

part of a State agency's quality control liability will be made by an administrative law judge if the administrative law judge determines that the State agency had good cause for failure to meet its error rate goal. In addition, to promote prompt resolution of these claims, State agencies will be assessed interest on outstanding liabilities if the administrative appeals process takes more than one year to resolve these claims. The *Conference Substitute* retains the provision that judicial review of the final determination of the administrative law judge will be a review of the administrative record created before the administrative law judge.

The *House Bill* directs the Office of Technology Assessment to undertake a study of measurement error in the food stamp quality control system and report with recommendations to the appropriate Congressional committees no later than 12 months after enactment of this subtitle. This section also directs the Secretary to conduct a study of major causal factors which contribute to the payment error rate. The Secretary shall also conduct controlled experiments to determine the degree of uniformity in quality control error rate measurements. The Secretary must report with recommendations to the appropriate Congressional committees no later than 2 years from the date of enactment of this subtitle.

The *Senate Amendment* contains no comparable provision.

The *Conference Substitute* deletes the *House* provision. However, the managers understand that the U.S. Department of Agriculture intends to form a task force to study the statistical validity of the quality control system. To assist in that effort, the managers intend to request that the Office of Technology Assessment undertake the study that would have been required by the *House* bill. The managers also strongly urge the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct the study that would have been required by the *House* bill, and recommend that the Secretary consider conducting the controlled experiments that would have been required by the *House* bill.

*Uniform reimbursement rates (H. 1361; S. 1301)*

The *House Bill* reduces the enhanced funding level for State automatic data processing costs to 60 percent on July 1, 1995, and to 50 percent on July 1, 1996. It reduces the enhanced federal funding level for State food stamp fraud investigations to 70 percent on July 1, 1994, to 60 percent on July 1, 1995, and to 50 percent on July 1, 1996. Finally, the *House Bill* reduces the federal funding for State agency use of the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement program to 70 percent on July 1, 1994, to 60 percent on July 1, 1995, and to 50 percent on July 1, 1996.

The *Senate Amendment* reduces enhanced funding to 50% with respect to calendar quarters beginning on or after April 1, 1994.

The *Conference Substitute* adopts the *Senate* provision.

The *House Bill* stipulates that these reductions in federal match rates shall apply to payments to States for expenditures after either the end of the State fiscal year that ends during calendar year 1994, or in the case of a State with a State legislature which is not scheduled to have a regular legislative session in calendar year 1994 the end of the State fiscal year that ends during calendar year 1994, or in the case of a State with a State legislature which is not scheduled to have a regular legislative session in calendar year 1994 the end of the State fiscal year that ends during 1995.

The *Senate Amendment* provides that the Secretary may delay the effective date of

this section for a State whose legislature meets biennially, and does not have a regular session scheduled in calendar year 1994, where there is no mechanism in that State for appropriating the additional funds that would be required before the next regular legislative session.

The *Conference Substitute* adopts the *Senate* provision.

The *Conference Substitute* adds a section requiring that the Secretary of Treasury pay to the Secretary of Agriculture specified amounts for fiscal years 1994 through 1996 for the purchase, processing and distribution of additional commodities. Two states shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture to test the acceptability by, ease of storage and preparation by, and impact on low-income participants in the Emergency Food Assistance Program of more nutritious foods.

*Implementation and effective dates (H. 1371)*

The *House Bill* provides that sections 1312, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1322, 1323, 1326, 1331, 1333, and 1353 will become effective and be implemented on July 1, 1994. The quality control reforms of section 1356(a) (1) and (3) are effective October 1, 1991. The provisions of section 1356(a)(2) are effective and must be implemented beginning on October 1, 1992. Other provisions of the bill will become effective and must be implemented on October 1, 1993.

The *Senate Amendment* contains no comparable provision.

The *Conference Substitute* accommodates new section numbering consistent with changes in the bill and provides that section 1351 shall take effect on October 1, 1991, except subsection (c)(2) shall take effect on October 1, 1992. Section 1361 shall be effective with respect to calendar quarters beginning on or after April 1, 1994, and the Secretary is authorized to delay implementation for certain states with legislatures that meet biennially. Sections 1311, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1322, 1324, 1331, 1332, and 1351 shall take effect on September 1, 1994. Section 1321 shall take effect on September 1, 1994; state agencies shall implement section 1321 not earlier than September 1, 1994, and not later than October 1, 1996. Section 1312(b)(2) shall take effect on January 1, 1997. Except as otherwise provided in the subtitle, all other sections shall take effect and be implemented beginning on October 1, 1993.

The managers anticipate that these provisions will be implemented in the normal manner in that beginning on the effective date states will be required to apply several of the new rules for new applicants and for participants only at recertification.

The managers believe that several of these provisions amending the Food Stamp Act have the potential to have a significant and beneficial impact on many low-income households not now participating in the Food Stamp Program. The managers expect the Secretary to engage in meaningful outreach activities to inform low-income populations about these changes. In addition, the 1990 Farm Bill authorized funding for outreach grants to state and local entities. The managers expect the Secretary to make funding for these projects a high priority in the Department's budget deliberations.

CHAPTER 4

TIMBER SALES

*Timber Receipts—Forest Service*

The *House Bill* contains no comparable provision.

The *Senate Amendment* contains no comparable provision.

The *Conference Substitute* provides for a new payment calculation for fiscal years 1994

through 2003 for payments to counties in the States of Washington, Oregon, and California in which National Forests are situated and which are affected by decisions related to the Northern Spotted Owl.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of May 23, 1908, payments to counties for fiscal years 1994 through 1998 will be an amount based on the new payment calculation (an applicable percentage times the average annual payment made to each State for each county pursuant to the Act of May 23, 1908 during the five year period of fiscal years 1986 through 1990).

In fiscal years 1999 through 2003, such payments will be the greater of an amount based on the new payment calculation or the amount calculated under the provisions of the Act of May 23, 1908.

The applicable percentage for fiscal years 1994 through 2003 will be as follows:

Fiscal Year:	Applicable percentage
1994	85
1995	82
1996	79
1997	76
1998	73
1999	70
2000	67
2001	64
2002	61
2003	58

*Timber Sale Receipts—Bureau of Land Management.*

The *House Bill* contains no comparable provision.

The *Senate Amendment* contains no comparable provision.

The *Conference Substitute* provides a new payment calculation for fiscal years 1994 through 2003 for counties sharing Bureau of Land Management timber sale receipts.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of August 28, 1937 providing for a fifty percent share of the revenues paid to counties in the States of Oregon and California, and notwithstanding the provisions of the Act of May 24, 1939 requiring payments to counties, payments to each such county for fiscal years 1994 through 1998 will be based on a new payment calculation (equal to the applicable percentage times the average of the revenues to each such county during the five-year period of fiscal years 1986 through 1990).

In fiscal years 1999 through 2003, such payments will be the greater of the amount based on the new payment calculation or the amount calculated under the provisions of the Act of August 28, 1937 and the Act of May 24, 1939.

The applicable percentage for fiscal years 1994 through 2003 will be as follows:

Fiscal year:	Applicable Percentage
1994	85
1995	82
1996	79
1997	76
1998	73
1999	70
2000	67
2001	64
2002	61
2003	58

TITLE XIV—BUDGET PROCESS PROVISIONS

Note that the *House* recedes to the *Senate* on all material related to the executive and