

## SECTION-BY-SECTION FOR THE FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2026

### TITLE I – COMMODITIES

#### *Sec. 1001. Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority.*

Section 1001 suspends permanent price support authority through calendar year 2031.

#### *Sec. 1002. Tree Assistance Program.*

Section 1002 amends section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the tree assistance program. Subsection (a) amends the definitions section to expand the definition of “eligible orchardist” to include a person who grows trees for commercial purposes on a biannual basis and changes the definition of “natural disaster” to include plant pests for the purposes of the program. Subsection (b) provides orchardists and nursery tree growers that planted trees for commercial purposes but lost the trees or the trees no longer produce an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster to be eligible for tree assistance, as determined by the Secretary.

Subsection (d) requires that a participant in the program to agree to replant new trees and salvage existing trees within two years of the approval of their application if practicable for tree survival and allows participants to replant an alternative variety of tree, have an alternative stand density, and replant in an alternative location.

Subsection (e) imposes a deadline of 120 days for the Secretary to act upon an application and notify the applicant of the decision.

Subsection (f) establishes initial payments for the tree assistance program that allows an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower to opt to receive an initial assistance payment with respect to eligible losses before incurring the costs relating to such losses. The initial assistance payment shall be in an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the estimated costs that the eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower is likely to incur with respect to losses, as determined by the Secretary. Additionally, subsection (f) provides that the authority for the Secretary to make initial payments for the tree assistance program shall terminate on September 30, 2035.

#### *Sec. 1003. Specialty Crop Emergency Assistance Framework.*

Section 1003 amends the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to add at the end of section 196 a new section to establish a framework to provide direct assistance subject to appropriations to producers of specialty crops impacted by an adverse event (including an economic crisis or market disruption). For purposes of direct assistance to a producer of specialty crops, the Secretary shall calculate payments based on the producer’s sales of specialty crops for a calendar year that precedes the year in which the adverse event occurred. The total amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by a person or legal entity may not exceed

\$155,000 except if a person or legal entity with an average gross income for which greater than or equal to 75 percent of the average derives from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities, in which case the total maximum amount of payments received, directly or indirectly, by such person or legal entity for any crop year under this section shall be set by the Secretary, except such amount may not be less than \$900,000.

*Sec. 1004. Assistance in the Form of Block Grants.*

Section 1004 creates a standing block grant authority to States for future supplemental disaster payments authorized by Congress.

*Sec. 1005. Dairy-Related Extensions.*

Section 1005 extends authorities for Dairy Forward Pricing Contracting, the dairy farmer indemnity program, and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

*Sec. 1006. Mandatory Reporting of Dairy Product Processing Costs.*

Section 1006 amends section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to implement a mandatory cost survey conducted by AMS to ensure that the data that is being used to update make allowances accurately reflects the true cost of making dairy products by requiring the manufacturer to report production costs and product yield information for any manufactured product. The section further requires the Secretary to publish a report, not later than three years and every two years thereafter.

*Sec. 1007. Dairy Reports.*

Section 1007 amends section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 is a technical amendment to allow for 18 months for USDA to submit to Congress a report describing activities conducted under the dairy products promotion and research order.

*Sec. 1008. Processing of Certain Loans.*

Section 1008 amends section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 and section 156 of the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to require the Secretary to continue the processing of marketing assistance loans and sugar processing loans during a lapse in appropriations.

*Sec. 1009. Storage Facility Loans.*

Section 1009 amends section 1614 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the storage facility loan program to producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production.

*Sec. 1010. Strengthening Domestic Food Production Supply Chains.*

Section 1010 amends subtitle C of title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the President to set the preservation and domestic production of covered agricultural commodities from which food ingredients that serve an important function throughout the domestic supply chain is derived as a priority objective.

*Sec. 1011. Regulations.*

Subsection (a) of section 1011 amends section 1601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to include title I of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 and the amendments made by the title under the exemption from notice and comment provisions and the Paperwork Reduction Act.

Subsection (b) of section 1011 amends section 1614 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to make a technical correction to the implementation section of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

## **TITLE II—CONSERVATION**

### **SUBTITLE A—DEFINITIONS**

*Sec. 2001. Definitions.*

Section 2001 adds the definitions for “precision agriculture” and “precision agriculture technology” to the definitions section for the Food Security Act of 1985. The section also includes a technical amendment related to the definition of “Indian Tribe.”

*Sec. 2002. Mitigation Banking.*

Section 2002 amends section 1222(k) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the mitigation banking program through fiscal year 2031.

### **SUBTITLE B—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

*Sec. 2101. Conservation Reserve.*

Section 2102 amends section 1231 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the conservation reserve program through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 2102. Farmable Wetland Program.*

Section 2102 amends section 1231B of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the farmable wetland subprogram through fiscal year 2031.

SUBTITLE C—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

*Sec. 2201. Definitions.*

Section 2201 amends section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 to include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology in the definition of the term “practice” for the purposes of the environmental quality incentive program (EQIP).

*Sec. 2202. Establishment and Administration.*

Section 2202 amends section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985.

Subsection (a) clarifies that producers who participate in the EQIP program can also receive a loan or loan guarantee under the Conservation Loan Program to cover the costs of the same practices on the same land. The subsection further requires the Secretary to inform producer participating in EQIP of the availability of the loans and loan guarantees for the same practices. The language includes practices that increase carbon sequestration or reduce greenhouse gases as a new category for State-determined practices that can be eligible for increased cost-share. Finally, the subsection provides an increased cost-share of 90 percent for the costs of adopting precision agriculture practices or acquiring precision agriculture technology.

Subsection (b) extends the 50 percent reservation of funding from the program for livestock practices as well as the 10 percent reservation of funding for practices benefiting wildlife.

Subsection (c) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to the list of practices for which the Secretary may provide water conservation and system efficiency payments.

Subsection (d) increases the payment limit for fiscal years 2025 through 2031 to \$200,000.

Subsection (e) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or adoption of precision agriculture technologies to the incentive practice payments.

Subsection (f) establishes the “Southern Boarder Initiative” which authorized the Secretary to enter into one-year contracts to pay for the repair of damages that are accruing on the southern border.

*Sec. 2203. Limitation on Payments.*

Section 2203 amends section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a new 5-year period from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2031 in which the payment limit of \$450,000 is accrued.

*Sec. 2204. Conservation Grants and Payments.*

Section 2204 amends section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) expands the grants for innovative conservation approaches to include the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards.

Subsection (b) adds perennial production systems to the definition of new or innovative conservation approach for the purpose of On-farm Conservation Innovation Trials.

Subsection (c) adds data used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendation for the application of such technologies to the data required to be reported on and made publicly available.

## SUBTITLE D—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

*Sec. 2301. Duties of the Secretary.*

Section 2302 amends section 1240L of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) clarifies that the increased costs associated with using precision agriculture and related technologies can be considered as costs incurred by the producer when the Secretary determines a producer’s annual payment under the program. The subsection further increases the minimum payment under the program to \$4,000.

Subsection (b) adds precision agriculture to the list of practices for which producers are eligible to receive supplemental payments under the program.

Subsection (c) establish a new 5-year period from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2031 in which the payment limit of \$200,000 is accrued.

*Sec. 2302. State Assistance for Soil Health*

Section 2303 creates a new subprogram under CSP for grants to States and Indian Tribes in order to improve soil health on agricultural lands in those states. The language provides for audits and reviews for the expenditures of any grant money. There is \$100,000,000 available out of CSP funding to carry out the grant program.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

*Sec. 2401. Conservation of Private Grazing Land.*

Section 2401 amends section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend the conservation of private grazing land program through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec 2402. Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program.*

Section 2402 moves the feral swine eradication and control pilot program from the 2018 Farm Bill into the Food Security Act of 1985 and makes it a full program. Further, the distribution of funds is amended with 40 percent allocated to NRCS and 60 percent allocated to APHIS. The Secretary is required to enter into contracts with one or more land grant colleges or universities to assist in achieving the goals of the program. The program receives funding at \$150,000,000 for the fiscal year 2025 through 2031.

*Sec. 2403. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.*

Section 2405 amends the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Subsection (a) expands the program to cover technical and financial assistance for remedial actions under the program. Such remedial actions include addressing any deterioration of a work of improvement that is occurring at an accelerated rate, a service life of a work that does not meet the planned service life, and structural damaged that was caused by a storm event that was greater than the maximum storm event for which the work was designed. Subsection (a) further requires the Secretary to streamline the work occurring under the program by engaging with Federal agencies to reduce barriers to timely completion of projects, provide procedures for reviews and permitting to ensure that the requirements are commensurate with the size and scale of the project, provide for best-practices for internal procedures at USDA, and prioritize agreements and contacts with local organization to carry out the projects.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to collect, maintain, and make publicly available certain data related to the expenditures, contracts, and resulting benefits of the projects carried out under the program. The Secretary is required to keep all data aggregated so to protect the privacy of landowners participating in the program.

Subsection (c) increases the cost share for rehabilitation projects under the program to 90 percent. It further allows for rehabilitation projects to not be subject to the requirement that the

project contain benefits directly related to agricultural to provide for the fact that many existing projects under this program were built when an area was primarily rural but has since been changed due to sprawl. It further allows for such projects to not be subject to the requirement that the project contain not less than 50 per centum of the lands situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir. Finally, the subsection extends the authorization of appropriations for the rehabilitation project through 2031.

*Sec. 2404. Emergency Conservation Program.*

Section 2406 amends section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to allow for advanced payments under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). A producer may receive up to 75% of the costs for replacement or rehabilitation under ECP and 50 percent of the costs of repair under ECP in advance of carrying out the replacement, rehabilitation or repair. The subsection further defines wildfires, for the purposes of ECP, to include a fire that was not caused naturally if the damage was caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.

*Sec. 2405. Emergency Watershed Program.*

Section 2407 amends section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978. Subsection (a) provides the Secretary the authority to restore vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The subsection further provides the Secretary the authority to monitor, maintain, and enhance the vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The Secretary may carry out these activities through contracts directly with landowners or by entering into agreements with States, NGOs, or Tribes. Finally, the subsection allows for the landowner to carry out compatible economic use activities on the land if such uses are consistent with the protection of the floodplain easement.

Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to undertake measures that would increase the level of protection of the floodplain easement if necessary to address immediate impairment of the watershed and it is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed.

*Sec. 2406. National Agriculture Flood Vulnerability Study.*

Section 2408 requires the Secretary to submit to Congress a report on the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural lands.

## SUBTITLE F—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

*Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.*

Section 2501 amends section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) extends and amends the funding for the conservation programs provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Subsection (b) is a conforming amendment to the regional equity provision. Subsection (c) includes conforming amendments related to the acceptance and use of contributions for public-private partnerships. Subsection (d) extends the report on enrollment and assistance, respectively.

#### *Sec. 2502. Delivery of Technical Assistance*

Section 2503 amends section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) defines the term “non-Federal certifying entity.” Subsection (b) adds the word ‘timely’ to the purpose of technical assistance. Subsection (c) adds ‘(including private sector entities)’ to the list of entities eligible for non-Federal assistance to clarify their eligibility.

Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to ensure that persons (including commercial entities, non-profits, State or local governments, and other Federal agencies) with certain expertise are eligible to become approved providers of technical assistance. Subsection (d) also provides for how third-party providers may be certified including through a process by the Secretary, by a non-Federal entity, by an Indian Tribe, or a State agency. Subsection (d) further establishes an approval process for a non-Federal certifying entity, including a timeline, and eligibility criteria. The Subsection also provides for the duties of non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides for a thirty-day timeline after which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified. The subsection provides a 10-day timeline for the Secretary to include the name of the certified third-party provider on a registry after the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity. Finally, the subsection directs the Secretary within 180 days to establish a streamlined process for certification of third-party providers that have a relevant professional certification.

Subsection (e) extends the authority to utilize and expend technical assistance funds from all programs administered by the Secretary for third-party provider technical assistance. Subsection (e) further clarifies the term of an agreement with a third-party provider to include non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides new language directing the Secretary, within 1 year of enactment, to review the certification process, make necessary adjustments, conduct outreach and set target utilization rates for delivery of technical assistance through third-party providers. Technical assistance for the design and implementation of conservation practices is adjusted to include technical assistance to program participants on maintenance of established practices. Subsection (e) adds new language providing direction to the Secretary in establishing payment amounts for third-party providers including use of specialized equipment, site visits, necessary travel and transportation, and other appropriate factors while excluding the payments from being considered as a cost-share calculation to the program participant. Additionally, the new text requires the Secretary to establish, within 1 year following enactment, a transparent, publicly available reporting of the use of third-party providers in the delivery of services and the



actual certification process. The final addition to this section requires the Secretary to place emphasis on the use of third-party providers in soil health planning, cover crops, precision agriculture, comprehensive nutrient management planning and other innovative plans.

Subsection (f) provides direction to the Secretary in the establishment and review of conservation practice standards. The subsection is amended to require a complete review of all conservation practice standards within 1 year of enactment and at least every 5 years thereafter. The subsection expands the criteria for the review process to require solicitation of public input, summary of input received, decisions relating to the input, and the revision of the standard following the review. New language is added by subsection (f) describing the process the Secretary shall follow for establishing interim and new conservation practice standards. This language sets 1 year following enactment as the date for the Secretary to develop and describe a streamlined process for interim and new conservation practice standards that ensures public engagement and is responsive to the public. State Technical Committee input, technology success from Conservation Innovation Grants and On-Farm Demonstrations, state and local partnership input, as well as, Native or traditional ecological knowledge or principles will inform the development and establishment of interim and new standards in an open, publicly available, transparent process. The subsection further provides for a priority when reviewing practices for practices that integrate innovative technologies. The Secretary will report these results of these activities and recommendations for improvement to Congress within 2 years of enactment with updates every 2 years thereafter. To ensure USDA's continued responsiveness to the ongoing innovation in agriculture technology and cultural considerations, the Subsection establishes and mandates staffing of an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Office of the Chief of NRCS. The funding and staffing of this new office will be through the annual conservation operation appropriations to the agency.

Subsection (g) provides direct hire authority to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for positions providing technical assistance under the conservation programs administered by the agency.

### *Sec. 2503. Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs*

Section 2504 amends section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) is a conforming amendment adding the Forest Conservation Easement Program to the existing tenant protection provisions.

Subsection (b) amends the county cropland acreage limitation for the conservation reserve program and the wetlands reserve easements into a single combined limitation acreage limitation removing the sub-limitation for the wetlands reserve easements. The Subsection revises the exception to waive the limitations when the Secretary determines that exceeding the county cropland acreage limitation will not adversely affect the local economy of a county or addressing producer's highly erodible lands compliance difficulties. Subsection (b) further amends the exclusions from the cropland acreage calculation to include land capability class IIIw soils within the county.

Subsection (c) updates current law for review and guidance for conservation practice costs and payment rates. The Secretary will annually review the actual costs of implementing the practices, account for gaps in available data, consider the variability in costs across the eligible lands in establishing the payment rates. The Subsection further directs the Secretary to monitor and identify significant changes within each year, seek input from the State Technical Committee regarding the significant changes and adopt or adjust current contracts to reflect the accepted change.

Subsection (d) instructs the Secretary to identify a state source water protection coordinator to promote collaborative effort with community water systems in implementing the source water protection provisions of current law. This Subsection adds annual reporting requirements for the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to make publicly available through an interactive map aggregate data with respect to priority areas, conservation programs, numbers of contracts, acres enrolled, practices adopted, and funds obligated and expended in source water protection areas.

Subsection (e) encourages the Secretary to use USDA's conservation program authorities in support of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife movement corridors.

## SUBTITLE G—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

### *Sec. 2601. Definitions.*

Section 2601 amends section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985. This section amends the program definitions by striking the definition for “buy-protect-sell transactions” and renumbers the paragraphs and makes an additional revision to the “eligible land” definition to conform to striking the previous definition.

### *Sec. 2602. Agricultural Land Easements.*

Section 2602 amends section 1265B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the availability of technical assistance to remove buy-protect-sell transactions. Subsection (b) increases the maximum Federal share from 50 to 65 percent and provides the Secretary the authority to increase the maximum Federal share to 90 percent for a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holding an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent. This Subsection also includes a structural change to bring forward the previously authorized grassland exception with respect to the Federal share into the amended structure.

Subsection (b) includes language clarifying the eligible entities responsibility for providing the non-Federal share. Subsection (b) further provides new language for an option to exclude the Federal right of enforcement from the easement terms and conditions. To exercise this option the eligible entity will receive Federal cost-share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, provide cash contribution of at least 50 percent of the fair market value and use its own easement deed terms with approval of the Secretary. To provide greater opportunities

for access to the program, the subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to evaluate and rank applications from entities that include farms or ranches owned by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in separate pools. This subsection includes a restructuring of the text in current law with respect to the easement minimum terms and conditions without changing the base text in current law. The Subsection includes a new provision facilitating the transfer of an easement to another eligible entity if the holding entity ceases to exist or cannot comply with the easement terms and conditions of their agreement with USDA.

With respect to certification of eligible entities, Subsection (b) provides a clear objective for the certification process to promote efficiency and minimize agency oversight. It further reduces the minimum number of acquired easements from 10 to 5 for certification of accredited land trusts and state agencies. New language is provided in this subsection to address certification of eligible entities that are not accredited or a state agency when they hold 10 or more easements. Finally, the Subsection clarifies the easement review requirements for eligible entities to maintain their certification.

#### *Sec. 2603. Wetland Reserve Easements.*

Section 2603 amends section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) provided socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers the wetlands reserve 30-year contract option in addition to easements. The option is currently available to Indian Tribes and will continue to be an available option. The Subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to maintain separate evaluation and ranking pools specific to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Subsection (b) makes a conforming change in a subsection citation.

Subsection (c) provides new language elevating stewardship of existing wetland reserve easements as a program priority. The Subsection provides authority and parameters for providing financial assistance on existing easements, requires evaluation of needs, prioritization, planning and execution of stewardship activities, payment authority and reporting requirements of the Secretary. The Subsection requires the Secretary to compile and transmit the report to Congress within 2 years of enactment.

Subsection (d) expands the Secretary's existing wetlands reserve easement authority for restoration and enhancement contracts and agreements to include Federal and local agencies or private entities. It further expands the eligible activities to include maintenance, repair, assessment and monitoring of easements.

Subsection (e) instructs the Secretary to use not less than 15 percent of the wetlands reserve easement funds to carry out the wetlands reserve enhancement option through agreements with partnering organizations.

## *Sec. 2604 Administration*

Section 2604 amends section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) breaks out modifications from exchanges and lowers the bar for modifications while keeping exchanges similar to current law. The subsection clarifies that any modification is not to be considered a major Federal action under NEPA. Subsection (a) provides authority to approve and make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land. The subsection describes types of de minimis adjustments that would be allowed. It also includes language granting authority to entities to include and modify easement terms and conditions specific to their objectives if such inclusion or modification is not in conflict with the term prescribed by the Secretary. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to AGI limitations under this subtitle. It further exempts income from the acquisition of an easement from AGI.

## SUBTITLE G—FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

### *Sec. 2701 Forest Conservation Easement Program*

Section 2701 established a new program called the Forest Conservation Easement Program. The section provides for conforming amendments by redesignating subtitle I as subtitle J and by inserting the program as subtitle I.

Section 1267 is the Establishment and Purposes. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to establish a forest conservation easement program. Subsection (b) provides for the purposes of the program to include protecting the viability and sustainability of working forest land, protecting, and enhancing forest and ecosystems and landscape functions and values, promoting the restoration and protection of habitat species, and carrying out the purpose and functions of the healthy forests reserve program.

Section 1267A is the Definitions. The Section provides for definitions for the subtitle including acreage owned by an Indian tribe, eligible entity, eligible land, forest land easement, forest management plan, forest reserve easement, program, and socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

Section 1267B is the Forest Land Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding for the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements, the development of a forest management plan, and technical assistance to implement the section. Subsection (b) provides for the terms of cost-share assistance including the federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement with an exception of not more than 75 percent for forests of special environmental significance or land owned by a socially disadvantaged forest owners. Subsection (b) also provides for the non-Federal share which is the equivalent of the remainder of the fair market value. The subsection provides for the permissible forms the non-Federal share may comprise. The subsection also provides for how the Secretary shall determine the fair market value. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection continues by directing the Secretary to enter into agreements with eligible entities and the length of those agreements.

The subsection also authorizes eligible entities to use their own minimum terms and conditions if they are consistent with certain conditions, including subsurface. The subsection also allows for substitution of qualified projects and provides for effects of a violation. Finally, Subsection (b) directs the landowner to work with an eligible entity to develop a forest management plan and directs the Secretary to reimburse the landowner for the cost of the plan. Subsection (c) provides for the method of enrollment using permanent easements or easements for the maximum durations allowed by State law. Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary may provide technical assistance to assist in compliance with terms and conditions of forest land easements.

Section 1267C is the Forest Reserve Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible lands through forest reserve easements, related forest reserve easement plans, and technical assistance. Subsection (b) describes the method of enrollment using permanent easements, 30-year easements, and easements for the maximum duration allowed under State law. The subsection also describes the method of enrollment for acreage owned by an Indian Tribe. The subsection sets a limitation on the amount for each fiscal year dedicated to 30-year easements. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection provides for the term and conditions of easements and provides for the ability for a landowner to request certain terms and conditions. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide certain compensation for permanent easements and other compensation for 30-year easements. The subsection also directs the Secretary to determine the fair market value of the easement using certain standards.

Subsection (c) directs the Secretary to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out activities and practices described in the forest reserve easement plan. Subsection (c) describes the amounts the Secretary shall pay for those activities and practices, the costs eligible and the timing of such payments. Finally, the subsection provides for a limitation of the amount of financial assistance the Secretary may provide. Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to owners of eligible land to assist owners in developing a forest reserve easement plan and complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement. The subsection also allows the Secretary to enter into contracts with entities to provide technical assistance. Subsection (e) directs the Secretary to make available to the landowners safe harbor or similar protections under the Endangered Species Act. The subsection also allows for costs associated with additional measures and the cost of a permit to be considered eligible costs for payment under subsection (c)(2).

Subsection (f) allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities under this section to other Federal or State agencies. Subsection (f) also allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management responsibilities to a nonprofit organization if the Secretary determines the organization has the appropriate expertise. Finally, the subsection allows the Secretary to consult with landowners and other entities.

Section 1267D is the Administration. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to not use amounts available to carry out the program on certain ineligible land. Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to allow subordination, modification, exchange, and termination under certain

conditions. The subsection directs the Secretary to obtain consent, if applicable, from the landowner and eligible entity for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide written notice to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees before taking any termination action. Subsection (c) says that in accordance with provisions of section 2902, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program on the day before enactment shall be considered enrolled in the program.

*Sec. 2702. Healthy Forest Reserve Program.*

Subsection (a) repeals Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The subsection makes a conforming amendment to amend the table of contents to reflect the repeal. Subsection (b) provides for transitional authorities to ensure that it does not affect the validity or terms of contract, agreement, easement, payments, or technical assistance required entered into under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Subsection (b) authorizes the use of prior year funds.

## SUBTITLE I—REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

*Sec. 2801 Establishment and Purposes*

Section 2801 amends section 1271 of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends the purposes of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to include the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought and improvement or expansion of flood resiliency.

*Sec. 2802 Definitions*

Section 2802 amends section 1271A of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section adds the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I to the list of covered programs.

*Sec. 2803 Regional Conservation Partnerships*

Section 2803 amends section 1271B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary to enter into partnership agreements with eligible entities to implement projects. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to streamline the partnership agreement process ensuring the partnership agreement process takes less than 180 days and that the agreement contains only information described under (e)(3) to fund and initiate the project and any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f) and any waiver provided under paragraph (3). Finally, subsection (a) directs the Secretary to make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or adjustment.

Subsection (b) provides for a conforming amendment on an annual report on technical assistance funds. The subsection also ensures that payments to eligible partners are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.

Subsection (c) amends section 1271B(e)(3) to add any requests of a waiver or an adjustment to a covered program in the application section.

#### *Sec. 2804 Assistance to Producers*

Section 2804 amends section 1271C of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends 1271C(d)(3) to ensure eligible entities under an AFA provide not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the project in direct funding.

#### *Sec. 2805 Funding*

Section 2805 amends section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 to make certain conforming amendments. Subsection (b) amends the limitation of administration expenses to allow not more than 10 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the projects. The subsection also clarifies that any remaining amount not reimbursed that is expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses may be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).

Subsection (c) authorizes the Secretary to identify the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance and the share of funds provided to eligible partners. Subsection (c) also clarifies that the Secretary may reimburse partners for the cost of technical assistance including the costs of technical assistance to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit, the costs of providing outreach, the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E), and other costs necessary to support the implementation of the project. The subsection also authorizes the Secretary to advance funds to eligible partners. The subsection also limits the costs of the Secretary for technical assistance. Finally, the subsection directs the Secretary to provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements and advancements, along with strategies for third-party providers to participate in the program.

#### *Sec. 2806 Administration*

Section 2806 amends section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the reporting provision to ensure the report is made publicly available.

Subsection (b) adds subsection (f) to 1271E that directs the Secretary to ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program while also authorizing the Secretary to adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program if requested by a partner. The subsection also provides for a limitation on that provision to not adjust statutory requirements. Subsection (b) also provides waiver authority of

eligible land considerations for an Agricultural Land Easement. The subsection also ensures that certified eligible entities under the Agricultural Land Easement program shall have the same benefits in RCPP as they do in ACEP. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to the prior irrigation history requirement for an eligible activity under EQIP in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes. The subsection provides that paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to AFAs.

*Sec. 2807 Critical Conservation Areas*

Section 2807 amends section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the definition of priority resource concerns to include restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors. Subsection (b) makes a conforming amendment to 1271D.

### **TITLE III—TRADE**

#### **SUBTITLE A—FOOD FOR PEACE ACT**

*Sec. 3101. Transfer of authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture.*

Section 3101 amends various sections of the Food for Peace Act to transfer the authorities of the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Section 3101 also provides that the assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses of the USAID Administrator, pursuant to any authority under the Food for Peace Act on or after January 1, 2026, shall be transferred to the Secretary of Agriculture. Additionally, other authorities outside of the Food for Peace Act that the USAID Administrator used to implement Food for Peace programs may be exercised by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 3101 further allows the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate or amend rules and regulations (including by issuing or re-issuing interim final rules) that were previously used by the USAID Administrator to implement programs within the Food for Peace Act. Finally, the section requires the Secretary of Agriculture to consult with the Secretary of State from time to time in carrying out the authorities under the Food for Peace Act.

*Sec. 3102. Food aid quality assurance.*

Paragraph (1) of section “narrows the notwithstanding authority to the Food for Peace Act.



Paragraph (2) of section 3102 amends section 202(b)(1) of the Food for Peace Act. to clarify that assistance, including in the form of agricultural commodities, may be used for nonemergency assistance

Paragraph (3) of Section 3102 amends section 202(b)(2) of the Food for Peace Act to update the USAID references to USDA.

Paragraph (4) of section 3102 amends section 202(d) of the Food for Peace Act to provide that a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Secretary, qualifies as an eligible organization.

Paragraph (5) of section 3102 amends section 202(e) of the Food for Peace Act to reserve 50 percent of Food for Peace resources for the procurement of U.S. grown commodities and ocean transportation.

Paragraph (6) of section 3101 amends section 202(h)(3) of the Food for Peace Act to extend the funding limitation for food aid quality oversight through 2031.

*Sec. 3103. Minimum levels of assistance.*

Section 3103 repeals section 204 of the Food for Peace Act.

*Sec. 3104. Food aid consultative group.*

Section 3104 amends section 205 of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the Food Aid Consultative Group through December 31, 2031, and updates USAID related references accordingly.

*Sec. 3105. Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.*

This section updates Farm Bill title references, changes USAID references to USDA, and extends existing funding authority through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 3106. International food relief partnership.*

Section 3106 amends section 208(f) of the Food for Peace Act to increase appropriations from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 for the International Food Relief Partnership program for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

*Sec. 3107. Use of commodity credit corporation.*

Section 3107 amends section 406(b) of the Food for Peace Act to provide that the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of commodities made available for emergency and private assistance programs and food for development under the Food for Peace Act.

*Sec. 3108. Pre-positioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities.*

Paragraphs (1),( 2, 3, 5, and 6 update USAID references to USDA.”

Paragraph (4) of section 3108 extends existing authority and funding through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (7) of section 3108 amends section 407(f)(1) of the Food for Peace Act by striking the references to the USAID Administrator.

Paragraph (8) of Section 3108 amends section 407(f)(2) by updating the annual reporting requirements to include a statement of the amount of funds provided to eligible organizations that received assistance and how those funds were used, and requires an assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls.

Paragraph (9) of section 3108 is a conforming amendment to the changes made under paragraph (8).

*Sec. 3109. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.*

Section 3109 amends section 408 of the Food for Peace Act to extend the deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance until December 31, 2031.

*Sec. 3110. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.*

Paragraph (1) of section 3110 extends the minimum levels of nonemergency food assistance through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (2) of section 3110 amends section 412 of the Food for Peace Act by providing that not less than \$200,000,000 for each fiscal year be available for the procurement and distribution of ready-to-use therapeutic foods. Such provision shall only be in effect if the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates reports a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5 percent and the annual appropriations under title II is greater than \$1,200,000,000.

*Sec. 3111. Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs.*

Section 3111 amends section 415 of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the micronutrient fortification program until 2031 and updates USAID related references to USDA.

*Sec. 3112. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter farmer-to-farmer program.*

Section 3112 extends the authority for the John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program and updates USAID references to USDA.

*Sec. 3113. Food for Peace Act administration.*

Section 3113 provides that for fiscal years 2026 through 2031, the Secretary of Agriculture may use funds made available for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service under an appropriations Act or any other provision of law to pay the administrative expenses of the Department of Agriculture in the implementation of the Food for Peace Act.

#### SUBTITLE B—AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

##### *Sec. 3201. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.*

Section 3201(a) amends section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide not more than \$1,500,000 in funding for fiscal year 2027 and not more than \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter for the Secretary to enter into contracts with trade organizations or non-profit organizations with supply chain infrastructure expertise to provide technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure related to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments.

Section 3201(b) amends section 203(e)(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to establish a biennial report that the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, to submit every two years to the Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Ways and Means of the House and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

Section 3201(c) amends section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide the following funding:

- FY 26:
  - Total funding: \$255M
  - MAP: \$200M
  - FMD: \$34.5M
  - EMP: \$8M
  - TASC: \$9M
  - PTF: \$3.5M
- FY 27:
  - Total funding: \$500M
  - MAP: \$400M
  - FMD: \$70.5M
    - Of this, \$1.5M will go towards cold chain storage.
  - EMP: \$8M
  - TASC: \$9M
  - PTF: \$3.5M
- FY 28 and each fiscal year thereafter:
  - Total funding: \$533M
  - MAP: \$410M
  - FMD: \$82M

- Of this, \$5M will go towards cold chain storage.
- EMP: \$16M
- TASC: \$18M
- PTF: \$7M

Section 3201(d) repeals the prohibition on using funds to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel to carry out a market promotion/market access program that provides assistance to the United States Mink Export Development Council or any mink industry trade association and the supplemental agricultural trade promotion program.

*Sec. 3202. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.*

Section 3202(a) amends Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to create a definition for “Common Name”, meaning a name that, as determined by the Secretary, is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product, is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product, and the use of the name is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Additionally, the definition excludes examples of names, among others, that shall be considered as common names with respect to food products, wine, and beer.

Section 3202(b) amends the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to add a new section at the end of Title III that requires the Secretary to coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of U.S. agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products. Section 3202(b) also requires the Secretary and the U.S. Trade Representative to provide the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition a briefing, twice annually, on their efforts and success in carrying out negotiations to defend the use of common names.

*Sec. 3203. Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group.*

Section 3203 amends subtitle B of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the Secretary, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, to jointly establish an interagency working group composed of representatives from each agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

## SUBTITLE C—OTHER AGRICULTURAL TRADE LAWS

### *Sec. 3301. Growing American Food Exports.*

Section 3301 amends Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize the \$2,000,000 authorization of appropriations of the Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program for each fiscal year through 2031.

### *Sec. 3302. Food for Progress Act of 1985.*

Paragraph (1) of section 3302 amends section 1110(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary to annually enter into two or more agreements with two or more eligible entities to furnish developing countries and countries that are emerging democracies with eligible commodities.

Paragraphs (2) through (5)(A) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the program until 2031.

Paragraph (5)(B) and (6) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to narrow the scope of authority that the Secretary may use proceeds to pay the costs incurred by eligible entities under the Food for Progress Act to development purposes and programs.

Paragraph (7) of section 3302 amends section 1110(n)(2)(C) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

### *Sec. 3303. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.*

Paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 3303 amend section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to reauthorize the trust through 2031.

Paragraph (2) of section 3303 amends section 302(c)(1)(C) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide the Secretary with the authority to determine if funds and commodities held in the trust are available for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act for a fiscal year if funds for such fiscal year are insufficient to meet emergency needs.

Paragraph (3) of section 3303 strikes section 302(c)(1)(D) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act regarding the USAID Administrator's authority to waive minimum tonnage requirements.

Paragraph (4) of section 3303 amends section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Commodity Credit

Corporation for the release of eligible commodities from funds made available to carry out the Food for Peace Act and the funds that shall be available to replenish the trust.

*Sec. 3304. Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets.*

Section 3304 amends section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for the promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 3305. International agricultural education fellowship program.*

Section 3305 amends section 3307 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize funding for the International Agricultural Fellowship Program through fiscal year 2031. Section 3305 also requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years and to ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multi-year.

*Sec. 3306. International agricultural cultural immersion and exchange program.*

Section 3306 amends the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to add a new section at the end of Title III that establishes an International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program, authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to develop globally minded citizens of the U.S. and to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the U.S. in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

*Sec. 3307. International food security technical assistance.*

Section 3307 amends section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for international food security technical assistance through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 3308. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.*

Paragraph (1) of section 3308 amends section 3107(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by adding lower-middle income countries as eligible.

Paragraph (2) of section 3308 amends section 3107(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Paragraph (3) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (4) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(4) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that of the funds available to carry out the McGovern-Dole

International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent, shall be used to purchase agricultural commodities that are produced in and procured from developing countries that are McGovern-Dole recipients.

*Sec. 3309. Global Crop Diversity Trust.*

Section 3309 amends section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to limit the aggregate contribution of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Global Crop Diversity Trust to 33% while also ensuring that the trust is not precluded from receiving additional competitive funding or other funding. Additionally, the section reauthorizes appropriations through 2031.

*Sec. 3310. Local and regional food aid procurement projects.*

Section 3310 amends section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize appropriations for local and regional food aid procurements projects until 2031.

*Sec. 3311. Agricultural trade enforcement task force.*

Section 3311 establishes an Agricultural Trade Enforcement Task Force to identify trade barriers to U.S. agricultural exports that are vulnerable to dispute settlement under the World Trade Organization (WTO) or other trade agreements, develop and implement a strategy for enforcing violations of trade agreements related to those trade barriers, identify like-minded trading partners for specific trade barriers that could act as complainants on disputes that are systemically or economically important to the United States, and submit periodic reports to Congress.

*Sec. 3312. Report on international shrimp trade.*

Section 3312 requires a GAO report on policy solutions to address illegal shrimp imports and related inspections, as well as policy solutions to promote and protect the domestic shrimp industry.

## **TITLE IV—NUTRITION**

### **SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

*Sec. 4101. Declaration of Policy.*

Section 4101 amends section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, adding subsections (b) and (c) relating to Congress's Declaration of Policy on SNAP.

*Section 4102. Prohibited Fees.*

Section 4102 amends section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to extend the prohibition on the imposition of fees by States for EBT transactions including switching or routing such benefits through 2031.

*Section 4103. SNAP Staffing Flexibility.*

Section 4103 amends section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (y), allowing a State agency to hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nutrition assistance program certification or carry out any other function of the State agency under SNAP.

Paragraph (2) stipulates a state agency may only use the authority to hire a contractor when the State experiences increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or an inability to timely process such applications from certain causes, or the State's payment error rate is 6% or greater.

Paragraph (4) requires the State agency to notify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority provided in this section and shall provide any information or data supporting State agency increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or any inability to timely process such applications.

Paragraph (7) directs the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on SNAP Staffing Flexibility.

Paragraph (8) lists when the temporary staffing shortage authorities provided to State agencies by this section expire.

*Section 4104. Updates to Administrative Processes for SNAP Retailers*

Section 4104 amends Section 9(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act to require food stores that are denied participation in SNAP to have to be denied on two consecutive occasions within three years before the existing six month waiting period to submit a new application shall apply.

*Section 4105. Report on All Identified Payment Errors.*

Section 4105 amends section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by requiring the Secretary to include all identified payment errors, regardless of dollar amount, in a supplemental section of the annual payment error rate measurement report for SNAP. Such information shall not alter, modify, or affect the calculation of the tolerance level for excluding small errors under paragraph (1)(A)(ii) of such section, currently an amount not greater than \$58.



*Section 4106. Authorization of Appropriations.*

Section 4106 amends section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending through 2031 the authorization for appropriations to carry out such Act.

*Section 4107. Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking.*

Section 4107 amends section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Section 4108. EBT Card Security Regulations.*

Section 4108 requires the Secretary to promulgate proposed rule regulations to enhance EBT Card security measures not later than six months after the date of enactment of this Act.

*Section 4109. Report on SNAP Administrative Expenses.*

Section 4109 requires the Comptroller General to submit a report to Congress not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act on SNAP administrative expenses.

*Section 4110. Animal Protein an Eligible Food.*

Section 4110 amends section 9(j)(1)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by including “animal protein” in the list of eligible incentive foods.

*Section 4111. Permanent Authority for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Online Purchasing.*

Section 4111 amends section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (l), requiring the Secretary to transition the SNAP online purchasing initiative from pilot status to permanent nationwide program operations.

*Section 4112. Emergency Food Assistance Programs*

Section 4112(a) amends section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by extending the authorization of appropriations for emergency food program infrastructure grants through 2031.

Subsection (b) amends section 27 of the Food and Nutrition Act, by extending through 2031 the availability of commodities for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

*Sec. 4113. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.*

Section 4113 amends Section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act by extending through 2031 the Traditional and Locally and Regionally-Grown Food Fund within the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

SUBTITLE B—COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

*Section 4201. Commodity Distribution Program.*

Section 4201(a) amends Section 4402(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by adding maple syrup and tree nuts as a permitted resource to be provided in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program.

Subsection (b) amends section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out the Commodity Distribution Program through 2031.

*Section 4202. Commodity Supplemental Food Program.*

Section 4202(1) and (2) amends section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out the Commodity Supplemental Food Program through 2031.

Paragraph (3) adds as a new subsection (n) to such section—the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Delivery Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to award grants for the operation of projects that increase the access of low-income elderly persons to commodities through home delivery or other means and to evaluate such projects. This paragraph authorizes there to be \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 for the program.

*Section 4203 Distribution of Surplus Commodities To Special Nutrition Projects.*

Section 4203 amends section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 by extending the Secretary's authority for the program through fiscal year 2031.

*Section 4204. Commodity Supplemental Food Program Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations.*

Section 4204 creates a demonstration project for tribal organizations under which one or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural

commodities under the food distribution program for the Indian reservation of that Tribal organization. Paragraph (6) authorizes \$1,000,000 to carry out the demonstration project.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to appoint an existing office of the United States Department of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-determination contracts, and authorizes \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits.

## SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

### *Section 4301. Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions.*

Section 4301 amends section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the purchase of specialty crops through fiscal year 2031.

### *Section 4302. Buy American Requirements for Certain School Meals.*

Section 4302 amends Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by codifying that the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category for each school year. Subparagraph (A)(ii) provides an exception for domestically unavailable foods. Subparagraph (A)(iii) requires the Secretary to make available to school food authorities a list of domestically unavailable products every 2 years. Subparagraph (A)(iv) prohibits school food authorities from purchasing certain foods from China or Russia.

### *Section 4303. Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.*

Section 4303 amends Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Paragraph (1)(A) amends subsection (b)(1)(C) by allowing a waiver to persistent poverty counties from the requirement that the Federal cost share not exceed 50%.

Paragraph (1)(B) provides that in awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables.

Paragraph (2) expands what an eligible entity must prescribe from just “fresh fruits and vegetables” to “all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes”.

*Section 4304. Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report.*

Section 4304 amends Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to make the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report annual and adds required information to be included in the report.

*Section 4305. Dairy Nutrition Incentives Projects.*

Section 4305 amends section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by expanding the program to include all forms of fluid milk and certain hard cheeses. Paragraph (6) increases the authorization of appropriations for the section from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

*Section 4306. Local Farmers Feeding Our Communities Program.*

Section 4306 requires the Secretary to establish a program for entering into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to strengthen local and regional food producers, distributors, security, and systems.

Subsections (b) and (c) list how funds may and may not be used by selected entities.

Subsection (d) requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance to selected eligible entities.

Subsection (e) requires the Secretary to allocate 10 percent of this sections' funding to Tribal Governments, 1 percent to each State, and the remaining amounts to each eligible entity.

Subsection (f) authorizes \$200,000,000 in discretionary funding to carry out this section for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

*Section 4307. Healthy Food Financing Initiative.*

Section 4307 amends section 243 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act by increasing from \$125,000,000 to \$135,000,000 the authorization of appropriations for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

*Section 4308. Dietary Guidelines.*

Section 4308 amends section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990. Subsections (a)(1) and (3) require the Secretaries of Agriculture and HHS to jointly publish Dietary Guidelines at least once every 10 years. Current law requires the Guidelines be published at least once every 5 years.

Subsection (a)(2) increases the level of scientific agreement required for information to be included in the report from a mere preponderance of current scientific and medical knowledge

to “significant scientific agreement determined by evidence-based review”, among other requirements.

Subsection (a)(4) would require the Secretaries to notify and justify to Congress when the Dietary Guidelines are to be updated.

Subsection (a)(5) would create an Independent Advisory Board to assist in updating the Dietary Guidelines as needed.

Subsection (a)(6) excludes the Secretaries from being permitted to publish in the report information or topics not relevant to dietary guidance, including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition.

Subsection (b) clarifies the recently published 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans shall be the controlling report until a more recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans is published in accordance with the amendments made to this section by this Act.

## **TITLE V – CREDIT**

### **SUBTITLE A – FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS**

#### *Sec. 5101. Persons eligible for real estate loans.*

Section 5101 amends section 302(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for direct farm ownership loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with real estate loans.

#### *Sec. 5102. Experience requirements.*

Section 5102 amends section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to lower the required years of farm or ranch operations experience, from 3 years to 2 years, for farmers and ranchers to be eligible for direct farm ownership loans. Section 5102 also allows Secretary to reduce the requirement to 1 year, if a farmer or rancher meets certain criteria.

#### *Sec. 5103. Refinancing of indebtedness into direct loans.*

Section 5103 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require the Secretary to promulgate regulations, within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 to allow distressed loans guaranteed by the Farm Service Agency to be refinanced into direct loans subject to certain conditions.

*Sec. 5104. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.*

Section 5104 amends section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the adoption of precision agriculture practices and acquisition of precision agriculture technologies as a priority for guaranteed conservation loans. Section 5103 also reauthorizes the Conservation Loan and Loan Guarantee Program through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 5105. Limitations on amount of farm ownership loans.*

Section 5105 amends section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from \$700,000 to \$1,750,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2026.

*Sec. 5106. Inflation percentage.*

Section 5106 amends section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the inflation percentage applicable to the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans to include the average of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year, weighted equally, to exceed the same averages from the prior year.

*Sec. 5107. Authority of farm credit system institutions to provide financial support for essential rural community facilities projects.*

Section 5107 amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to create a new section that expands the authority of farm credit institutions to work in conjunction with community banks to provide financing and technical assistance for essential rural community facilities projects.

*Sec. 5108. Down payment loan program.*

Section 5108 amends section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the principal amount a farm ownership loan made under the down payment loan program to be the lower of 45% the lessor of the purchase price or the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired.

*Sec. 5109. HEIRS property.*

Section 5109(a) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the HEIRS Property Intermediary Relending Program through fiscal year 2031.

Section 5109(b) amends section 310I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish that the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to

provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners and to authorize appropriations of \$60,000,000, for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031, to carry out the cooperative agreements.

Section 5109(c) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require the Secretary to annually submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report describing the operation and outcomes of the HEIRS Property Intermediary Relending Program, with recommendations on how to strengthen the program.

*Sec. 5110. Prompt approval of loans and loan guarantees.*

Section 5110 amends section 333A(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide to lenders a short, simplified application form to Preferred Certified Lender or Certified Lenders for real estate and operating guaranteed loans of not more than \$1,000,000.

*Sec. 5111. Expedited approval pilot program.*

Section 5111 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to add at the end a new section to establish a pilot program for a prior approval process for direct farm ownership loans and bridge loans guaranteed by the Secretary that are serviced by a Preferred Certified Lender and provided to a creditworthy borrower, as determined by the Preferred Certified Lender.

#### SUBTITLE B – OPERATING LOANS

*Sec. 5201. Persons eligible for operating loans.*

Section 5201 amends section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with operating loans.

*Sec. 5202. Limitations on amount of operating loans.*

Section 5202 amends section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from \$750,000 to \$3,000,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2026.

*Sec. 5203. Limitation on microloan amounts.*

Section 5203 amends section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the limitation amount for microloan indebtedness from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

*Sec. 5204. Cooperative lending pilot projects.*

Section 5204 amends section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for a pilot project to make loans to cooperative lenders through 2031.

SUBTITLE C—EMERGENCY LOANS

*Sec. 5301. Persons eligible for emergency loans.*

Section 5301 amends section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with emergency loans.

SUBTITLE D—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

*Sec. 5401. Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program.*

Section 5401 amends section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of \$5,000,000 for the program for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 5402. Loan authorization levels.*

Section 5402 amends section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for loan programs through 2031.

*Sec. 5403. Loan fund set-asides.*

Section 5403 amends section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the 50% operating loan funds set aside for qualified beginning farmers and ranchers through 2031.

*Sec. 5405. Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions.*

Section 5405 amends section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year through fiscal



year 2031 for the use of additional funds for direct operating microloans if the Secretary determines that the amount needed for direct operating loans (including microloans) exceeds the aggregate principal amount authorized for that fiscal year.

#### SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS

*Sec. 5501. Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products.*

Section 5501(a) amends various sections of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand the eligibility of credit and financial services authorized under the Act to include persons furnishing to producers or harvesters of aquatic product services directly related to their operating needs.

*Sec. 5502. Export finance authority.*

Section 5502 amends section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to require cooperative banks to guarantee or insure 95% of a loan for export financing if the balance of the loan exceeds 15% of the bank's total assets.

*Sec. 5503. Support for rural water and waste systems.*

Section 5503 amends section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand the Farm Credit Administration's authority to allow for the USDA's guaranteed water and wastewater loan program to be made available in cities and towns with a population of less than 50,000 inhabitants.

*Sec. 5504. Farmer credit system regulation.*

Section 5504 amends part D of title IV of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to establish the Farm Credit Administration as the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System institutions with respect to activities subject to the Farm Credit Act, effective on the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026. The section further provides that a law enacted or rule promulgated after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 shall not be held to modify or supersede the Farm Credit Administration's exclusive authority, except to the extent that the enacted law does so expressly.

*Sec. 5505. Loan guarantees.*

Section 5505 amends section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand charter of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation outside the scope of loan guarantees under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to also cover loans made under the Rural Energy for America Program.

*Sec. 5506. Standards for qualified loans.*

Section 5506 amends section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to establish that the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation shall not treat a loan secured by agricultural real estate as a qualified loan when the cumulative principal amount of all loans to a single borrower or related borrowers exceeds 10 percent of the Corporation's tier 1 capital, as defined by the Farm Credit Administration.

*Sec. 5507. State agricultural mediation programs.*

Section 5507(a) amends section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to establish that the Secretary shall not pay more than \$700,000 per year to a single State under the matching grants established under section 502. Section 5508(b) also provides that the Secretary shall permit a State that receives a matching grant for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the grant that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided in subsequent fiscal years.

Section 5507(b) amends section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize appropriations of \$7,500,000 for the state agricultural mediation programs for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 5508. Technical corrections.*

Section 5508 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to update obsolete and outdated references to terms created or recognized by the Farmers Home Administration, which was replaced by the Farm Service Agency.

## **TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **SUBTITLE A—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN RURAL AMERICA**

*Sec. 6101. Prioritizations for Distance Learning and Telemedicine and Community Facilities Program.*

Section 6101 amends section 6101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health as prioritizations.

*Sec. 6102. Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants.*

Section 6102 amends section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

## SUBTITLE B—CONNECTING RURAL AMERICANS TO HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

### *Sec. 6201. Rural Broadband Program Loans and Grants.*

Section 6201 amends section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (3) directs how the Secretary shall make grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment necessary for delivering broadband service in rural areas. The Secretary is directed to give the highest priority to applications for projects that provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service of at least: (1) a 25-Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and (2) a 3-Mbps upstream transmission capacity. The Secretary is then directed to give priority for specified rural communities. Paragraph (3)(D) places fee caps on loan guarantees.

Paragraph (4) raises from 50% to 75% the threshold for which households in the proposed service area must be unserved or underserved for assistance to be available.

Paragraph (5) defines broadband buildout standards for a project to be considered for assistance.

Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

Subsection (c) sunsets the authorities provided by section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

### *Sec. 6202. Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure into Rural Areas.*

Section 6202 amends section 602 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

### *Sec. 6203. Innovative Broadband Advancement Program.*

Section 6203 amends section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to provide grants or loans to eligible entities for terrestrial broadband demonstration projects.

Subsection (c) creates a satellite broadband demonstration project program whereby the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities to reduce or eliminate the costs associated with the purchase or installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

Subsection (e) authorizes \$10,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6204. Community Connect Grants.*

Section 6204 amends section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (1) amends the eligible service to mean an area with broadband service capacity of less than 25 Mbps downstream transmission capacity and 3 Mbps upstream transmission capacity, up from 10 and 1, respectively.

Paragraph (3) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6205. Rate Regulation.*

Section 6205 amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding a new section 607 stating that nothing in title 6 of the REA authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.

*Sec. 6206. Public Notice, Assessments, Technical Assistance, and Reporting Requirements.*

Section 6206 amends section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (3) amends subsection (b) by adding additional requirements for the Secretary to confirm areas are unserved in broadband before awarding loans or grants for broadband service assistance.

Paragraph (4) amends subsection (e) and directs the Secretary to provide grants for broadband technical assistance. Paragraph (4) also adds a subsection (g) to limit that only between 3 and 5% of the funds appropriated to title VI of the REA may be used for carrying out section 701.

*Sec. 6207. Limitation on Overbuilding.*

Section 6207 amends Title VI of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding a limitation on overbuilding. The limitation prohibits an area from being treated as “unserved” if another Federal or State broadband program has received funding to provide retail broadband service to that area at a speed of at least 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload within the next 5 years.

## SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

*Sec. 6301. Rural Energy Savings Program.*

Section 6301 amends section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Paragraph (1) clarifies what is an eligible entity and redefines “energy efficiency measures” to include the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances with a substantially similar manufacturing housing unit or appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option with respect to energy savings.

Paragraph (2) amends subsection (c)(9), clarifying that no more than 10% of total annual amount of budget authority for loans may be used for the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances. It also adds a subsection (c)(11), providing rules for the Secretary to follow in offering grants under the Rural Energy Savings Program.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (d) relating to loan terms to qualified consumers.

Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

*Sec. 6302. Promoting Precision Agriculture.*

Section 6302 directs the Secretary to study and develop the creation of interconnectivity standards for precision agriculture for the purpose of enhancing the participation of precision agriculture in the United States and promoting United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

*Sec. 6303. Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans.*

Section 6303 amends section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding as subsection (f) food supply chain capacity and resilience guaranteed loans for the purpose of financing new investments in the start-up or expansion of projects in the United States that will increase the capacity of the food supply chain in the United States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs.

*Sec. 6304. New, Mobile, And Expanded Meat Processing and Rendering Grants.*

Section 6304 allows the Secretary to award grants for the purpose of expanding meat processing and rendering throughout the country. Subsection (f) authorizes to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2031.

*Sec. 6305. Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative.*

Section 6305 requires the Secretary to establish an initiative under which the Secretary shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, priority to qualified applicants for loans and grants to address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas under enumerated existing programs.

*Sec. 6306. Technical Assistance for Geographically Underserved and Distressed Area.*

Section 6306 requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to rural development programs administered by the Secretary for

local partners (including local governments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

*Sec. 6307. Establishment of the Rural Development Innovation Center.*

Section 6307 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by establishing within the Rural Development Mission Areas, a Rural Development Innovation Center to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives. The Innovation Center shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization plan to facilitate innovation in administering and implementing rural development programs and initiatives.

*Sec. 6308. Rural Health Liaison Report.*

Section 6308 amends Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds a requirement that the Liaison shall coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Paragraph (2) requires the Liaison to submit an annual report to Congress.

SUBTITLE D—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

*Sec. 6401. Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants.*

Section 6401 amends section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

*Sec. 6402. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program*

Section 6402 amends section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to codify the purpose, activities, and requirements of the national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.

*Sec. 6403. Zero and Low Interest Loans for Distressed Water Systems.*

Section 6403 amends section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a new paragraph entitled “Assistance for Distressed Water Systems.” The purpose is to promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of eligible rural community waste disposal and water facilities through no and low interest loans.

*Sec. 6404. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities*

Section 6404 amends section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6405. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program.*

Section 6405 amends section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6406. Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska.*

Section 6406 amends Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6407. Rural Decentralized Water Systems.*

Section 6407 amends Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow the Secretary to make grants to eligible recipients for the purpose of providing loans and subgrants to eligible individuals for water quality testing, water treatment, and technical assistance for the installation of well systems, among other purposes. Loans or subgrants under this program may not exceed \$20,000.

Subsection (e) authorizes \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

*Sec. 6408. Assistance to Rural Entities.*

Section 6408 amends Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow loans for expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices.

*Sec. 6409. Solid Waste Management Grants.*

Section 6409 amends Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to include Indian tribes as eligible for grants and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6410. Rural Business Development Grants.*

Section 6410 amends Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6411. Rural Cooperative Development Grants.*

Section 6411 amends section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by giving priority to grant applicants that commit to providing at least a 25 percent match.

Paragraph (3) amends paragraph (6) to require the Secretary to award grant renewals for qualified non-profit institutions under certain circumstances.

Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6412. Lender Fees in Guaranteed Loan Programs.*

Section 6412 amends sections 310B(g)(5) and 333 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cap fees on guaranteed loans provided by the Secretary at an initial fee of 3% of the principal, and periodic retention fees of no more than 0.75%.

*Sec. 6413. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products.*

Section 6413 amends section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend through fiscal year 2031 the requirement that the Secretary reserve not less than 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out the subsection to carry out the loan or loan guarantee program.

*Sec. 6414. Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program.*

Section 6414 amends section 310B(i)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6415. Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones.*

Section 6415 amends section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out rural economic area partnership zones through 2031.

*Sec. 6416. Intermediary Relending Program.*



Section 6416 amends section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6417. Rural Health Care Facility Assistance.*

Section 6417 amends section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by clarifying requirements for the Secretary to follow in promoting long-term sustainability and financial viability for eligible health care facilities in rural areas.

Subsection (b) creates a rural health care facility technical assistance program and limits the authorization of appropriations for subsection (b) at \$2,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6418. Elimination of Prohibition on Use of Loan for Certain Purposes.*

Section 6418 amends Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. The Secretary is prohibited from approving any loan under this title to drain, dredge, fill, or level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland or to engage in any activity that would result in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water, except if the activity is related to the maintenance of previously converted wetlands or if the activity was commenced before 1990.

*Sec. 6419. Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training.*

Section 6419 amends section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6420. National Rural Development Partnership.*

Section 6420 amends section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations and authority through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6421. Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters.*

Section 6421 amends Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6422. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.*

Section 6422 amends section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by increasing the size of a microloan from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Paragraph (2) increases the

permitted federal share of the cost of a project from 75% to up to 100%. Paragraph (3) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6423. Health Care Services.*

Section 6423 amends Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6424. Strategic Economic and Community Development.*

Section 6424 amends Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6425. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program.*

Section 6425 amends section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by expanding the RISE grant program to allow the Secretary to award grants to carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities. Section 6425 further clarifies that the grant program should address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities, and promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.

Paragraph (2) requires the Secretary to ensure geographic diversity of recipients of grants.

Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6426. Limitation on Rural Business Investment Companies Controlled by Farm Credit System Institutions.*

Section 6426 amends section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by prohibiting a rural business investment company from providing equity investments in entities not otherwise eligible to receive financing from the Farm Credit System if a farm credit system holds more than 75% of the shares of the rural business investment company. This is an increase from 50%.

*Sec. 6427. Rural Business Investment Program.*

Section 6427 amends section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations for the subtitle through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 6428. Technical Corrections.*

Section 6428 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by replacing “urbanized” with “urban” in various sections.

*Sec. 6429. Rural Water and Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Programs.*

Section 6429 amends Section 306(a)(14) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by expanding eligible uses of assistance to include disaster and recover assistance.

**SUBTITLE E—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT  
OF 1936**

*Sec. 6501. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued for Utility Infrastructure Purposes.*

Section 6501 amends section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 extending the authority provided under the section through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 6502. Extension of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.*

Section 6502 amends section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding that the Secretary shall not require a letter of credit or other similar guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan if the borrower assigns the Secretary a security interest in any collateral provided to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this section, or makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

*Sec. 6503. Expansion of 911 Access.*

Section 6503 amends Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by extending the authorization of appropriations through 2031.

**Title VII—Research, Extension, and Related Matters**

**Subtitle A—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977**

*Sec. 7101. National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.*

Section 7101 amends section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add an insular area representative to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB), reduce the number of members on the NAREEEAB executive committee from 7 to 3, and reauthorize the NAREEEAB through September 20, 2031.

*Sec. 7102. Specialty Crop Committee.*

Section 7102 amends section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to make a technical correction requiring the Secretary to appoint members of the Specialty Crop Committee rather than the current requirement that the executive committee of the NAREEEAB appoint the members. Section 7102 also reauthorizes the Citrus Disease Subcommittee of the Specialty Crop Committee through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7103. Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment.*

Paragraph (1) of section 7103 amends section 1415A(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow the Secretary to consider geographic areas with a shortage of veterinarians and areas of veterinary practice with a shortage of veterinarians identified by appropriate State agencies when determining veterinarian shortage situations under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Additionally, paragraph (1) of section 7103 directs the Secretary to develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations and to share these mechanisms with appropriate State agencies.

Paragraph (2) of section 7103 amends section 1415A(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary to establish streamlined application procedures for VMLRP and to clarify that veterinarians participating in a comparable State or local loan repayment program are also eligible for VMLRP.

*Sec. 7104. Veterinary Services Grant Program.*

Section 7104 amends section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to update the eligibility requirements for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSPG) to include entities that can expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas and directs the Secretary to establish a streamlined application process for VSPG. Section 7104 also allows entities to use VSPG funds for expanding, retaining, or attracting additional veterinary practices in rural areas, including covering expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices.

*Sec. 7105. Grants and Fellowships for Food and Agriculture Sciences Education.*

Section 7105 amends section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7106. Agricultural and Food Policy Research Centers.*

Section 7106 amends section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for agricultural and food policy research centers through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7107. Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions.*

Section 7107 amends section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow for education grants to Alaska native serving institutions and native Hawaiian serving institutions to be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years and reauthorizes appropriations for these grants through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7108. Nutrition Education Program.*

Section 7108 amends section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for the nutrition education program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7109. Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Programs.*

Section 7109 amends section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow for unexpended funds for a fiscal year for the continuing animal health and disease research programs to be carried over into the following fiscal year and reauthorizes appropriations for these programs through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7110. Extension and Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University.*

Subsection (a) of section 7110 amends section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to increase the minimum amount of appropriations for cooperative extension in 1890 land-grant colleges to 40 percent of the amount provided for the Smith-Lever Act.

Subsection (b) of section 7110 amends section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to increase the minimum amount of appropriations for agricultural research in 1890 land-grant colleges to 40 percent of the amount provided for the Hatch Act of 1887. Subsection (b) of section 7110 also makes technical corrections to replace the term “research director” with “agricultural research director”.

*Sec. 7111. Scholarships for Students at 1890 Institutions.*

Section 7111 amends section 1446(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7112. Grants to Upgrade Agricultural and Food Sciences Facilities at 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University.*

Section 7112 amends section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7113. Grants to Upgrade Agriculture and Food Sciences Facilities and Equipment and Support Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research at Insular Area Land-Grant Colleges and Universities.*

Section 7113 amends section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area land-grant institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7114. Matching Funds Requirement for Research and Extension Activities at Eligible Institutions.*

Section 7114 amends section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to clarify the existing State matching funds requirement for agricultural research and extension activities at 1890 land-grant institutions and to direct the 1890 land-grant institutions to provide the Secretary with an annual report describing the sources and amount of non-Federal funds made available by the State to meet the matching requirement under this section.

*Sec. 7115. New Beginning for Tribal Students.*

Section 7115 amends section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to remove the limitation on the maximum amount each State can receive under the new beginning for tribal students' program and to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7116. Education Grants Programs for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.*

Section 7116 amends section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for education grants to Hispanic-serving institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7117. Binational Agricultural Research and Development.*

Section 7117 amends section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to ensure that activities carried out under the Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund promote and support agricultural research and development that are of mutual benefit to the United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration. Additionally, section 7117 directs the BARD Fund to establish an accelerator program to support and accelerate mid-stage research.

*Sec. 7118. Grants and Partnerships for International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education.*

Section 7118 amends section 1458(A) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to repeal the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs and to merge the program with the section authorizing the Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Program. Additionally, Section 7118 changes the name of the new merged program to Grants and Partnerships for International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7119. Research Equipment Grants.*

Section 7119 reauthorizes appropriations for research equipment grants through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7120. University Research.*

Section 7120 amends section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for various agricultural research

programs, including research at State agricultural experiment stations, through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7121. Extension Service.*

Section 7121 amends section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations to carry out USDA extension program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7122. Supplemental and Alternative Crops.*

Section 7122 amends section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to require the Secretary to include agreements, grants, or other arrangements to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops) under the supplemental and alternative crops competitive grant program. Section 7122 also reauthorizes appropriations for supplement and alternative crops through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7123. Grants for Community College Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs.*

Section 7123 amends section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to change the name of the New Era Rural Technology Program to Grants for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs and to expand the program to make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities to food and agricultural sciences. Additionally, section 7123 reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7124. Capacity Building Grants for NLGCA Institutions.*

Section 7124 amends section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for capacity building grants for Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7125. Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority.*

Section 7125 amends section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add precision agriculture to the definition of agricultural technology for the purpose of the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority



(AgARDA) and to expand the goals of the program to include research on water conservation, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests. Additionally, section 7125 directs the Secretary to use the AgARDA strategic plan to inform administration of the program, reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031, and extends the termination of authority under this program by 13 years.

*Sec. 7126. Aquaculture Assistance Programs.*

Section 7126 amends section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for aquaculture assistance programs through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7127. Special Authorization for Biosecurity Planning and Response.*

Section 7127 amends section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for the special authorization for biosecurity planning and response through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7128. Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program.*

Section 7128 repeals the Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center; Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity, Planning, Preparedness, and Response; Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures; and Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program and amends section 1485 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to merge the programs with the Agricultural Research Facility Expansion and Security Upgrades Program. Additionally, section 7128 changes the name of the new merged program to the Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7129. Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas.*

Section 7129 amends section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for distance education grants for insular areas through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7130. Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Areas.*

Section 7130 amends section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for resident instruction grants for insular areas through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7131. Repeals.*

Section 7131 repeals section 1410, section 1419C, section 1447A, and subtitle M of title XIV of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

**Subtitle B—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990**

*Sec. 7201. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.*

Section 7201 amends subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, including best utilization of biological applications, integrated management systems, the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program, and a National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture, through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7202. National Genetics Resources Program.*

Section 7202 amends section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Genetic Resources Program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7203. Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative.*

Section 7203 amends section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the agricultural genome to phenome initiative through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7204. High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives.*

Section 7204 amends section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to repeal the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific Region Initiative, Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research Initiative, the Coffee Plant Health Initiative, and the Macadamia Tree Health Initiative and to authorize a new Tropical Plant Health Initiative that includes research on coffee plants, macadamia trees, cacao trees, plantains and bananas, mangos, tropical floriculture, and other tropical plants; to repeal the Corn, Soybean Meal, Cereal Grains, and Grain Byproducts Research and Extension Initiative and authorizes a new Agricultural Byproducts Research Initiative that includes converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products; to repeal the Fertilizer Management Initiative and the Nutrient Management Initiative and to authorize a new Fertilizer and Nutrient Management Initiative.

Section 7204 also adds harmful algal blooms to the Algae Agriculture Research Program; authorizes the Biochar Research Initiative, the Wildfire Smoke Exposure Research Initiative, the Invasive Species Research Initiative, the Microplastics and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances on Farmland Initiative, the Soil Health Research Initiative, the White Oak Research Initiative, the Alternative Growing Media Research Initiative, the Rangeland Research Initiative, and the Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research Initiative; and reauthorizes appropriations for the Pulse Crop Health Initiative, training coordination for food and agriculture protection, pollinator protection, and listed high-priority research and extension initiatives through September 30, 2031.

Additionally, section 7204 requires the Secretary to submit a biennial report to Congress describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in this section for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative.

*Sec. 7205. Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative.*

Section 7205 amends section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to remove outdated paragraphs authorizing appropriations for the organic agriculture research and extension initiative (OREI) for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 and fiscal year 2013, to retain the authorization of mandatory funding at \$50,000,000 per year, and to reauthorize appropriations for OREI through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7206. Farm Business Management.*

Section 7206 amends section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for farm business management through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7207. Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative.*

Section 7207 amends section 1672(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to add a requirement for consultation with the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production when awarding grants under this Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative (UIE) and to add a reference to the description of emerging agricultural production practices in section 222(a)(3) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

Section 7207 also adds managing waste streams of production practices to improve the environmental footprint and advising land-grant colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, junior or community colleges, and vocational schools with respect to career and technical education to the list of eligible activities.

*Sec. 7208. Centers of Excellence.*

Section 7208 amends section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish a new process for the Secretary to identify at least 15 centers of excellence to carry out research, extension, and education activities for several focus areas. Section 7208 also increases the minimum number of 1890 Centers of Excellence to no less than 8; amends some of the existing focus areas for 1890 Centers of Excellence; adds additional focus areas for Forest Health and Conservation and Food Safety, Bioprocessing, and Value-Added Agriculture; and reauthorizes appropriations for the 1890 Centers of Excellence through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7209. Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities.*

Section 7209 amends section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031, with no more than 15 percent of the amounts made available under this program shall be used to carry out a National Grant for Technical Assistance, Training and Dissemination.

*Sec. 7210. Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.*

Section 7210 amends section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers and to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7211. National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.*

Section 7211 amends section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7212. Repeal.*

Section 7212 repeals subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

**Subtitle C—Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998**

*Sec. 7301. National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program.*

Section 7301 amends section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to remove the requirement for coordination with the discontinued National Integrated Food Safety Initiative and to reauthorize appropriations for the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7302. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.*

Section 7302 amends section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7303. Support for Research Regarding Diseases of Wheat, Triticale, and Barley caused by Fusarium Graminearum or by Tilletia Indica.*

Section 7303 amends section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica* through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7304. Grants for Youth Organizations.*

Section 7304 amends section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for grants for youth organizations through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7305. Specialty Crop Research Initiative.*

Section 7305 amends section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to add a waiver for the matching funds requirement for certain specialty crop research initiative grants. The section also includes the creation of a specialty crop mechanization and automation research and extension program, which the Secretary shall reserve not less than \$30 million per year for, and to reauthorize appropriations for the specialty crop research initiative through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7306. Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services.*

Section 7306 amend title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to codify the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) Program that has been receiving appropriations since fiscal year 2017.

*Sec. 7307. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program.*

Section 7307 amends section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for the food animal residue avoidance database program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7308. Office of Pest Management Policy.*

Section 7308 amends section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for the office of pest management policy through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7309. Forestry Products Advanced Utilization Research.*

Section 7309 amends section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for forestry products advanced utilization research through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7310. Repeals.*

Section 7310 repeals section 404 and section 411 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

Subtitle D—Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

*Sec. 7401. Grazinglands Research Laboratory.*

Section 7401 amends section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to prevent the Federal land and facilities administered as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory from being declared excess or surplus Federal property.

*Sec. 7402. Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.*

Section 7402 amends section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish grants to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling through farm telephone helplines and websites, including crisis hotlines. Section 7402 also establishes referrals to providers to connect individuals to behavioral

health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, as well as reauthorizes appropriations for the network through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7403. Sun Grant Program.*

Section 7403 amends section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the scope of the program to ensure bioproducts are eligible, increases the amount of administrative expenses allowed under the program to 30 percent, and to reauthorize appropriations for the sun grant program through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7404. Repeals.*

Section 7404 repeals section 7521 and section 7525 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

**Subtitle E—Amendments to Other Laws**

*Sec. 7501. Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.*

Section 7501 amends the Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 to remove the \$100,000 cap per institution for payments to the 1994 institutions and to remove the requirement that grant applications for research grants to 1994 institutions be performed under a cooperative agreement with ARS or another land-grant, non-land-grant, or cooperating forestry school. Section 7501 also reauthorizes appropriations for the endowment for 1994 institutions, 1994 institutional capacity building grants, and research grants for 1994 institutions through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7502. Research Facilities Act.*

Section 7502 amends Sections 6(a) of the Research Facilities Act by reauthorizing appropriations to be made in sums, as necessary, through 2031 for the study, plan, design, structure, and related costs of agricultural research facilities under this subchapter.

*Sec. 7503. Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.*

Section 7503 amends subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to update priority areas to include regionally adapted cultivars, breeding for environmental resilience, methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish, controlled environment agriculture, supply chain coordination and capacity building, and workforce training and development. Additionally, section 7503 adds career and technical

education schools as an eligible entity and reauthorizes appropriations for the agriculture and food research initiative through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7504. Extension Design and Demonstration Initiative.*

Section 7504 amends subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to reauthorize appropriations for the extension design and demonstration initiative through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7505. Biomass Research and Development.*

Section 7505 amends section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations for biomass research and development through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7506. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.*

Section 7506 amends section 6 and section 8 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 to reauthorize appropriations for the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7507. National Aquaculture Act of 1980.*

Section 7507 amends section 4 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to require the Secretary to review, and appropriately amend, the National Aquaculture Development Plan and undertake a continuing aquaculture assessment not less than once every 3 years. Section 7507 also adds a catalog of new and existing capital constraints and Federal or State regulatory barriers to the continuing aquaculture assessment.

Additionally, section 7507 amends section 5 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to create an Aquaculture Advisory Committee at USDA and to direct the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress related to actions undertaken related to aquaculture.

Section 7507 also amends section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 7508. Reports on Disbursement of Funds for Agricultural Research and Extension at 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Colleges, including Tuskegee University.*

Section 7508 amends section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Secretary to conduct outreach to Governors and State legislatures regarding the matching



requirement for 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges. Additionally, section 7508 directs the Governor of each State to submit an attestation regarding the States ability to fulfill the matching requirements and requires the Secretary to publish a report describing the attestations received.

*Sec. 7509. Repeal.*

Section 7509 repeals section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985.

## **TITLE VIII—FORESTRY**

### **SUBTITLE A—COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978**

*Sec. 8101. Support for State Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources.*

Section 8101 amends Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2031 and allows the Secretary to use other funds made available under the Act to develop and implement the required State-wide assessment and strategy, provided that total combined funding for those purposes does not exceed \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.

*Sec. 8102. Forest Legacy Program Technical Correction.*

Section 8102 amends Section 7(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by striking from the statute “Vermont”.

*Sec. 8103. State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restorations.*

Section 8103 amends Section 13A(l)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

### **SUBTITLE B—HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003**

*Sec. 8201. Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation.*

Section 8201 amends section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8202. Authorization of Appropriations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land.*

Section 8202 amends section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8203. Water Source Protection Program.*

Section 8203 amends Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish project selection priorities related to drought, wildfire, post-wildfire recovery, and flooding. Also, the section outlines a condition in paragraph (4) that requires a written agreement from adjacent landowners to show that they are a willing and engaged partner in carrying out the project or activity under this program on adjacent lands.

Paragraph (6) establishes a matching-funds requirement, directing the Secretary to require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners amounting to at least 50% of the Federal funding provided.

Paragraph (7) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031 and caps at 10 percent the amount of funds that the Secretary may use for non-Federal partner planning and technical assistance related to water source management plans.

*Sec. 8204. Watershed Condition Framework Technical Corrections.*

Section 8204 amends Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 in paragraphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

*Sec. 8205. Authorization of Appropriations to Combat Insect Infestations and Related Disease.*

Section 8205 amends section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the termination of effectiveness date to October 1, 2031.

*Sec. 8206. Insect and Disease Infestation.*

Section 8206 amends section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the authority through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 8207. Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects.*

Section 8207 amends section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. It includes the objective of retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure as an authorized purpose of the stewardship end result contracting projects, ensuring the necessary support for carrying out agreements or contracts.

Paragraph (2) increases the maximum term of a stewardship contract from 10 years to 20 years.

Paragraph (3) establishes a special rule for long-term stewardship contracts. It states that under this rule, if the Forest Service cancels or terminates a long-term stewardship contract (also referred to as, “multi-year contract”), the agency is responsible for providing the contracting entity with a cancellation or termination payment equal to the lesser of: (1) 10% of the total multi-year contract value; or (2) the amount of unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract (including the term canceled).

### SUBTITLE C—OTHER FORESTRY PROGRAMS

#### *Sec. 8301. National and Regional Agroforestry Centers.*

Section 8301 amends Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and renames the section “National and Regional Agroforestry Centers” from “Semiarid Agroforestry Research Center”.

Paragraph (3) adds a definition of “agroforestry,” which identifies recognized productive and sustainable land use practices including riparian forest buffers, alley cropping, silvopasture, forest farming and multistory cropping, windbreaks, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and, where applicable, field borders, and living snow fences.

Paragraph (5) directs the Secretary to establish one or more regional agroforestry centers for the purpose of advancing agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption. It provides for the appointment of a director, sets criteria for selecting locations, and specifies that the regional centers shall be administered by the National Agroforestry center.

Paragraph (6) adds the recognized productive and sustainable land use practices under the definition of “agroforestry” to the goals and purposes of the agroforestry centers. Paragraph (8) adds two new subsections that direct the Secretary to provide targeted regional support for agroforestry projects and requires the Secretary to conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey every five years.

Paragraph (9) increases the authorization of appropriations by \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 annually for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

#### *Sec. 8302. National Forest Foundation Act.*

Section 8302(a) amends section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act by extending the authority through fiscal year 2031.

Subsection (b) amends section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act by creating a White Oak Restoration Fund that may accept gifts and bequests for the purpose of reestablishing white oak forests.

*Sec. 8303. Conveyances and leases of Forest Service Administrative Sites.*

Section 8303(a)-(b) amends Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 by extending authority through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8304. Forest Inventory and Analysis.*

Section 8304 amends Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978. Paragraph (1) requires the Secretary to carry out, as a data collection method, a national timber products output survey and a national woodland owner survey.

Paragraph (4) adds reporting requirements and requires that the strategic plan include procedures for tracking changes in land cover and use, as well as procedures necessary to sample and evaluate carbon-related variables.

Paragraph (5) adds new paragraphs (7) through (11), requiring the Secretary to prepare and update a strategic plan within 180 days of the passage of this Act. It includes that the strategic plan should be updated once every 5 years. Paragraph (9) requires the Secretary to prepare and publicly post a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics, along with relevant geospatial products.

Subsection (b) updates section 8632(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to clarify remote sensing technologies and include examples such as a microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data, and advanced computing technologies for improved modeling to provide tabular statistical estimates and geospatial products

*Sec. 8305. Reforestation, Nursery, and Seed Orchard Support.*

Section 8305(a) requires the Secretary to partner with entities and collaborate to promote and support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (d) authorizes \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

## SUBTITLE D—FOREST MANAGEMENT

### PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

*Sec. 8401. Categorical Exclusion for High Priority Hazard Trees.*

Section 8401(a) establishes a categorical exclusion for high priority hazard trees and limits the size of a project to 6,000 acres. Subsection (b) defines “high-priority hazard tree” and “high-priority hazard tree activity.”

*Section 8402. Collaborative Restoration Projects.*

Section 8402 amends Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase the collaborative forest project size from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

*Sec. 8403. Wildfire Resilience Project Size.*

Section 8403 amends Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase the wildfire resilience project categorical exclusion size from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

*Sec. 8404. Fuel Breaks in Forests and Other Wildland Vegetation.*

Section 8405 amends section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's fuel break categorical exclusion from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres.

*Sec. 8405. Greater Sage-Grouse and Mule Dule Habitat.*

Section 8405 amends Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. Paragraph (2) clarifies covered management activities are meant to cover habitat for greater sage-grouse or mule deer, and not necessarily both concurrently.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (g), increasing the categorical exclusion project size limitation from 4,500 acres to 7,500 acres.

*Sec. 8406. Categorical Exclusion for Electric Utility Lines Rights-Of-Way*

Section 8406(a) creates a categorical exclusion for certain forest management activities to be excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Subsection (b) designates as categorically: (1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976; and (2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan.

Subsection (d) provides that the categorical exclusion does not apply to activities conducted on areas that are within the National Wilderness Preservation System or on National Forest System lands where Congress has restricted or prohibited vegetation removal.

Subsection (e) provides that to carry out the project subject to the categorical exclusion, the establishment of permanent roads is prohibited, but necessary maintenance and improvements to existing permanent roads are permitted, and that any temporary roads constructed must be decommissioned within three years of the project completion.

Subsection (f) provides that a forest management activity under this section shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536) or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

*Sec. 8407. Forest Management Activities on National Forest System Lands.*

Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to, as appropriate, coordinate with impacted parties to increase efficiency and maximize the compatibility of management practices across the National Forest System lands. Impacted parties are defined under this section as: (1) State, local, and Tribal governments; local fire departments; and other relevant volunteer groups.

Subsection (c) establishes objectives for forest management activities on National Forest System land, directing the Secretary to attain multiple ecosystem benefits, including reducing forest fuels, maintaining plant and animal diversity, improving soil and water resources (including riparian areas), and increasing resilience to changing water temperature and precipitation regimes.

Subsection (d) requires the Secretary, consistent with applicable Federal law and forest plans, to establish post-activity ground condition criteria for projects that result in ground disturbance and to monitor those conditions to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved.

Subsection (e) establishes a categorical exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 for certain forest fuel-reduction activities on National Forest System land, provided that the forest management activity: (1) does not exceed 10,000 acres, including not more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning; (2) is developed in coordination with impacted parties, including local government representatives; and (3) is consistent with any applicable forest plan.

Subsection (f) authorizes the Secretary to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with impacted parties to carry out fuel reduction, restoration, erosion control, reforestation, riparian restoration, revegetation, and similar management activities on Federal land and non-Federal land.

*Sec. 8408. Suppression of Wildfires.*

Section 8408 establishes requirements for wildfire suppression and management activities carried out by the Forest Service.

Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to use available resources to contain wildfires within 24 hours of detection, consistent with interagency agreements and applicable firefighter safety

standards. The Secretary may not inhibit the suppression efforts of State or local firefighting agencies that are authorized to respond to wildfire on such lands. Additionally, backfires or burnouts may be initiated only at the order of the responsible incident commander, in consultation with the appropriate Forest Service line officer, or when necessary to protect firefighter health and safety.

Subsection (b) limits the scope of subsection (a) to National Forest System lands that meet heightened wildfire risk conditions, including lands where: (1) the National Interagency Fire Center has established as a National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level of 5; (2) the U.S. Drought Monitor has rated as having a D2 (severe drought) intensity, D3 (extreme drought) intensity, or D4 (exceptional drought) intensity; or the Secretary has identified as being located in a fireshed ranked in the top 10 percent of wildfire exposure.

## PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### *Sec. 8411. No Additional Consultation Required.*

Subsection (a) amends Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to provide that the Secretary is not required to reinstitute consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, for a land management plan approved, amended, or revised under this section when, after the date of such approval, amendment, or revision: (1) a species is listed as a threatened or endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; (2) a critical habitat for a threatened or endangered species is designated under that section; or (3) new information concerning a threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for such a species becomes available.

Subsection (b) amends section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to establish a parallel provision for the Bureau of Land Management land use plans.

### *Sec. 8412. Good Neighbor Authority.*

Subsection (a) amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to expand and modify Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Also, the definition of “special district” is added which is defined as a political subdivision of a State that has significant budgetary autonomy, was created under State law to perform limited governmental or proprietary function, and is distinct from any other local government unit within the State.

Paragraph (3) expands the entities eligible to participate in GNA to include Indian Tribes and special districts. This subsection further amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by expanding which officials or entities shall keep funds received from the sale of timber under a GNA from only a “governor” to also include Indian tribes or counties.

This subsection also repeals the limitation that sale funds be used only on authorized restoration services on Federal land under a good neighbor agreement, so that such funds may be used on land also held by Indian tribes or counties with a good neighbor agreement.

Furthermore, this subsection adds “Indian tribes” alongside Governor or county as an

official or entity that shall not have delegated to it the power to make a decision required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regarding authorized restoration services provided by good neighbor agreements on federal land.

*Sec. 8413. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.*

Section 8413 amends section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Paragraph (1) amends subsection (b)(3) to add that a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal should describe plans to prevent or control pathogens and address standardized monitoring questions and indicators.

Paragraph (2) amends subsection (d) by adding criteria to the selection process. Paragraph (2) also limits the Secretary from selecting not more than four proposals in any one region of the national forest system.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (f)(6) to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8414. Public-Private Wildfire Technology Deployment and Testbed Partnership.*

Section 8414 requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to create a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

Subsection (c) lists the functions of the pilot program and subsection (d) describes the application process for covered entities to participate in the pilot program.

Subsection (e) direct the Secretaries to give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

Subsection (g) requires the Secretaries to submit reports and recommendations to Congress on the pilot program. Subsection (h) terminates the pilot program on September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 8415. Forest Service Participation In Experienced Services Program.*

Section 8415 amends section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by renaming the ACES program the Experienced Services Program. Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (b), the termination of effectiveness clause.



*Sec. 8416. Timber Sales on National Forest System Land.*

Section 8416 amends section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 by increasing in subsection (d) the threshold by which the value of a timber sale must meet before requiring advertising from \$10,000 to \$55,000.

Paragraph (2) adds a new subsection (j) providing that in the event of extreme risks to a unit of National Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees, or forest products located on such unit of National Forest System lands.

*Sec. 8417. Permits and Agreements with Electrical Utilities.*

Section 8417(a) provides the Secretary the ability to give permission to electric utility company holders of national forest system land permits or easements to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

Subsection (b) requires that if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

Subsection (c) states that there is no requirement that material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation be sold.

*Sec. 8418. Utilizing Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction.*

Section 8418 requires the Secretary, in coordination with holders of permits to graze livestock on Federal land, to develop and implement a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing and associated rangeland improvements as a wildfire risk reduction strategy.

*Sec. 8419. Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program.*

Section 8419 amends Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reports from the Joint Chiefs at least once every two years and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8420. Tribal Forest Management Program Technical Corrections.*

Section 8420 amends section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by renaming it the Tribal Forest Management Program.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

*Sec. 8431. Community Wood Facilities Program.*

Section 8431 amends Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and renames the program the Community Wood Facilities Program.

Paragraph (2) amends the definition of community wood energy system, in part, as an energy system that uses primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals. Paragraph (4) increases the cap for a grant award from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

Paragraph (5) strikes subsection (e)(1) of the selection criteria, and adds in (e)(1), as redesignated, that market competitiveness should be a factor to consider.

Paragraph (6) amends subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting in paragraph (2), as redesignated, that the Secretary shall give grant priorities to proposals that include the construction, use or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing facilities in areas with high unemployment.

Paragraph (7) amends subsection (g) by increasing the thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy capacity limit from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts and increases from 25% to 50% the amount of funds provided as grants that may go to applicants proposing innovative wood products facilities.

Paragraph (8) amends subsection (h) by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8432. Wood Innovation Grant Program.*

Section 8432(a) amends section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding that the grant may be used for the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized.

Subsection (b) amends Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, providing for the priority the Secretary may give to proposals for grants.

Subsection (c) amends section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by lowering the eligible entity non-Federal fund-matching requirement from a 100% match to 50%.

*Sec. 8433. Forest and Wood Products Data Tracker.*

Section 8433(a) requires the Secretary, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

*Sec. 8343. Biochar Application Demonstration Project.*

Section 8343 requires the Secretary to conduct performance-driven research and development, education, technical assistance, outreach, and demonstration projects for the purpose of facilitating the use of biochar, developing additional biochar applications, and commercializing biochar.

## SUBTITLE E—OTHER MATTERS

*Sec. 8501. Rural Revitalization Technologies.*

Section 8501 amends section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 8502. Resource Advisory Committees.*

Section 8502 amends Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Paragraph (1) allows for appointments to resource advisory committees by the applicable regional forester.

Paragraph (2) extends the termination of authority date to October 1, 2031. Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (g), the Resource Advisory Committee Appointment Pilot Program.

*Sec. 8503. Accurate Hazardous Fuels Reduction Reports.*

Section 8503 requires the inclusion of hazardous fuels reduction reports in materials submitted in support of the President's budget, including the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuel reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year.

Subsection (a) requires that each acre recorded as having hazardous fuels reduction activities completed on it may only be recorded once, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during that year.

*Sec. 8504. Special Use Authorization Rental Fee Waiver.*

Section 8504 allows the Chief of the Forest Service to waive all or part of the programmatic administrative fee, and any fees related to the special use authorization, when equitable and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land by specified governmental, non-profit, or amateur radio stations.

*Sec. 8505. Charges and Fees for Harvest of Forest Botanical Products.*

Section 8505 codifies a program to charge and collect fees for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

Subsection (b) provides that the fees collected by the Secretary shall be based on the fair market value of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with the granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of the forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

Subsection (c) provides that The Secretary may not permit the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960

Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary shall establish a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product below that level by a person for personal use shall not be subject to charges and fees.

*Sec. 8506. Forest Service Legacy Road use and Trail Remediation Program Transparency.*

Section 8506 amends section 8 of Public Law 88–657 by clarifying how the annual selection of project for funding should be advertised, and public comments considered.

Paragraph (1) requires the Forest Service to publish on its website for each region, a list of each project considered under the Program, public comments received, the ranking within the region of each project, and the proposed outcome of each project.

*Sec. 8507. Direct Hire Authority.*

Section 8507 allows the secretary to appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) to a position in the competitive service in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the qualification standards.

*Sec. 8508. Improving the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.*

Section 8508 amends Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 by inserting a new subsection (e) for advance payments, specifying that The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures.

Subsection (e) of section 407 would require that if the funds provided are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

*Sec. 8509. Exemption for Previously Analyzed Areas of National Forest System Lands.*

Subsection (a) of section 8509 exempts the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code to an application for a communications use authorization on National Forest System lands, including National Forest System lands on which authorized utilities, communications facilities, powerline facilities or roads have been installed if the communications equipment is located in or on existing infrastructure, or the communications facility is located on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands.

Subsection (b) provides that the Secretary shall not be required to reinitiate consultation of the requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or division A of subtitle 54, United States Code, for an application for a communications use authorization on previously analyzed areas of National Forest System lands if new information concerning a previously analyzed area of National Forest System lands becomes available

*Sec. 8510. Release of Reversionary Interest in Black River State Forest.*

Section 8510 facilitates the conditional release of a reversionary interest that the United States holds on approximately 31.83 acres of Wisconsin State Forest land. This release is contingent upon the State of Wisconsin's offer to transfer that land to Deli, Inc., in exchange for approximately 37.27 acres, which will be added to the Black River State Forest.

## **TITLE IX – ENERGY**

*Section 9001. Definition of Advanced Biofuel.*

Section 9001 amends section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 to provide in statute that “advanced biofuel” includes sustainable aviation fuel derived from renewable biomass, including vegetable oil and animal fat.

*Sec. 9002. Biobased markets program.*

Paragraph (1) of section 9002 amends Section 9002(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a guidance process, conducted by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, to consider biobased products lifespan, savings, and efficacy when making federal procurement decisions. Paragraph (1) also requires each procuring agency to submit an annual federal biobased product procurement implementation report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, as well as requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to collect, document, and make publicly available through the review of the annual reports that each procuring agency has established a procurement program.

Paragraph (2) of section 9002 amends Section 9003(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce to jointly develop North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Product Classification System codes for renewable chemicals, biobased products, and manufacturers of renewable chemicals and biobased products. Paragraph (2) further provides that the Secretary shall submit a report, within enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry that provides (1) the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data; (2) recommendations to implement any bioeconomy related changes as part of the 2027 revisions of the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes; and (3) an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Products Classification System codes would have on the agency's measurement of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.

Paragraph (3) of section 9001 amends Section 9002(k)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the biobased markets program through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 9003. Biorefinery assistance.*

Paragraph (1) of section 9003(a) amends Section 9003(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of “biobased product manufacturing” to include technologically new or innovative commercial-scale processing and manufacturing equipment. Paragraph (1) also requires facilities to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, renewable chemicals, or biobased products on a commercial scale.

Paragraph (2) of section 9003(a) amends Section 9003(d)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a technical review agreement between the Secretary and approved loan guarantee applicants that outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and

conditions for successful technical feasibility of a biorefinery, renewable chemical, or biobased product project.

Paragraph (3) of section 9003(a) amends Section 9003(i)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to adjust the funding for biofuel infrastructure and agriculture product market expansion electric loans for renewable energy to remain available until September 30, 2031.

Section 9003(b) rescinds \$18,000,000 of unobligated balances made under section 9003 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

*Sec. 9004. Bioproduct labeling terminology.*

Section 9004 amends Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish that the Secretary shall issue rules implementing national uniform labeling standards for, and ensuring the proper use of, the labeling and marketing of bio-attributed plastics, bio-attributed products, biobased plastics, and plant-based products. In implementing the national uniform labeling standards, the Secretary shall include the following terms, as defined in section 9001 Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002: biobased product, intermediate ingredient or feedstock, renewable biomass, and renewable chemical. In defining those terms, the Secretary must consult with biomanufacturers, entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts, feedstock growers, and other industry stakeholders.

*Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.*

Section 9005 amends Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the bioenergy program for advanced biofuels through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 9006. Biodiesel fuel education program.*

Section 9006 repeals Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

*Sec. 9007. Rural energy for America program.*

Paragraph (1) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007(b)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the selection criteria for competitive grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to include the potential of a proposed program to produce cost savings and to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of agricultural producers or rural small businesses.

Paragraph (2)(A) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the award consideration for determining the amount of a

loan guarantee or grant provided under the Rural Energy for America Program to include the expected cost savings of an agricultural producer or rural small business from the purchasing of renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements.

Paragraph (2)(B) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007(c)(3)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase the amount of a loan guaranteed under the Rural Energy for America Program from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

Paragraph (3) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007(f)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program through fiscal year 2031.

Paragraph (4) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to require the Secretary to ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees under the Rural Energy for America Program.

*Sec. 9008. Feedstock flexibility.*

Section 9008 amends Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Secretary to purchase eligible commodities from eligible entities and sell such commodities to bioenergy producers, and to notify eligible entities and bioenergy producers of the quantity of eligible commodities available for purchase and sale, to produce bioenergy through the 2031 crop year.

*Sec. 9009. Biomass crop assistance program.*

Section 9009 amends Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations of \$25,000,000 for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 9010. Carbon utilization and biogas education program.*

Section 9010 repeals Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

*Sec. 9011. Study on effects of solar panel installations on prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland.*

Section 9011 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that studies on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland and nonindustrial private forest land out of agricultural production.



*Sec. 9012. Limitation on USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems.*

Section 9012 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that creates a limitation on USDA funding projects that would result in the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland, or nonindustrial private forest land, for solar energy production, unless a project results in the conversion of less than 5 acres, or results in the conversion of less than 50 acres of covered farmland if the majority of the energy produced is for on-farm use and has received a resolution of approval or support, or other similar instrument from each county and municipality in which the project is sited. Projects that receive local approval must develop and implement a farmland conservation protection plan. Additionally, financial assistance may not be provided to projects that procures a solar energy component produced, manufactured, or assembled in a foreign country of concern.

*Sec. 9013. Sustainable aviation fuels strategy.*

Section 9013 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that requires the USDA to create a Department-wide strategy to advance the production of sustainable aviation fuels.

## **TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM**

### **SUBTITLE A—HORTICULTURE**

*Sec. 10001. Specialty crop block grants.*

Section 10002 amends section 101 of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 to extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through fiscal year 2031; direct the State program administrators to establish priorities for the program in consultation with specialty crop producer and producer groups; require the State program administrators to include in the State plan how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved.

*Sec. 10002. Specialty crop market news allocation.*

Section 10003 amends section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to extend the authorization of appropriations for the specialty crop market news allocation through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 10003. Office of urban agriculture and innovative production.*

Section 10004 amends section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to add controlled-environment agriculture to the list of emerging agricultural production

practices; direct the Office to use resources of the Department to provide technical assistance, promote conservation techniques, and assist producers in navigating policies and regulations that impact business operations; extend the reporting requirements and authorization for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee; allow for subgrants to support the growth of the farm or farm business; authorizes the use of cooperative agreements to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production; remove the pilot status and extend reporting requirements for the Urban and Suburban County Committees and Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; add development of food waste-to-energy operations as an eligible activity for the Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 10004. National plant diagnostic network.*

Section 10005 amends section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the authorization of appropriations for the National Plant Diagnostics Network through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 10005. Hemp production.*

Section 10006 amends subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

Subsection (a) amends section 297B to require State and Tribal plans to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent to produce industrial hemp for producers under a State or Tribal plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails to provide required documentation; require the State or Tribe to report a producer of industrial to the Attorney General and applicable law enforcement officers if that producer violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp; and ban any person who knowingly produced a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp from obtaining a hemp license for 5 years.

Subsection (b) amends section 297C to require a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent

to produce industrial hemp for producers under a Department of Agriculture plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails to provide required documentation; and requires the Secretary to collect information related to the designation of the type of production of hemp producers and the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of.

Subsection (c) amends section 297D to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp.

*Sec. 10067. Pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.*

Section 10007 amends the Plant Protection Act by adding a new section 420A to direct the Secretary to create a pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.

Subsection (a) of the new section defines terms used in the pilot program including covered microorganism, covered unauthorized release, pilot program, plant pest risk, responsible party, and responsible party biocontainment facility.

Subsection (b) of the new section directs the Secretary to establish the pilot program for no more than 75 responsible parties within 100 days of enactment.

Subsection (c) of the new section outlines the application process for the pilot program.

Subsection (d) of the new section outlines the process for approving or denying applications for the pilot program and the process for appealing a denial.

Subsection (e) of the new section outlines requirements a responsible party shall agree to as a condition of enrollment in the pilot program.

Subsection (f) of the new section prohibits the Secretary from taking action or promulgating any regulation that treats genetically engineered covered microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically engineered covered microorganisms or limiting the quantity or type of covered microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot program.

Subsection (g) of the new section requires responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program to submit a quarterly report to the Secretary.

Subsection (h) of the new section provides guidance for responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program in the case of a covered unauthorized release.

Subsection (i) of the new section outlines the process by which the Secretary may terminate the enrollment of a responsible party enrolled in the pilot program.

Subsection (j) of the new section terminates the pilot program three years after the date on which the Secretary completes the application selection process.

Subsection (k) of the new section directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress no later than 6 months after the termination of the pilot program.

## SUBTITLE B—MARKETING

### *Sec. 10101. Marketing orders.*

Section 10101 amends section 8(e) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to add mandarin oranges and almonds to and remove the prohibition on dates for processing from the list of imported agricultural products the Secretary has the authority to subject to marketing order terms and conditions regulating grade, size, quality, and maturity.

### *Sec. 10102. Local agriculture market program.*

Section 10102 amends section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act to define the term food hub; add regional food chain coordination to the purpose of the local agriculture market program; direct the Secretary to provide technical assistance and outreach to stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program; extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through fiscal year 2031; clarify that purchase of special purpose equipment is an eligible activity; add food hubs as an eligible entity for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP); establish a simplified application process for applications to FMLFPP that request less than \$100,000 for specific activities; clarify that the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program can be used for regional food coordination projects and regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation projects; and requires that no less than 10 percent of funds made available for FMLFPP shall be used for simplified applications.

### *Sec. 10103. Acer access and development program.*

Section 10103 amends section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to direct the Secretary to solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

### *Sec. 10104. Organic production and market data initiative.*

Section 10104 amends section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk; reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

### *Sec. 10105. Organic Certification.*

Section 10105 amends the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

Subsection (a) extends the reporting requirements for the report describing National Organic Program activities with respect to all domestic and overseas investigations and compliance actions through March 30, 2031.

Subsection (b) adds a new section 2122B to allow the Secretary to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs implemented by a covered agency.

Subsection (c) reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the National Organic Program through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 10106. Report on procurement.*

Section 10107 directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that examines the process by which domestic commodities or products are procured, barriers to entry into such procurement process, the diet quality and accessibility of commodities or products that are procured, and the Secretary's recommendations to improve such procurement process.

SUBTITLE C—REGULATORY REFORM

PART 1 – FEDERAL, INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

*Section 10201. Exclusions of Certain Substances.*

Section 10201 amends section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Subsection (a) amends the definition of “plant regulator” to exclude substances intended be produced and used within a plant and certain plant biostimulants; amends the definition of “nitrogen stabilizer” to make technical corrections and exclude plant biostimulants and nutritional chemicals; and adds definitions for “plant biostimulant”, “nutritional chemical”, “vitamin hormone product”, and “plant-incorporated protectant”.

Subsection (b) clarifies when and how the Administrator of the EPA may exempt pesticides from the requirements of FIFRA, including a statutory exemption of certain plant-incorporated protectants.

Subsection (c) consists of conforming amendments to section 17(c) of FIFRA.

*Section 10202. Coordination.*

Section 10202 amends section 3 of FIFRA by adding a new subsection “(j) Coordination” that requires the Administrator of the EPA to develop risk mitigation measures required by FIFRA with the Secretary of Agriculture, and to conduct an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures. This section also requires the Administrator to coordinate sharing of data and information with regard to pesticide registration

and registration reviews, including agronomic use data and information related to the availability and economic viability of alternatives. Additionally, this section requires the Administrator to coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce regarding implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide. This section also allows for these coordination requirements to be waived if agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registration of such pesticide.

*Section 10203. Interagency Working Group.*

Section 10203 amends section 3(c)(11) of FIFRA by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all interagency working group meetings. This section also extends the reporting requirements, decreases the frequency of such reports, and directs the reports to be published on the website of the EPA. Additionally, this section amends the consultation requirements to ensure the interagency working group meets with stakeholders at least once per year and to ensure the Administrator consults with the interagency working group before implementing any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act to the processes for registration and registration review of a pesticide.

*Section 10204 Registration Review.*

Section 10204 extends the deadline under Section 3(g)(1)(A)(iii)(I) of FIFRA for initial pesticide registration to 2031.

*Section 10205. Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements.*

Section 12205 affects how FIFRA is to be applied. Subsection (a) mandates that section 24(b) of FIFRA be applied to require nationwide uniformity in pesticide labeling and prohibits states or other authorities from penalizing entities for failing to label pesticides in a manner different from the label approved by the Administrator under FIFRA.

Subsection (b) clarifies that this section does not alter the authority of States under sections 24(a) or (c) of FIFRA.

*Section 10206. Authority of States.*

Section 10206 amends section 24 of FIFRA by prohibiting political subdivisions of a state from imposing requirements relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide subject to regulation by a State or the Administrator of the EPA under FIFRA.

*Section 10207. Lawful Use of Authorized Pesticides.*

Section 10207 amends section 3(f) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act by adding a new paragraph (6), which provides that the use, application, or discharge of a

registered pesticide consistent with its labeling approved under FIFRA shall be permitted and considered lawful, without further permitting or approval requirements.

## PART II – OTHER REGULATORY REFORM PROVISIONS

### *Section 10211. Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey.*

Section 10211 amends section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy to obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of the Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey.

### *Section 10212. Safe Harbor for Certain Discharges of Wildland Fire Chemicals*

Section 10212 would prohibit a court from enjoining a covered entity under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act from the aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention if such application is in accordance with the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the EPA and the U.S. Forest Service, and occurred before the effective date of a permit issued by the EPA or a State, under section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act authorizing the aerial application of fire retardant. This provision sunsets 5 years after the effective date of this Act.

### *Section 10213. Office of Biotechnology Policy.*

Section 10213 adds a new section to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 that creates an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture related to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies, while taking into account the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies. This new section provides an authorization of appropriations for \$1,000,000 through fiscal year 2031.

## TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

### *Sec. 11001. Specialty crop advisory committee.*

Section 11001(a) amends section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee to advise the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (the Corporation) on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies, provide input to the Board of the Corporation on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies, review available educational programs and make recommendations to the Corporation on how to enhance the effectiveness of programs for specialty crop producers, provide recommendations to the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board of the Corporation, and advise the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out various research and development activities.

Section 11001(b) amends section 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crops Coordinator to address the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advise, in connection with activities of the Corporation, to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

Section 11001(c) amends section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to consult with the Secretary in conducting an annual review of new and specialty crops.

*Sec. 11002. Identification of holders of substantial interests.*

Paragraph (1) of section 11002 amends section 506(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide an extension to crop insurance policyholders to provide the Corporation with the identification of holders of beneficial interest in the policyholder at any time during the applicable crop year.

Paragraph (2) of section 11002 amends section 506(m)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to define “substantial beneficial interest” as not less than 10 percent of all beneficial interests in the policyholder.

*Sec. 11003. Actuarial soundness of certain new products.*

Section 11003 amends section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to review each crop insurance policy or product developed for submission of policies and materials to the Corporation’s Board of Directors for actuarial soundness.

*Sec. 11004. Coverage of revenue losses.*

Section 11004 amends section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend crop insurance coverage of revenue losses to a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary).

*Sec. 11005. Limitation on farm program participation.*

Section 11005 amends Section 508B(f) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective for the 2019 through 2025 crop years, a farm shall not be eligible for the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton for a crop year for which the farm is enrolled in coverage for seed cotton under price loss coverage or agricultural risk coverage.

Section 11005 also amends section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to conform with the amendment made above to provide that beginning with the 2026 crop year, in the case of a farm for which a producer obtains coverage under the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland



cotton for a crop year, such farm shall not be eligible to receive payments for seed cotton for such crop year under price loss coverage or agricultural risk coverage.

*Sec. 11006. Limitation on interest accrual.*

Section 11006 amends Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective beginning with the 2026 reinsurance year, in the case of a producer that is delinquent in paying a premium or administrative fee, an approved insurance provider may charge such producer with respect to such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to exceed 60-consecutive months) the producer is so delinquent.

*Sec. 11007. Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.*

Section 11007(a) amends section 502(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish, among other criteria, that a veteran farmer or rancher, are farmers or ranchers that have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years.

Section 11007(b) amends section 508(e)(9) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide the crop insurance policy premium to 15 percentage points greater than premium assistance otherwise available for each of the first and second reinsurance years that a veteran farmer or rancher participates as a beginning farmer or rancher or veteran farmer or rancher in the applicable policy or plan of insurance, 13 percentage points greater during the third reinsurance year, 11 percentage points greater for the fourth reinsurance year, and 10 percentage points greater for the fifth reinsurance year.

*Sec. 11008. Marketability.*

Section 11008 amends Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish that any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1, shall not be implemented for such reinsurance year unless at least 90 days prior to the sales closing date for such policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary, as determined by the Board, handbooks, training materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other material. Section 1109 further provides that prior to the approval of a product, any approved insurance provider that submitted a letter of support for the product shall provide information and analysis to the Board on the marketability of such product, which the Board shall review and deem marketable if at least one approved insurance provider expresses support.

*Sec. 11009. Reimbursement rates for administrative and operating costs.*

Section 11009 amends section 508(k)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that for the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, the rate established by the Federal Crop Insurance Board to reimburse approved insurance providers and agents for the administrative and operating costs of the providers and agents with respect to each policy made available under this Act shall be equal to the rate applicable to the policy in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year.

*Sec. 11010. Quality loss adjustment coverage.*

Section 11010 amends section 508(m) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require, the Corporation, beginning in calendar year 2027 and once every 5 years thereafter, to contract with a qualified person to conduct a review, to be completed within 1 year of initiation, of the quality loss adjustment procedures of the Corporation. The review must include engagement from regionally diverse industry stakeholders, and the Corporation shall submit a report to Congress on the findings of the review.

*Sec. 11011. Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty.*

Section 11011 amends the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new section to require, beginning with the 2027 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation to establish a pilot program, to be conducted in not less than 10 counties located within or adjacent to the High Plains Groundwater Conservation District in Texas, to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period.

*Sec. 11012. Whole farm improvements.*

Section 11012 amends section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, and annually thereafter, review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture) to ensure such limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and to submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report that includes a summary of the most recent review conducted and any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.

*Sec. 11013. Program compliance and integrity.*

Section 11013 amends section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections) an approved insurance provider of any error, omission, or failure to follow Corporation regulations or procedures for which the approved insurance provider may be responsible and which may result in a debt owed the

Corporation. The section also establishes an appeals process for approved insurance providers after the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider of an initial finding. The finding shall be subject to a final finding within 90 days of an approved insurance provider's appeal, followed by a final administrative determination upon the written request by an approved insurance provider and a final determination made by the Corporation.

*Sec. 11014. Research and development priorities.*

Section 11014(a) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to expand the availability of policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue. Subsection (a) also requires the Corporation to determine the feasibility of creating a pricing library for agents and approved insurance providers using data from alternative sources, as determined by the Secretary.

Section 11014(b) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

Section 11014(c) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure the production of mushroom growing media and the production of mushrooms.

Section 11014(d) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of offering insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes made available regardless of underlying crop insurance policy (or lack thereof).

Section 11014(e) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including table grapes, wine grapes, juice grapes, tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally-available basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather event.

Section 11014(f) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding with respect to insurance policies for covered oilseed crops, meaning rapeseed, canola and other oilseed crops, under double cropping and rotational cropping practices.

Section 11014(g) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

Section 11014(h) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding prevented planting coverage for insurance policies for specialty crops that are not planted on a perennial basis.

*Sec. 11015. Report on standard reinsurance agreement.*

Section 11015 requires, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Corporation to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the Standard Reinsurance Agreement that includes an analysis of any modifications to such Agreement that are necessary to expand the availability of policies and plans of insurance that meet the risk management needs of agricultural producers, States, regions, and commodities.

*Sec. 11016. Hurricane insurance protection-wind index report.*

Section 11016 requires, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026, the Corporation to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on the hurricane insurance protection-wind index that includes an analysis of any events in the 5-year period preceding the date of the enactment of this section that caused NOAA weather radio station outages.

## **TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

### **SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS**

#### **PART 1 – ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION**

*Sec. 12001. Animal Disease Prevention and Management.*

Section 12001 amends section 10409 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) expands the program activities to include improving animal disease traceability and clarifies that additional activities previously approved by the Secretary shall continue to be appropriate program activities.

Subsection (b) extends all of the authorization of appropriations for the program.

*Sec 12002. Cattle Tick Fever Eradication Program Review and Report.*

Section 12002 requires the Secretary to enter into a contract with either a land-grant university or other institution with a college of agriculture to conduct a review of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program within a year of enactment of this Act. At which point such university or institution shall submit to Congress the results of such review and any recommendations for improvements to the program. The Secretary is required to use funds made available for food policy research centers to carry out this section.

*Sec. 12003. Dog Detection Training Center.*

Section 12003 amends the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 to provide the Secretary with the authority to establish additional training centers as well as off-site training programs.

*Sec. 12004. Regionalization, Zoning, and Compartmentalization Agreements.*

Section 12004 amends section 1045 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) provides authority to the Administrator of APHIS, the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture, and the Administrator FSIS, in consultation with USTR, to negotiate in advance regionalization, compartmentalization, and other agreements related to outbreak of known animal disease threats with the governments of countries with livestock export markets from the United States. Subsection (b) is a rule of construction that the provision does not alter the authorities of USTR.

*Sec. 12005. Importation of Live Dogs.*

Section 12005 adds a new section to the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) of the new section is the definitions. Subsection (b) prohibits the importation of a dog into the U.S. unless the importer submits to USDA electronic documentation, before the dog arrives in the U.S., that demonstrates the dog is in good health, it has all necessary vaccinations and parasite treatment, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian, and, if the dog is going to be transferred, proof that the dog is at least 6 months old and is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary. The subsection exempts from such requirement, a dog that is a pet of a person returning the U.S., a U.S. military working dog returning to the U.S., a dog transported for research purposes, a dog transferred for veterinary treatment, a dog less than 6 months old lawfully being transported to Hawaii.

Subsection (d) is a rule of construction related to funding under the Act. Subsection (e) provides the Secretary with enforcement authority and subjects an importer or import transporter to penalties under the Act.

Subsection (b) of section 12005 provides for the continuation of existing regulations during a transition period before the final regulations promulgated for the new section are finalized.

*Sec. 12006. Ensuring the Free Movement of Livestock-Derived Products in Interstate Commerce.*

Section 12007 establishes, for producers of meat and poultry, a Federal right to raise and market livestock in interstate commerce. Consequently, the section prohibits any State or subdivision from enacting or enforcing as a condition for sale of meat and poultry products any condition or standard other than standards for covered livestock within the state. The term “covered-livestock” means domestic animals raised for slaughter for human consumption and dairy producing animals. The term does not include animals raised for egg production. Further, the section only addresses standards and conditions related to the breeding and raising of livestock. It does not prohibit standards or conditions related to the movement, harvesting, or further processing.

*Sec. 12007. Report on Support for Livestock and Poultry Producers during a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak.*

Section 12008 requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress documenting the Department’s ability to protect producers from significant economic losses due to a foreign animal disease outbreak. The report should include an assessment of all existing programs and USDA’s capacity to effectively use those programs for the benefit of effected producers, a determination of existing gaps in USDA’s ability to provide financial support, and recommendations, for changes to the laws to improve protections for producers.

## PART 2 – MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECITON

*Sec. 12111. Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A-Plus)*

Subsection (a) of section 12111 require the Secretary to revise the regulations related to financial interest in the livestock industry to allow livestock market agencies to hold an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of a meat packer with a cumulative slaughter capacity of (1) less than 2,000 animals per day or 700,000 animals per year for cattle and sheep, and (2) less than 10,000 animals per day or 3 million animals per year for hogs. Subsection (b) is a saving clause related to the Secretary’s authority under the Packers and Stockyard’s Act.

*Sec. 12112. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Guidance and Resources for Small and Very Small Poultry and Meat Establishments.*

Section 12112 amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act to include a new section related to HACCP guidance for small and very small meat and poultry establishments.

*Sec. 12113. Outreach on Cooperative Interstate Shipment.*

Section 12113 amends section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The section requires the Secretary to, during the periods of 2027 through 2031, conduct outreach to state meat and poultry product inspection programs but not have an establishment selected for interstate shipment. After the 5 year period, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities and results of the outreach conducted.

*Sec. 12114. Pilot Program to Support Custom Slaughter Facilities.*

Section 12114 provides the authority for a State department of agriculture may operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (referred to in this section as “meat products”) directly to consumers within the State. In the absence of a State program, an establishment may request the Secretary to operate a pilot program operated by the Secretary. A State may operate more than 5 such facilities within the State. A program operated by the Secretary may approve not more than 10 facilities nationwide. The section includes the authority to add more facilities if there had been no emergency action taken in relation to the initial pilot facilities.

The program requires that the meat sold under the pilot program be sold directly to consumers within the State from the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived or the custom exempt facility at which the meat products were processed. The products are not subject to resale. The meat products must further be clearly labeled to indicate the name and address of the facility at which the meat products were processed, the name and address of the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived, the location where animals from which such meat products are derived were raised, the date of slaughter of such animals and the period of time over which the owner raised such animals, that such meat products were not subject to Federal inspection, and that such meat products shall not be resold.

The facilities participating in the pilot program must comply with the requirements of the Human Slaughter Methods Act, adulteration and misbranding provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and applicable state and local laws. Such facilities must also be subject to onsite inspection by USDA as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure compliance and onsite inspection, at least annually, by applicable local authorities.

Facilities that are already subject to Federal inspection are not eligible to participate in the program. The Secretary maintains the authority to take emergency actions if meat products produced under the pilot are found to be adulterated. The section requires State departments of agriculture participating in the pilot to submit to USDA a detailed report related to their pilot programs. Not less than 2 years after initiating the pilot, the Secretary shall report to Congress regarding the pilot program.

*Section 12201. Office of Homeland Security.*

Section 12201 amends section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds an additional duty to the Executive Director of Homeland Security to conduct annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption. Paragraph (2) adds two new subsections ((f) and (g)) to section 221. New subsection 221(f) permits the Secretary to detail employees to and from the USDA and the intelligence community to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security. New subsection 221(g) requires the Secretary to conduct and submit to Congress reports on the risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

*Section 12202. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement*

Section 12202 amends section 226B of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by reauthorizing it appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

*Section 12203. Burden of Proof*

Section 12203 amends section 227 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, switching the burden of proof for national appeals division hearings from the appellant needing to show the adverse decision of the agency was erroneous, to requiring the agency to bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the adverse decision was valid.

*Section 12204. Termination of Authority*

Section 12204 amends section 296 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide the Secretary the authority to reorganize the Department of Agriculture pursuant to amendments made by the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

*Section 12205. Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations.*

Section 12205 amends section 309 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to allow the Secretary to oversee self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts entered into between the Secretary and Indian tribes.

*Section 12206. Office of the Ombudsman*

Section 12206 adds a new section to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 creating an Office of the Ombudsman independent of the USDA for the purpose of



assisting producers and customers of USDA programs navigate the civil rights review process. Subsection (g) authorizes \$1,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2031.

## SUBTITLE C—NATIONAL SECURITY

### *Sec. 12301. Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Improvements.*

Section 12301 includes improvement to the AFIDA disclosures at USDA. Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to enter into an MOU with CIFUS. Subsection in order to provide CIFUS with all relevant information related to the reports on foreign ownership in agricultural land in the U.S. the Secretary conducts pursuant to AFIDA. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to update the most recent version of the FSA handbook entitle “Foreign Investment Disclosure: and incorporate the recommendations made by the GAO report entitles “Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks.” After the initial update, the Secretary shall carry out an update of the handbook every 10 years.

Subsection (d) amends section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. The subsection expands the actions for which a person can be subject to a civil penalty to include knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all of the required information. The subsection further adds a penalty floor of not less than 5 percent but not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all the required information or contains information that is misleading or false. It maintains the penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for failing to file a report.

Subsection (e) adds a new subsection to section that requires the Secretary to publicly disclose the name of any person who has paid a civil penalty after the completion of an appeal if there was one. Subsection (f) adds a new subsection to section 3 requiring the Secretary to carryout a nationwide outreach program to increase public awareness of the reporting requirements an provide education.

### *Sec. 12302. Report on Agricultural Land Purchasing Activities in the United States by Countries Designated as State Sponsors of Terrorism and Certain Other Countries.*

Subsection (a) of section 12302 is the definition section, including the definitions for “covered foreign country” and “state sponsor of terrorism.” Subsection (b) requires the Secretary submit an annual report to Congress describing the national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

### *Sec. 12303. Investigative Actions.*

Section 12303 amends section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. Subsection (a) expands the requirements for investigative actions under section 4.

Subsection (a) of the new section 4 requires the Secretary to appoint an employee of USDA to serve as Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions who, in turn, shall hire additional employees to monitor compliance with AFIDA.

Subsection (b) of the new section 4 provides that the Chief of Operations may serve in another position at USDA concurrently. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to provide classified storage and meeting space and assist personnel in obtaining security clearance.

Subsection (d) of the new section 4 enumerates the duties of the Chief of Operations, including monitoring compliance with AFIDA, referring noncompliance to FSA, conducting investigations with DOJ, FBI, Treasury, and the National Security Council, conduct annual audits, refer transactions to CIFUS, and publish reports. Subsection (e) establishes that the Chief of Operations reports to the Secretary or, if delegated by the Secretary to the Administrator of FSA or the Director of the Department of Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.

Subsection (b) of section 12302 amends section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to provide for new definitions for AFIDA, including the term “foreign entity of concern” and “malign effort.”

*Sec. 12304. Digitization and Consolidation of Foreign Land Ownership Data Collection and Publication.*

Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to develop a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons. Subsection (c) requires that each entry in the database include pertinent information about the transaction except for the name of the filer and the purchase or lease price of the transaction. Subsection (d) requires the Chief of Operations to annually audit the database and submit a report to Congress evaluating the accuracy of the data and describing recommendations for improving compliance with AFIDA reporting.

*Sec. 12305. CFIUS Consideration of Certain Agricultural Land Transactions.*

Subsection (a) amends section 721(k) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the CFIUS Committee for covered transactions that involve agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry.

Subsection (b) amends section 721(b) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to instruct the CFIUS Committee on how to proceed after receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture on a reportable agricultural land transaction. The subsection includes a provision that terminates the authority as it relates to a specific foreign country on the date that such country is removed from the list of foreign adversaries in section 791.4 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

## SUBTITLE D—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### *Sec. 12401. Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050*

Section 12401 amends section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, making changes to study and reporting requirements, and extends the Commission through 2031.

### *Sec. 12402. Report on Personnel*

Section 12402 amends Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by extending the years a report on personnel is required through 2031.

### *Section 12403. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor*

Section 12403 amends Section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, extending authorization of appropriations to enhance the U.S. Drought Monitor through fiscal year 2031.

### *Section 12404. Reports on Land Access and Farmland Ownership Data Collection*

Section 12404 amends Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Paragraph (1)(A) requires that a Report be submitted to Congress at least once every 2 years. Paragraph (1)(B) adds information required to be addressed in the Report.

Paragraph (2) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2031.

### *Section 12405. Increasing Transparency Regarding Detention of Imported Plants.*

Section 12405 requires the Secretary to issue guidance to clarify the process by which an importer of plants that has been denied entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain additional information on such denial and detention.

### *Sec. 12406. Enhancement of Pet Protections.*

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that evaluates the enforcement standards under the Animal Welfare Act for effectiveness and efficiency, the efforts by the Secretary to educate and advise dealers of the standards a requirements of that Act, the capacity of the Secretary to enforce the standards of that Act, and to make recommendations on how to improve while considering the impact and costs.

Subsection (b) amends section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act to require the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary for during the inspection process to provide for the notification of State law enforcement officials or State animal health officials of such inspection, and consider the immediate confiscation of a dog if the dog is determined to be in a state of unrelieved suffering. The subsection further adds a definition of “unrelieved suffering” to the definitions section.

*Sec. 12407. Protecting Animals with Shelter.*

Section 12407 amends section 12502 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to extend the PAWS Act through fiscal year 2031.

*Sec. 12408. Report on Available Assistance to Agricultural Producers in the State of Texas that Have Suffered Losses Due to the Failure of Mexico to Deliver Water.*

Section 12408 required the Secretary to submit to Congress a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within USDA that could be used to provide assistance to agricultural producers in Texas that have losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the U.S. in accordance with international treaty obligations.

*Section 12409. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program*

Section 12413 amends section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25, extending the separate CFTC Whistleblower Program account through September 30, 2031.

*Sec. 12410. Qualified Renewable Biomass.*

Section 12414 requires the Secretary to consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.

*Section 12411. Whole Milk Under the School Breakfast Program*

Section 12411 is a technical correction to section 9 of the Richard B. Russel National School Lunch Act to ensure that the recently enacted Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act applies to school breakfasts.