly Public Law 81-740) 105th Congress Passed Aug. 12, 1998 - [H.R. 1085]

In 1950, the 81st Congress of the United States, recognizing the importance of the FFA as an integral part of the program of vocational agriculture, granted a Federal Charter to the FFA. In 1998, the 105th Congress of the United States reviewed and passed technical amendments. This shows through the revisions as Public Law 105-225.

Editors' Note: Public Law 105-225 is a revision of Public Law 81-740 which reflects technical changes. The essential elements of Public Law 105-225 have been reprinted here to provide local chapters with background information on the chartering of FFA through Congress. For legal purposes, the full text of the Law (including historical notes and reference to the Code) should be requested from the National FFA Advisor or refer to Title 36 of the United States Code.

Sec. 70901. Organization

(a) Federal Charter.--Future Farmers of America (in this chapter, the "corporation") is a federally chartered corporation.

(b) Perpetual Existence.--Except as otherwise provided, the corporation has perpetual existence.

Sec. 70902. Purposes

The purposes of the corporation are:

(1) to create, foster, and assist subsidiary chapters composed of students and former students of vocational agriculture in public schools qualifying for Federal reimbursement under the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act (20 U.S.C. 11-15, 16-28) and associations of those chapters in the States, territories, and possessions of the United States;

(2) to develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism, and thereby develop competent and aggressive rural and agricultural leadership;

(3) to create and nurture a love of country life by encouraging members to improve the farm home and its surroundings, to develop organized rural recreational activities, and to create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations;

(4) to encourage the practice of thrift;

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(5) to procure for and distribute to State associations, local chapters, and members all official supplies and equipment of the corporation;

(6) to publish an official magazine and other publications for the members of the corporation;

(7) to strengthen the confidence of young men and women in themselves and their work, to encourage members in the development of individual farming programs, and to promote their permanent establishment in farming by-

(A) encouraging improvement in scholarship;

(B) providing prizes and awards to deserving students who have achieved distinction in vocational agriculture, including farm mechanics activities on a local, State, or national basis; and

(C) assisting financially, through loans or grants, deserving students in all-day vocational agriculture classes and young farmers under 30 years of age who were former students in all-day vocational agriculture classes in becoming satisfactorily established in a farming occupation;

(8) to cooperate with others, including State boards for vocational education, in accomplishing these purposes; and

(9) to engage in other activities, consistent with these purposes, determined by the governing body to be for the best interests of the corporation.

Sec. 70903. Membership

(a) Eligibility - Except as provided in this chapter, eligibility for membership in the corporation and the rights and privileges of members are as provided in the bylaws.

(b) Voting - In matters of official business of a local chapter, each member has one vote.

In matters of official business of a State association, each qualified delegate of a local chapter has one vote.

Sec. 70904. Governing body

(a) Board of Directors-

(1) The board of directors is the governing body of the corporation. The board shall exercise the powers granted to the corporation.

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(2) The board consists of the Secretary of Education, four staff members in the Department of Education, and four State supervisors of agriculture education. The Secretary is chairman of the board.

(3) The term of office of the directors and the method of selecting the directors (except ex officio directors) are as provided in the bylaws.

(4) The board shall meet at least annually at the time and place provided in the bylaws. The annual report of the board shall be presented at that meeting. Special meetings of the board may be called at any time by the chairman.

(b) Governing Committee-The board may designate the chairman of the board and two members of the chairman's staff as a governing committee. When the board is not in session, the governing committee has the powers of the board subject to the board's direction and may authorize the seal of the corporation to be affixed to all papers that require it.

Sec. 70905. National officers

(a) Composition.--The national officers of the corporation are a student president, four student vice presidents (one from each of four regions of the United States established in the bylaws for purposes of administration of the corporation), a student secretary, an executive secretary, a treasurer, and a national advisor.

(b) Board of Student Officers.--The national student officers of the corporation comprise a board of student officers. The board of student officers shall advise and make recommendations to the board of directors about the activities and business of the corporation.

(c) Election.--The national officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the delegates assembled in the annual national convention from among qualified members of the corporation, except that--

(1) the national advisor shall be the Secretary of Education;

(2) the executive secretary shall be a member of the Department of Education; and

(3) the treasurer shall be an employee or member of a State agency that directs or supervises a State program of agricultural education under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act (20 U.S.C. 11-15, 16-28).

(d) Vote at National Convention.--Each qualified delegate has one vote at the annual national convention.

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Sec. 70906. Powers

The corporation may--

- (1) adopt and amend bylaws and regulations for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs, including the establishment and maintenance of local chapters and State associations of chapters;
- (2) adopt and alter a corporate seal;
- (3) adopt emblems and badges;
- (4) choose officers, managers, agents, and employees as the activities of the corporation require;
- (5) make contracts;
- (6) acquire, own, lease, encumber, and transfer property as necessary or convenient to carry out the purposes of the corporation;
- (7) borrow money, issue instruments of indebtedness, and secure its obligations by granting security interests in its property;
- (8) use corporate funds to give prizes, awards, loans, and grants to deserving students and young farmers to carry out the purposes of the corporation;
- (9) publish a magazine and other publications;
- (10) procure for and distribute to State associations, local chapters, and members all official Future Farmers of America supplies and equipment;
- (11) sue and be sued; and
- (12) do any other act necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the corporation.

Sec. 70907. Exclusive right to name, seals, emblems, and badges

The corporation and its authorized chapters and associations of chapters have the exclusive right to use the name "Future Farmers of America" and the initials FFA as representing an agricultural membership organization and seals, emblems, and badges the corporation adopts.

Sec. 70908. Restrictions

- (a) Stock and Dividends.--The corporation may not issue stock or declare or pay a dividend.

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- (b) Political Activities.--The corporation or a director, officer, or member as such may not contribute to, support, or assist a political party or candidate for elective public office.
- (c) Distribution of Income or Assets.--The income or assets of the corporation may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, a director, officer, or member, except on dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation.
- (d) Loans.--The corporation may not make a loan to a director, officer, or employee. Directors who vote for or assent to making a loan to a director, officer, or employee, and officers who participate in making the loan, are jointly and severally liable to the corporation for the amount of the loan until it is repaid.
- (e) Prizes, Awards, Grants, or Loans to Student Officers and Members Meeting Criteria.--This section does not preclude prizes, awards, grants, or loans to student officers and members meeting the criteria established by the board of directors for selecting recipients of those benefits.

Sec. 70909. Availability of personnel, services, and facilities of Department of Education

On request of the board of directors of the corporation, the Secretary of Education may make personnel, services, and facilities of the Department of Education available to administer or assist in the administration of the activities of the corporation. Personnel of the Department may not receive compensation from the corporation for their services, except that travel and other legitimate expenses as defined by the Secretary and approved by the board may be paid. The Secretary also may cooperate with the State boards for vocational education to assist in the promotion of the activities of the corporation.

Sec. 70910. Headquarters and principal office

The headquarters and principal office of the corporation shall be in the District of Columbia. However, the activities of the corporation are not confined to the District of Columbia but may be conducted throughout the States, territories, and possessions of the United States.

Sec. 70911. Records and inspection

- (a) Records.--The corporation shall keep--
- (1) correct and complete records of account;
 - (2) minutes of the proceedings of its members, board of directors, and committees having any of the authority of its board of directors; and
 - (3) a record of the names and addresses of its members entitled to vote.

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(b) Inspection.--A member, or an agent or attorney of the member, may inspect the records of the corporation at any reasonable time.

Sec. 70912. Service of process

(a) District of Columbia.--The corporation shall have a designated agent in the District of Columbia to receive service of process for the corporation. Designation of the agent shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Notice to or service on the agent, or mailed to the business address of the agent, is notice to or service on the corporation.

(b) States, Territories, and Possessions.--As a condition to the exercise of any power or privilege granted by this chapter, the Corporation shall file, with the Secretary of State or other designated official of each State, territory, or possession of the United States in which a subordinate association or chapter is organized, the name and address of an agent in that State, territory, or possession on whom legal process or demands against the corporation may be served.

Sec. 70913. Liability for acts of officers and agents

The corporation is liable for the acts of its officers and agents acting within the scope of their authority.

Sec. 70914. Distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation

On dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation, any assets remaining after the discharge of all liabilities shall be used by the board of directors for the benefit of students of vocational agriculture or be transferred to a recognized educational foundation.

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