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The 2026 Farm Bill: Comparison of the House-Passed and Senate Committee-Reported Bills with Current Law

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SUMMARY

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Monica R. Saavoss, Coordinator
Section Research Manager

The 2026 Farm Bill: Comparison of the House-Passed and Senate Committee-Reported Bills with Current Law

The farm bill is an omnibus, multiyear law and the primary piece of legislation that governs an array of agricultural and food programs. The most recently enacted farm bill is the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334). On April 30, 2026, the House passed the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) to add, amend, and reauthorize some of the programs in the 2018 farm bill. On September 16, 2026, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry reported the Agriculture Act of 2026 (S. 5526). This report provides an overview of H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 and compares those bills with current law.

Across Titles I-XII, H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would reauthorize and amend food and agricultural policies in a variety of ways, with certain differences, as in the following examples. *Title I* of H.R. 7567 would restore tobacco eligibility for funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), whereas S. 5526 would amend and add reporting requirements of CCC expenditures and activities. *Title II* of both bills contains reauthorizations, amendments, and new programs that aim to incentivize farmers and ranchers to voluntarily implement resource-conserving practices on private land. Under H.R. 7567, proposed changes center on directing programs to specific resource concerns and production methods. S. 5526 includes several changes relating to disaster and watershed programs, as well as guidelines for conservation practice standards. *Title III* of both bills would reauthorize and amend international food assistance and export programs. H.R. 7567 would move the responsibilities of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) under the Food for Peace Act (P.L. 83-480, as amended) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), including administration of Food for Peace Title II Grants. *Title IV* of both bills would generally extend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other related nutrition programs through September 30, 2031. While both nutrition titles address many of the same nutrition policies, at times with substantive differences, there are provisions that are only in H.R. 7567 or in S. 5526. Examples of policies only in H.R. 7567 are the amendment of the statutory purpose of SNAP to reflect health objectives and the mandate of a Government Accountability Office report on SNAP administrative expenses. Only in S. 5526 are policies such as a one-year delay to states' SNAP benefit cost-sharing requirements, tribal input and supply chain response requirements in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), and stricter authorization rules for certain SNAP retailer types. *Title V* of both bills would increase the maximum loan amounts for farmers and ranchers who borrow from USDA. Both bills would add eligibility for farm loans to commercial fishing entities—the House-passed bill would allow farm ownership and farm operating loans and include fish processing facilities, and the Senate committee-reported bill would allow farm operating loans only and exclude fish processing. *Title VI* of both bills would expand the types of health care institutions eligible to refinance debt using Rural Development loans under certain circumstances. Only in H.R. 7567 would the Circuit Rider Program be expanded to provide rural water and wastewater systems with disaster recovery assistance. *Title VII* of both bills would reauthorize USDA agricultural research, extension, education, veterinary, and land-grant institution authorities through FY2031. H.R. 7567 would generally make broader administrative and programmatic changes, including repealing several existing authorities and establishing programs. S. 5526 would generally retain more existing authorities, authorize higher funding levels for selected programs, and establish a smaller number of new initiatives than the House-passed bill. *Title VIII* of both bills has provisions relating to forestry research, federal forest management, and financial and technical assistance to nonfederal forest landowners. The House-passed bill includes a subtitle concerning giant sequoia protection, whereas the Senate committee-reported bill does not. *Title IX* of H.R. 7567 would reauthorize most of the 2018 farm bill energy title programs and repeal two programs, whereas the energy title of the Senate committee-reported bill would reauthorize all the energy title programs. Both bills would modify certain programs. The House-passed bill would add new sections to Title IX pertaining to solar energy; the Senate committee-reported bill would not. *Title X* of both bills would reauthorize USDA to issue block grants to states through FY2031 to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Only in H.R. 7567 would the domestic hemp production program be amended to reflect changes to the statutory definition of *hemp* that were made in P.L. 119-37. *Title XI* of both bills would modify the definition of *veteran farmers and ranchers* used in the Federal Crop Insurance Program and increase premium subsidies available for these individuals. Title XI of H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 differ in terms of the changes they would make to final agency determinations, the composition of the board of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and research and development priority areas. *Title XII* of H.R. 7567 would restrict a state from enacting and enforcing production standards on livestock products not produced in the state and amend the authorities of USDA's Office of Tribal Relations and the National Appeals Division. S. 5526 would direct USDA to produce a report on fertilizer production and use.

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Introduction

Congress has established federal policy relating to the food and agriculture sector through periodic farm bills since the 1930s. The farm bill is an omnibus, multiyear law and the primary piece of legislation governing an array of agricultural and food programs. Historically, policy areas addressed in farm bills provided support for certain commodities; this has expanded to support of wide-ranging programs and policies, such as commodities, conservation, trade, nutrition assistance, credit, rural development, research, forestry, energy, horticulture, and crop insurance.[1]

The farm bill contains numerous different authorities for programs to exist, operate, and receive funding. Certain programs are permanently authorized and would continue in the absence of new farm legislation. Other farm bill programs have authorizations that expire approximately every five years and require reauthorization to continue. The most recent farm bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334), expired in 2023. It was extended three times, for a year at a time: in November 2023 to cover FY2024 and crop year 2024 (P.L. 118-22, Division B, §102); in December 2024 to cover FY2025 and crop year 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D, §4101); and in November 2025 to cover FY2026 (P.L. 119-37, Division E, §5002).

Congress amended selected provisions of the 2018 farm bill through Title I of the FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21). The FY2025 budget reconciliation law did not reauthorize all expired or expiring programs or authorizations of the 2018 farm bill.[2] For mandatory spending programs, budget reconciliation rules did not allow policy changes that did not have a budgetary effect. Policy changes and reauthorizations to discretionary spending programs are not allowed under budget reconciliation. The FY2025 budget reconciliation law included changes for mandatory spending programs in certain titles, including commodities, nutrition, crop insurance, and conservation, as well as relatively smaller programs with mandatory funding in the trade, research, energy, horticulture, and miscellaneous titles.

House Action

The Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567) would add to, amend, and reauthorize some of the programs in the 2018 farm bill. H.R. 7567 was introduced on February 13, 2026. The House Committee on Agriculture considered the bill and ordered it reported favorably, as amended, to the House on March 5, 2026, by a vote of 34-17. Members submitted 155 committee amendments. In committee markup,

- 45 amendments passed by vote (including 1 manager's amendment, 5 as part of an en bloc amendment, and 1 second-degree amendment to another amendment);[3]
- 29 amendments failed by vote (3 amendments failed by voice vote, and 26 amendments failed by recorded vote);
- 32 amendments were offered and withdrawn after discussion;
- 47 amendments were not offered; and

[1] CRS In Focus IF12047, *Farm Bill Primer: Background and Status*, by Jim Monke and Megan Stubbs.

[2] CRS Report R48775, *The Farm Bill After FY2025 Budget Reconciliation: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Jim Monke and Megan Stubbs.

[3] U.S. Congress, House Committee on Agriculture, "Markup of 'To Consider H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026,'" March 3-4, 2026, https://docs.house.gov/Committee/Calendar/ByEvent.aspx?EventID=118990.

- 2 amendments were ruled out of order as not germane.

H.R. 7567 was reported on April 21, 2026, with H.Rept. 119-620. In developing the rule for floor consideration, 371 amendments were submitted, of which 57 were made in order for floor consideration (H.Res. 1224, H.Rept. 119-628).[4]

On April 27, 2026, the House considered 57 amendments for H.R. 7567. Of the amendments made in order,

- 45 amendments passed by voice vote (24 as part of an en bloc amendment, 21 individually);
- 5 amendments passed by recorded vote;
- 4 amendments failed by recorded vote; and
- 3 amendments were not offered.

The House passed H.R. 7567, as amended, by a vote of 224-200 on April 30, 2026.

Senate Action

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry chairman released a discussion draft of the Agriculture Act of 2026 on June 23, 2026. The committee posted updated versions on July 9 and July 31.[5] The committee marked up the discussion draft on August 6, 2026, by adding and disposing of amendments but did not have sufficient votes for final passage to report the bill (vote of 10-11).[6] In committee markup,

- 34 amendments passed by voice vote as part of an en bloc amendment (including 2 amendments incorporated as secondary amendments);
- 1 amendment passed by recorded vote;
- 13 amendments failed by recorded vote; and
- 4 amendments were offered and withdrawn after discussion.

On September 16, 2026, the committee ordered the markup to be reported, as amended on August 6 and without further amendment, by a vote of 12-11.[7] The bill, S. 5526, was reported to the Senate on September 24, 2026.

This report provides a summary of each title included in the House-passed version of H.R. 7567 and the Senate committee-reported S. 5526. Following the summary of each of the 12 titles included in H.R. 7567 and S. 5526, this report includes tables describing each provision in the House-passed and Senate committee-reported bills and a comparison of the House-passed bill, Senate committee-reported bill, and current law. For any program authority affected by an extension, the most recent extension law is noted. In certain cases, the Senate committee-reported

[4] House Committee on Rules, "H.R. 7567—Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026," April 27, 2026, https://rules.house.gov/bill/119/hr-7567.

[5] U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, "Farm Bill 2.0," https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/agricultural-act-of-2026-farm-bill-20. See the discussion drafts of the Agriculture Act of 2026 at https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/agricultural_act_of_2026.pdf (June 23), https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/agricultural_act_of_20261.pdf (July 9), and https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/agricultural-act-of-2026-farm-bill-20 (July 31).

[6] U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, "Business Meeting" August 6, 2026, https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-08-06-2026.

[7] U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, "Business Meeting" September 16, 2026, https://www.agriculture.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-09-16-2026.

bill includes comparable provisions that are in a different title from the House-passed bill. In those cases, the provisions are cross-referenced in the title where the House-passed bill provision is located and the title where the Senate committee-reported bill provision is located.

Budgetary Impact

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a score of H.R. 7567, as reported, on April 24, 2026, ahead of House floor consideration.[8] CBO released a score of S. 5526 on October 28, 2026.[9] As of this date, the budgetary impacts discussed below are for H.R. 7567.

The score of H.R. 7567 indicates that the bill would be budget neutral for mandatory (direct) spending over an 11-year budget window (FY2026-FY2036). In the shorter term, it is expected to increase mandatory spending by $162 million over the first six years (FY2026-FY2031) (**Table 1**). Changes in the score are relative to the February 2026 CBO baseline (**Table 2**).[10]

The largest budgetary changes to mandatory spending are in the conservation title; the bill would reduce outlays for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) by $786 million over FY2026-FY2036 and redistribute funding to other conservation programs, most with temporary budget effects. The bill would extend authority in the trade title to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust; its budget effects would be offset from restructuring trade promotion authorities that were included in the FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21). The bill would also extend funding in the energy title for the Biobased Markets Program, offset by a rescission to the Biorefinery Assistance Program.

For discretionary spending programs, CBO estimates that increases in authorizations that are subject to appropriation total $22 billion over 5 years (FY2027-FY2031) and $22 billion over 10 years (FY2027-FY2036) (**Table 3**). FY2026 is not included in these estimates because appropriations have been enacted. Estimated outlays from these authorizations of appropriations are nearly $16 billion over 5 years (FY2027-FY2031) and $21 billion over 10 years (FY2027-FY2036). Details are not available about the shares that are reauthorizations of currently authorized appropriations and the amounts that are for new programming.

Budget Background for the Farm Bill

Budget enforcement in Congress for mandatory spending uses baseline and scoring procedures that are followed by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The goal is to determine whether proposed changes in a bill would increase or decrease government spending. The *baseline* is a projection of what outlays would be under current law if it were continued; it is the benchmark against which proposed changes in a bill are compared. The baseline incorporates current assumptions about economic conditions, including expectations about prices, acreage, trade, inflation, poverty, program participation, and eligibility. The *score* is the effect that each provision, or the bill in total, is expected to have compared with the baseline (CRS In Focus IF13124, *Distinguishing Between Discretionary and Mandatory Spending*, and CRS Report 98-560, *Baselines and Scorekeeping in the Federal Budget Process*).

The total score of a bill determines whether the bill meets budget enforcement requirements, such as pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) or cut-as-you-go (CUTGO) (CRS In Focus IF11032, *Budgetary Decisionmaking in Congress*). A bill may add or subtract funds from programs or transfer funds among programs and titles using reductions to offset increases. *PAYGO* refers to both a law and House and Senate rules that bills should not increase the deficit—

[8] Congressional Budget Office (CBO), *H.R. 7567, Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, April 24, 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62376.

[9] CBO, *Estimated Budgetary Effects of S. 5526, the Agricultural Act of 2026*, October 28, 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62881.

[10] CBO, "Details About Baseline Projections for Selected Programs," February 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/data/baseline-projections-selected-programs.

essentially, that budgetary increases are fully offset by spending reductions or additional revenue, so that the net score of a bill is zero (CRS Report R41157, *The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010: Summary and Legislative History*; CRS Report R47413, *Points of Order in the Congressional Budget Process*; and CRS Report RL31943, *Budget Enforcement Procedures: The Senate Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) Rule*). *CUTGO* is a protocol in the House during the 119th Congress prohibiting offsets from having revenue-raising provisions (CRS Report R41510, *House Rule XXI, Clause 10: The CUTGO Rule*).

Budget laws require CBO to score proposed changes over an 11-year budget window regardless of the length of the new authorization period. The current 11-year scoring period is FY2026-FY2036 for authorizations in H.R. 7567 that generally would expire in FY2031 (**Table 1**).

Four titles of the 2018 farm bill account for 99% of the baseline projection (nutrition, crop insurance, farm commodities, and conservation). The total 10-year baseline is $1.374 trillion over FY2027-FY2036 (**Table 2**) (CRS In Focus IF12233, *Farm Bill Primer: Budget Dynamics*).

Table 1. Estimated Changes in Mandatory Spending in H.R. 7567

millions of dollars, mandatory outlays

Title and Program	FY2026-FY2031	FY2026-FY2036
Title I. Commodities		
Tree Assistance Program	5	0
Title I Subtotal	*5*	*0*
Title II. Conservation		
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	-593	-786
Conservation Stewardship Program	47	49
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program	56	56
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act	50	54
Emergency Conservation Program	43	0
Emergency Watershed Program	16	15
Farm Management Incentive Payments	11	11
Transition Option for Certain Farmers	47	47
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, including Adjusted Gross Income provision	173	216
Forest Conservation Easement Program	198	227
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	53	110
Title II Subtotal	*101*	*-1*
Title III. Trade		
Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation	-35	-70
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act	70	70
Title III Subtotal	*35*	*0*
Title VI. Rural Development	*2*	*0*
Title VII. Research, Extension, and Related Matters	*1*	*1*
Title VIII. Forestry	*20*	*0*
Title IX. Energy		
Biobased Markets Program	16	18

Title and Program	FY2026-FY2031	FY2026-FY2036
Biorefinery Assistance	-18	-18
Title IX Subtotal	*-2*	*0*
Total Changes in Mandatory Spending	**162**	**0**

Source: Compiled by CRS using Congressional Budget Office (CBO), *H.R. 7567, Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, April 24, 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62376.

Notes: Estimates are based on the House-reported version of H.R. 7567. The House-passed version did not amend provisions related to this score. Estimated changes in outlays are relative to the February 2026 CBO baseline (https://www.cbo.gov/data/baseline-projections-selected-programs). The table omits titles that have no CBO score or a CBO score between -$500,000 and $500,000. Some titles in the CBO score did not have program-level detail.

Table 2. Baseline Projections by Farm Bill Title

millions of dollars, 10-year mandatory outlays

Farm Bill Title	FY2027-FY2036 (February 2026)
Title I. Commodities	142,625
Title II. Conservation	73,004
Title III. Trade	8,280
Title IV. Nutrition	985,379
Title VII. Research	3,510
Title IX. Energy	535
Title X. Horticulture	2,440
Title XI. Crop Insurance	155,539
Title XII. Miscellaneous	2,248
Total	**1,373,560**

Source: CRS analysis of Congressional Budget Office, "Details About Baseline Projections for Selected Programs," February 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/data/baseline-projections-selected-programs, for the five largest titles and amounts in law for programs in other titles.

Notes: Not all farm bill titles have programs that receive mandatory spending and projected baseline. Amounts in the February 2026 baseline incorporate policy changes as a result of 2025 budget reconciliation in P.L. 119-21, as well as changes in economic assumptions.

Table 3. Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriations in H.R. 7567

millions of dollars, discretionary authorizations of appropriations and estimated outlays

Title	FY2027-FY2031	FY2027-FY2036
Title II. Conservation		
Authorization of appropriations	750	750
Estimated outlays	627	750
Title III. Trade		
Authorization of appropriations	625	625
Estimated outlays	357	490

Title	FY2027-FY2031	FY2027-FY2036
Title IV. Nutrition		
Authorization of appropriations	1,196	1,196
Estimated outlays	997	1,066
Title V. Credit		
Authorization of appropriations	1,190	1,190
Estimated outlays	325	405
Title VI. Rural Development		
Authorization of appropriations	4,705	4,705
Estimated outlays	2,542	4,691
Title VII. Research, Extension, and Related Matters		
Authorization of appropriations	8,324	8,361
Estimated outlays	5,869	8,345
Title VIII. Forestry		
Authorization of appropriations	4,225	4,225
Estimated outlays	3,886	4,225
Title IX. Energy		
Authorization of appropriations	715	715
Estimated outlays	516	715
Title X. Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform		
Authorization of appropriations	495	495
Estimated outlays	458	495
Title XII. Miscellaneous		
Authorization of appropriations	219	219
Estimated outlays	208	219
Total		
Authorization of appropriations	22,444	22,481
Estimated outlays	15,785	21,401

Source: Compiled by CRS using Congressional Budget Office, *H.R. 7567, Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, April 24, 2026, https://www.cbo.gov/publication/62376.

Notes: Estimates are based on the House-reported version of H.R. 7567. The House-passed version did not amend provisions related to this score. Authorization amounts are for specific appropriations; indefinite amounts that would need to be estimated are not included. Title I—Commodities and Title XI—Crop Insurance do not contain specific authorizations of appropriations.

Title-by-Title Summary

Title I, Commodity Program[11]

The respective commodity titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would authorize and amend many of the agricultural commodity support and disaster assistance programs administered by the Farm Service Agency in USDA (**Table 4**). Title I of the FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21) amended and/or reauthorized various programs included in the commodity title of the 2018 farm bill through the 2031 crop year.[12] As a result, H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 do not include provisions relating to many of these programs, and the scope of the commodity title in the House-passed bill and in the Senate committee-reported bill is more limited than in previous farm bills.

Commodity Policy

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would continue the suspension of non-expiring farm bill commodity support provisions from the 1930s and 1940s through crop year 2031, as was done in recent farm bills.[13] H.R. 7567 would not make changes to the commodities eligible for support from the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC), Price Loss Coverage (PLC), or Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) programs.[14] S. 5526 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to study making dry edible beans eligible for these programs and authorize appropriations of "such sums as necessary" for a new program to reduce and maintain dry edible beans stocks-to-use ratios at historical levels. H.R. 7567 would not make changes to the eligible entities who can submit information to USDA about a producer's average adjusted gross income.[15] S. 5526 would add enrolled agents licensed to provide tax services by the U.S. Treasury to the list of eligible entities. H.R. 7567 would not make changes to farmers' *base acres*.[16] S. 5526 would require the Secretary to grant up to an additional 1.5 million base acres to owners of eligible farms.[17]

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would mandate that dairy product manufacturers report production costs and yield information to USDA. This information would be used to update factors that represent the costs to manufacture a dairy product (the dairy industry refers to these costs as *make*

[11] This section was prepared by Christine Whitt, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, Resources, Science, and Industry Division (RSI); Jim Monke, CRS Specialist in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Stephanie Rosch, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; and Megan Stubbs, CRS Specialist in Agricultural Conservation and Natural Resources, RSI.

[12] See CRS Report R48574, *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1): Title I, Farm Safety Net and Miscellaneous Provisions*, coordinated by Stephanie Rosch.

[13] See CRS Report R47659, *Expiration of the 2018 Farm Bill and Extension for 2025*, by Jim Monke, Randy Alison Aussenberg, and Megan Stubbs.

[14] For background on the Agriculture Risk Coverage, Price Loss Coverage, and Marketing Assistance Loan programs, see CRS Report R45730, *Farm Commodity Provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill (P.L. 115-334)*, by Stephanie Rosch.

[15] Statute restricts eligibility for certain farm programs based on a producer's average adjusted gross income. For background, see CRS Report R46248, *U.S. Farm Programs: Eligibility and Payment Limits*, by Megan Stubbs and Stephanie Rosch.

[16] For background on base acres, see CRS In Focus IF12418, *U.S. Farm Commodity Support: Base Acres and Payment Yields*, by Stephanie Rosch and Christine Whitt.

[17] Congress previously required the Secretary of Agriculture to grant up to 30 million additional base acres to owners of eligible farms in the FY2025 budget reconciliation law. For background, see CRS Report R48574, *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1): Title I, Farm Safety Net and Miscellaneous Provisions*, coordinated by Stephanie Rosch. The Senate committee-reported bill would amend the provision that authorized the 30 million additional base acres to be 31.5 million base acres, thereby requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to grant up to an additional 1.5 million base acres.

allowances) for the Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) system.[18] Both bills would clarify the timeline for USDA to submit certain dairy reports to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Both bills would make the Dairy Forward Pricing Program permanent.[19] H.R. 7567 would increase the number of eligible entities for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, whereas the Senate committee-reported bill would increase the program's authorized appropriations. S. 5526 would make the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program free for participating dairy producers enrolling six million pounds or less of their historical milk production in the program.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would allow producers to repay nonrecourse marketing assistance loans during a lapse in appropriations (i.e., during a government shutdown) when USDA employees may be furloughed.[20] H.R. 7567 would authorize USDA to provide storage facility loans for on-farm storage of propane used for agricultural production and to conduct a study on the feasibility of providing storage facility loans for fertilizer. S. 5526 would authorize storage facility loans for on-farm storage of propane and fertilizer, including equipment and infrastructure necessary for fertilizer storage.

The Secretary of Agriculture has broad authority to use Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding to support agricultural commodities.[21] H.R. 7567 would remove the exclusion for tobacco from the list of eligible agricultural commodities, thereby restoring tobacco eligibility for funding from the CCC.[22] S. 5526 would make no changes to the exclusion of tobacco from the list of CCC-eligible agricultural commodities (i.e., the bill would retain the existing statutory exclusion for tobacco). S. 5526 would also amend and add reporting requirements of CCC expenditures and activities.

Agricultural Disaster Assistance Programs

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would amend the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to provide payment recipients flexibility in replanting after losses and give recipients the option of receiving an initial partial payment prior to incurring replanting or rehabilitation costs. In H.R. 7567 and S. 5526, USDA's authority to offer initial partial payments would expire (sunset) on September 30, 2035. S. 5526 includes provisions that would expand covered losses under TAP to commercial trees that are no longer commercially viable due to a natural disaster. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require USDA to establish a framework to provide assistance to specialty crop producers for certain losses, including economic crises and market disruptions. S. 5526 includes a provision that defines the term *specialty crop*. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would authorize USDA to use block grants for administering supplemental ad hoc agricultural disaster assistance. S. 5526 includes language clarifying that USDA is required to administer such block grants via states. H.R. 7567 would require USDA to expand the proof of death standards in the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) for losses due to depredation by Mexican wolves.[23] S. 5526 would clarify that livestock losses due to depredation by Mexican gray wolves and panthers are eligible under LIP. In addition, S. 5526 would require USDA to accept documentation showing probability or confirmation of an eligible livestock attack by animals or avian predators.

[18] See CRS In Focus IF12923, *Pricing Amendments to the Federal Milk Marketing Orders*, by Christine Whitt; and CRS Report R48573, *U.S. Dairy Policy*, by Christine Whitt.

[19] See CRS Report R48573, *U.S. Dairy Policy*, by Christine Whitt.

[20] See CRS In Focus IF12140, *Farm Bill Primer: MAL and LDP Farm Support Programs*, by Stephanie Rosch.

[21] See CRS Report R44606, *The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC)*, by Megan Stubbs.

[22] See CRS In Focus IF13196, *Farm Support for Tobacco and the 2026 Farm Bill*, by Stephanie Rosch.

[23] See CRS In Focus IF12101, *Farm Bill Primer: Disaster Assistance*, by Christine Whitt.

S. 5526 would clarify that the definition of livestock used to determine eligibility for USDA's livestock disaster assistance program includes unweaned livestock. The Senate committee-reported bill would also expand covered losses under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP). In addition, S. 5526 would codify elements of LIP and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish that can be found in the programs' respective regulations.

Table 4. Title I, Commodities

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Suspension of permanent price support authority. Suspends the permanent price support authority of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (P.L. 75-430) and the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1949 (P.L. 89-439) for certain commodities for the 2014-2026 crop years and for milk through December 31, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §9092; P.L. 119-37)**	**Suspension of permanent price support authority.** Extends the suspension of permanent price authority through crop year 2031 for commodities other than dairy. Extends the suspension for dairy through December 31, 2031. **(§1001)**	**Suspension of permanent price support authority**. Identical to the House provision. **(§1101)**
Tree Assistance Program (TAP). Provides payments to eligible orchardists and nursery growers to replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes, and vines damaged by natural disasters. Eligible losses must exceed normal mortality. Payments reimburse eligible orchardists and nursery growers for 65% of the cost of replanting trees or nursery stock and 50% of the cost of rehabilitation (e.g., pruning and removal). **(7 U.S.C. §9081(e))**	**Tree assistance program.** Expands coverage to include biennial tree crops and losses due to pest infestations. Specifies that trees no longer producing an economically viable crop as a result of a natural disaster are eligible for TAP payments. Adds requirements for TAP recipients to replant or rehabilitate trees within two years after the application approval or when necessary to ensure tree survival. Provides recipients flexibilities in alternative planting activities that can be reimbursed, including replanting of alternative varieties and alternative stand densities and in alternative locations. Additional payments are not provided for these alternative activities. Requires USDA to notify applicants of application receipt and approve or deny the application within 120 days of submission. Adds authority for USDA to administer an initial payment before incurring eligible covered costs. Adds required payment calculation components, such as estimates for initial partial payments for the cost of replanting or rehabilitating the eligible tree, bush, or vine; subsequent payments; and potential overpayments. The payments provisions sunset in September 2035. **(§1002)**	**Tree assistance program.** Expands the program, timing requirements, flexibilities and payment limitations for alternatives used in replanting. The requirement to notify applicants within 120 days, initial payments, and sunset provisions are functionally the same as the House provision. Does not include the economically viable provision. **(§1303)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.** Requires USDA to establish a framework to provide payments to specialty crop producers impacted by adverse events, such as economic crises and market disruptions. Requires USDA to calculate payments on the basis of the producer's previous sales history and availability of funds. Authorizes USDA to create special rules that take into account crop value, production costs, and the legal and organizational structure of producers. Applies payment limits used for other USDA direct payment programs and excepts entities that derive 75% of their average gross income from farming and other related activities. Authorizes USDA to establish a separate payment limit of not less than $900,000 for each excepted entity for any crop year. Applies producer reporting and payment limits used in other USDA direct payment programs. Does not specify a funding mechanism for this framework. **(§1003)**	**Specialty crop emergency assistance framework.** Defines a *specialty crop* to mean the same collection of crops defined in 7 U.S.C. §1621 note. This definition includes fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). Other provisions are functionally the same as the House provision. **(§1304)**
No comparable provision.	**Assistance in the form of block grants.** Authorizes USDA to use block grants when administering additional funds for agricultural disaster assistance to address losses for which other federal assistance is unavailable. **(§1004)**	**Assistance in the form of block grants.** Provides the same general block grant authority as H.R. 7567. Specifies that USDA may make such block grants to states and that timber is an eligible commodity. **(§1305)**
Dairy Forward Pricing Program. Authorizes a USDA dairy forward pricing program that applies to milk purchased for manufactured products and excludes milk purchased for fluid consumption. Expires September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8772; P.L. 119-37)**	**Dairy-related extensions.** Removes the program termination date. **(§1005(a))**	**Reauthorizations.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1201(a))**
Dairy Indemnity Program. Authorizes payments to dairy farmers when a public regulatory agency directs removal of raw milk from the market due to pesticide contamination, nuclear radiation or fallout, or toxic substances and other chemical residues. Authority expires September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §4553; P.L. 119-37)**	**Dairy-related extensions.** Extends authority through September 30, 2031. **(§1005(b))**	**Reauthorizations.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1201(b))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Dairy Promotion and Research Program. Authorizes the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board to oversee a generic dairy product promotion and a research and nutrition education program (i.e., "dairy checkoff") and to spend funds to develop foreign markets for U.S. dairy products. Authority expires September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §4504(e)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Dairy-related extensions.** Extends authority through September 30, 2031. **(§1005(c))**	**Reauthorizations.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1201(b))**
Mandatory reporting for dairy products. Requires USDA to establish a mandatory program for dairy product manufacturers to report to USDA price, quantity, and moisture content of sold products. **(7 U.S.C. §1637b)**	**Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs.** Amends the manufacturers reporting requirements to include production costs and product yield information to USDA as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Requires USDA to publish a report with cost and yield information not more than two years after enactment and every two years thereafter. **(§1006)**	**Mandatory reporting of dairy product processing costs.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences to the House provision. Data reporting and publishing requirements are functionally the same as the House provision. **(§1202)**
Dairy reports. Requires USDA to submit annual reports for the dairy checkoff and Dairy Products Promotion and Research order (i.e., "fluid milk checkoff") to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(7 U.S.C. §4514)**	**Dairy reports.** Specifies USDA's dairy reporting requirements. Requires USDA to submit dairy reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] for each calendar year after enactment and requires that each report be submitted not more than 18 months after the last day of the calendar year. **(§1007)**	**Dairy Reports.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1203)**
Dairy Margin Coverage. Pays participating dairy producers each month when the national average margin falls below producer-selected coverage levels. The national average margin is the difference between the national all milk price and a national average feed cost. In general, coverage levels range between $4.00 and $9.50 per hundred pounds of milk in $0.50 increments. DMC uses a two-tiered system. Tier 1 applies to covered production history up to and including six million pounds; Tier 2 applies to covered production history above six million pounds. All participating dairy producers, with limited exceptions, are required to pay an administrative fee, and producers may be required to pay a premium	No comparable provision.	**Dairy margin coverage.** Amends fees and premium requirements so that participating dairy producers would not pay an administrative fee, and producers would not be required to pay a premium for Tier 1 milk enrolled in the program. Additionally, producers enrolling in Tier 1 would not be required to make an annual coverage election. **(§1204)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
based on the tier. **(7 U.S.C. §§9051 et seq.)**		
Repayment of nonrecourse marketing assistance loans. Provides terms for the repayment of marketing assistance and sugar loans. **(7 U.S.C. §9034; 7 U.S.C. §7272(d))** **Limitation on voluntary services.** Sets limits on government employment and services during a lapse in appropriations (during a government shutdown). **(31 U.S.C. §1342)**	**Processing of certain loans.** Authorizes USDA to allow producers to repay marketing assistance and sugar loans during a lapse in appropriations (a government shutdown) when USDA employees may be furloughed. Designates this activity as excepted from furlough for the safety of human life or protection of property. **(§1008)**	**Servicing of loans.** Identical to the House provision. **(§1102)**
Farm storage facility loans. Authorizes USDA to provide loans to producers of grains, oilseeds, pulse crops, hay, renewable biomass, and other storable commodities (other than sugar) to construct or upgrade storage and handling facilities for various commodities. **(7 U.S.C. §8789(a))**	**Storage facility loans.** Adds the authority for USDA to provide loans for producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production. **(§1009)**	**Storage facility loans.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision regarding propane. Adds authority for farm storage of fertilizer. **(§1105(a))** **Rulemaking**. When amending the *Code of Federal Regulations* to allow loans for fertilizer storage, it requires USDA to include various types of infrastructure and equipment necessary to receive, store, and remove fertilizer products. **(§1105(b))**
No comparable provision.	**Study on storage facility loans for on-farm fertilizer storage.** Directs the Secretary to conduct and submit a study to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a], within a year of enactment, on the feasibility of providing storage facility loans for on-farm fertilizer storage. **(§1013)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.** Requires the President to prioritize preserving and strengthening domestic production of sugar for domestic food use when administering federal policies. **(§1010)**	**Strengthening domestic food production supply chains.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1106)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Administration Generally. Provides for expedited rulemaking for amendments made under Title I of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), Title I of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), and certain crop insurance and horticultural provisions. **(7 U.S.C. §9091(c))**	**Regulations.** Provides for expedited rulemaking for amendments made by Title I of the Farm Food and National Security Act of 2026. **(§1011(a))**	**Regulations.** Provides for expedited rulemaking for amendments made by Title I of the Agricultural Act of 2026. **(§1401)**
Loan implementation. Requires USDA to use Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds to ensure that the Marketing Assistance Loan program benefits are provided in full in any year that discretionary spending limits are enforced via sequestration or other means. **(7 U.S.C. §9097(d))**	**Regulations.** Makes minor conforming amendments and specifies the applicability for sugar loans. **(§1011(b))**	**Implementation.** Makes minor conforming amendments and specifies the applicability for sugar loans with wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§1403(1))**
The Secretary of Agriculture has broad authority of the CCC Charter Act (P.L. 80-89), as amended, to use CCC funding in fulfillment of its purpose to support certain agricultural commodities. Tobacco is specifically statutorily excluded from eligibility. **(15 U.S.C. §714c)**	**Restoration of tobacco as an agricultural commodity in Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.** Removes the exclusion on tobacco being considered an agricultural commodity, thereby making tobacco eligible for funding from the CCC. **(§1012)**	No comparable provision.
No directly comparable provision.	**Electronic forms for covered disaster assistance programs.** Requires USDA, as soon as practicable, to allow producers the option to enroll in certain agricultural disaster assistance programs using electronic forms. **(§1014)**	No comparable provision.
Dairy Businesses Innovation Initiatives (DBI). Requires USDA to provide grants to at least three eligible regionally located entities to conduct dairy related technical assistance and training and to provide sub-grants for dairy-related modernization, specialization, value chain innovation, product development, and marketing. **(7 U.S.C. §1632d)**	**Dairy business innovation initiatives.** Requires USDA to provide grants to at least four eligible regionally located entities. **(§1015, Title X—Horticulture)**	**Dairy business innovation initiatives.** Increases the authorization of appropriations to $36 million per fiscal year. **(§12603, Title XII—Miscellaneous)**
Definitions. Defines the types of livestock eligible for USDA's natural disaster assistance programs. **(7 U.S.C. §9081(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.** Expands the definition of *livestock* to include unweaned livestock. **(§1302(a))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). Provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers for livestock and unborn livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality or livestock that are sold at reduced price because of an eligible loss condition (e.g., adverse weather, disease, or animal attack). Eligibility is predicated on the occurrence of an eligible loss condition and direct causation of the death or injury of the animal. LIP regulations require documentation to substantiate eligible attacks, obtained from a source such as, but not limited to, the following: APHIS, state level Department of Natural Resources, or other sources or documentation, such as third parties, as determined by the Deputy Administrator. LIP regulations define non-adult cattle, including beef, beefalo, buffalo, bison, and dairy, as being delineated by weight categories of either less than 400 pounds or 400 pounds or more at the time of death or reduced sale. **(7 C.F.R. §1416.305(d)(7)) (7 U.S.C. §9081(b)) (7 C.F.R. §1416.302)**	**Revision of evidence standards for livestock indemnity payments for losses by Mexican wolves.** Requires USDA, within 180 days of enactment, to expand LIP proof of death standards for livestock losses due to depredation by Mexican wolves to include evidence that does not primarily depend on subcutaneous hemorrhaging. **(§1016, Title X—Horticulture)**	**Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.** Specifies livestock losses due to depredation by Mexican gray wolves and panthers are eligible under LIP. Requires USDA to accept documentation showing probability or confirmation of an eligible livestock attack by animals or avian predators. Requires USDA to determine LIP payments for eligible livestock based on weight categories of either less than 400 pounds or 400 pounds or more. Other eligible livestock weight categories may be used but set only at an amount greater than 400 pounds. **(§1302(b))**
Emergency assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP). Requires USDA to make payments to producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish as compensation for losses due to disease, adverse weather, feed or water shortages, or other conditions (such as wildfires) that are not covered under other livestock natural disaster direct assistance programs. **(7 U.S.C. §9081(d))**	No comparable provision.	**Supplemental agricultural disaster assistance.** Codifies assistance for transportation costs that are necessary to reduce losses due to drought. Expands ELAP to cover losses of winter stockpile grazing. **(§1302(c))**
Adjusted gross income limitation. Allows certified public accountants or attorneys to submit certified information regarding a producer's adjusted gross income. **(7 C.F.R. §1308-3a)**	No comparable provision.	**Certification of average adjusted gross income by enrolled agents.** Allows enrolled agents licensed by the U.S. Treasury to provide tax services in accordance with 31 U.S.C. §330 to submit certified information. **(§1103)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Records; annual report. Requires an annual report of CCC business to be forwarded by the Secretary to the President for transmission to Congress. Also requires quarterly itemized reports for select expenditures over $10,000. **(15 U.S.C. §714k)**	No comparable provision.	**Commodity Credit Corporation records, reports, and data.** Amends CCC reporting requirements allowing for the Secretary to transmit annual reports directly to Congress. Increases quarterly reporting threshold to $25,000 for certain expenditures. Adds a biannual reporting requirement for publicly available Commodity Estimates Books containing budget data, policy assumptions, and supporting economic data. Requires that each report to Congress be submitted to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Reports that include expenditures made using CCC authority by the Secretary (referred to as "Section 5" authority) must include reference to the corresponding subsection of the CCC Charter Act. **(§1104)**
No directly comparable provision. Statute defines eligible covered commodities for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs and eligible loan commodities for the Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) program. **(7 U.S.C. §9011 and 7 U.S.C. §9031(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Dry edible beans study.** Requires the Secretary to contract with one or more qualified entities, not later than 60 days after enactment, to study the inclusion of dry edible beans as covered commodities and/or loan commodities for the purpose of providing an "effective safety net" for producers. Requires the Secretary to provide a report on the study's findings to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] not later than 120 days after enactment. Authorizes appropriations of "such sums as necessary" for a mitigation program to reduce stocks-to-use ratios of dry edible beans to maintain average historical levels. **(§1107)**
Additional base acres. Requires the Secretary to allocate up to 30 million additional base acres to owners of eligible farms beginning on July 4, 2025. **(7 U.S.C. §9012(e))**	No comparable provision.	**Additional base acres**. Requires the Secretary to allocate up to 31.5 million base acres to owners of eligible farms for the period of July 4, 2025-September 1, 2026. This change requires the Secretary to allocate up to 1.5 million more base acres than are authorized under current law. **(§1108)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Administration and operation of noninsured crop assistance program (NAP). NAP can provide coverage for eligible commodities against losses caused by eligible natural disasters, such as drought, flood, and freeze for which crop insurance, with limited exceptions, is not available. Eligible losses must be due to an eligible event and must directly affect the enrolled crop. **(7 U.S.C. §7333)**	No comparable provision.	**Noninsured crop disaster assistance program.** Expands the loss requirements to include losses resulting from a lack of water from the community ditch due to an eligible natural disaster. Defines a *community ditch* as a private, unincorporated or cooperative irrigation ditch system, including an acequia or unincorporated mutual ditch company. **(§1301)**
Education Program. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish an education program for certain USDA staff for the purpose of uniformly applying payments limits and other restrictions for select program.	No comparable provision.	**Technical Correction.** Amends the office that makes the initial determination about the application of payment limits and other restrictions to be the Farm Service Agency. **(§1402)**
Deobligation of unliquidated obligations. Requires the Secretary to deobligate and return to the Treasury certain funds not disbursed to recipients within 5 years of obligation. **(7 U.S.C. §9097(e))**	No comparable provision.	**Implementation.** Extends deobligation requirement to certain funds provided in P.L. 117-328, P.L 117-43, P.L. 116-260, P.L. 116-94, P.L. 116-20, P.L. 115-334, P.L. 115-123, and the Agricultural Act of 2026. **(§1403(2))**
Report. Requires the Secretary to submit annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on January 1 of each year for 2020-2023 describing tilled native sod acreage that received reduced crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance program benefits. **(7 U.S.C. §9097(f))**	No comparable provision.	**Implementation.** Extends requirement through January 1, 2031. **(§1403(3))**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title II, Conservation[24]

The respective conservation titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, propose reauthorizations, amendments, and new programs that aim to incentivize farmers and ranchers to voluntarily implement resource-conserving practices on private land. Both bills would reauthorize expiring programs and provisions, create a new forest easement program and a new state-centered soil health program, and emphasize the goal of streamlining conservation program delivery (**Table 5**). The proposed changes in H.R. 7567 center on expanding precision agriculture, establishing wildlife corridor habitat, and amending program implementation requirements. The proposed changes in S. 5526 focus on drought and water-related activities, amendment of existing emergency and watershed programs, and guidelines for conservation practice standards.

Conservation Reserve Program

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides federal payments to landowners to remove agricultural land from production and restricts the conversion of grasslands to non-grazing uses. Under both H.R. 7567 and S. 5526, CRP would be reauthorized at its current level of 27 million acres through FY2031. Existing CRP subprograms would be reauthorized at current levels, including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (8.6 million acres of total CRP acres), CRP grassland contracts (a minimum of 2 million acres of total CRP acres), and the Farmable Wetlands Program (not more than 750,000 acres total).

Under H.R. 7567, funding for CRP initiatives would be reauthorized, including $12 million total for forest management incentive payments and $50 million total for the Transition Incentives Program. S. 5526 would not reauthorize these initiatives.

The Senate committee-reported bill would limit enrollment in CRP grassland contracts (maximum of 12 million acres of total CRP) and expand payments for grazing and water infrastructure. S. 5526 would also provide additional flexibilities for haying during the last two weeks of the primary nesting season if the activity would not cause long-term damage to the vegetative cover for wildlife populations. Additionally, S. 5526 would increase the rental payment limit of $50,000 per fiscal year to $125,000 per fiscal year, the first increase since the program's creation in 1985.[25]

Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program

The two working lands programs, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), provide technical and financial assistance to farmers to improve land management practices. Many of the proposed amendments in H.R. 7567 to EQIP and CSP would emphasize the use of precision agriculture practices and technology, composting, and wildlife corridor habitat. The bill would create new subprograms and initiatives under both programs, including a U.S. southern border initiative under EQIP and a state soil health initiative under CSP. Funding for the new initiatives would come from existing funds authorized for EQIP and CSP. Payment limits restricting total funds received per person under EQIP and CSP, which

[24] This section was prepared by Megan Stubbs, CRS Specialist in Agricultural Conservation and Natural Resources, RSI.

[25] The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was originally established in the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198).

have expired, would be reestablished and in effect through FY2031.[26] H.R. 7567 would use EQIP funding to pay for a new Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) and funding increases in other conservation programs. In total, H.R. 7567 is estimated to reduce EQIP budget authority by $1.0 billion over 10 years (FY2026-2036), less sequestration. This is estimated to result in $786 million less in EQIP spending (outlays) over the same period, less sequestration.[27]

The Senate committee-reported bill and the House-passed bill contain similar language relating to precision agriculture, but S. 5526 does not include composting in its definition of the term. Payment limits for both EQIP and CSP would also be extended by S. 5526. The soil health program created in the House-passed bill under CSP is created as a stand-alone program in the Senate committee-reported bill and referred to as a "conservation assistance program." The new program would authorize $50 million annually through FY2031 and be offset, in part, with the bill's reductions to EQIP and CSP.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) provides financial and technical assistance through two types of easements: (1) agricultural land easements that limit nonagricultural uses on productive farmland or grassland and (2) wetland reserve easements that protect and restore wetlands. Most of the proposed changes to ACEP in H.R. 7567 focus on additional incentives for socially disadvantaged farmer participation, the federal share of easement costs, enforcement rights of an easement, and modification and exchange requirements. The bill would exempt ACEP participants from the adjusted gross income (AGI) limit, which restricts eligibility for various USDA programs to persons and legal entities whose average AGI is less than $900,000, unless 75% or more of the income is from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities.[28]

S. 5526 would also include the AGI exemption for ACEP participants but with different changes to the federal share of easement costs, certification of eligible entities, and the use of de minimis adjustments to easements.

Forest Conservation Easement Program

The House-passed and Senate committee-reported bills would both create a new Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) that would fund two types of easements: forest land easements and forest reserve easements. Forest land easements would be similar to ACEP agricultural land easements in that they would protect the sustainability of forest lands by limiting non-forest land uses. Forest reserve easements would be similar to Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) easements in that they would protect and enhance forest ecosystems and species habitat. Both bills would repeal HFRP and provide FCEP mandatory funding through FY2031.

[26] Payment limits under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) restrict the amount of funds a person or legal entity may receive under the program. Limits under both programs expired in FY2023 and were extended through FY2024 under the FY2024 farm bill extension (P.L. 118-22, Division B, §102). The most recent two farm bill extensions have excluded EQIP and CSP payments limits (P.L. 118-158, Division D, §4101(e)(2)(B); and P.L. 119-37, Division E, §5002(e)(2)(B)).

[27] See Table 3 in CBO, *Estimated Changes in Direct Spending Under H.R. 7567, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026*, February 23, 2026, pp. 4-5, https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2026-02/hr7567.pdf.

[28] 7 U.S.C. §1308-3a.

Other Conservation Programs

Both H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 include adjustments to other conservation programs. The House-passed bill would increase funding for programs such as the Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program (FSCP) and make changes relating to the delivery of technical assistance, streamlining, adjustment of federal cost share, or altering of eligibility requirements to programs (e.g., the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Emergency Watershed Protection Program, and Watershed Rehabilitation Program).

The Senate committee-reported bill includes some of the House-passed bill's proposed changes, such as the funding increases to FSCP, changes relating to the delivery of technical assistance, and updated technology options under ECP. Amendments to the Emergency Forest Restoration Program and Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 83-566) are included in the Senate committee-reported bill and not in the House-passed bill.

Nearly all of the conservation programs receive mandatory funding. Much of this funding was adjusted under the FY2025 budget reconciliation law.[29] Under H.R. 7567 and S. 5526, the conservation title is estimated to be budget neutral with reductions in EQIP and CSP offsetting increases in other programs.

Table 5. Title II, Conservation

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Definitions. Defines 27 terms for the purposes of all conservation programs within the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. **(16 U.S.C. §3801; P.L. 99-198)**	**Definitions.** Adds definitions for *precision agriculture*, *precision agriculture technology*, and *wildlife habitat connectivity*. Does not change existing definitions. Defines precision agriculture as "managing, tracking, or reducing" inputs with a high level of precision to "improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality." Defines precision agriculture technology as any technology that "directly contributes" to a reduction or improvement in input use. Defines wildlife habitat connectivity as the degree to which landscape or habitat elements facilitate native species' movements among seasonal habitats. **(§2001)**	**Forest Conservation Easement Program.** Amends the definition for *Indian Tribe* as the "meaning given the term in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act." **(§2701(b)(1))**
Mitigation banking. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026 for grants to develop wetland mitigation banks for agricultural use. **(16 U.S.C. §3822(k)(1)(B); P.L. 119-37)**	**Mitigation banking.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§2002)**	No comparable provision.

[29] For additional information, see CRS In Focus IF13114, *Agricultural Conservation After Enactment of the FY2025 Budget Reconciliation Law (P.L. 119-21)*, by Megan Stubbs.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Conservation reserve. Authorizes CRP through FY2026 to enter into contracts with eligible landowners and operators to conserve and improve soil, water, and wildlife and to address state, regional, and national conservation initiatives. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(a); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation reserve.** Reauthorizes the program through FY2031. **(§2101(a))**	**Conservation reserve.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2101(a))**
Eligible land. One type of land eligible for enrollment into CRP is highly erodible cropland if (1) untreated it could substantially reduce the land's future agricultural production capability, or (2) it cannot be farmed in accordance with a conservation plan and has a cropping history or was considered to be planted for four of the six years preceding December 20, 2018 (except for land previously enrolled in CRP). **(16 U.S.C. §3831(b))**	**Conservation reserve.** Replaces December 20, 2018, with the date of enactment, shifting the six-year cropping history to include land planted for four of the six years preceding the date of enactment. **(§2101(b))**	**Conservation reserve.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2101(b))**
Maximum acreage enrolled. Authorizes CRP to enroll up to 24 million acres in FY2019, 24.5 million acres in FY2020, 25 million acres in FY2021, 25.5 million acres in FY2022, and 27 million acres in FY2023-FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(d)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation reserve.** Maintains enrollment at 27 million acres through FY2031. **(§2101(c)(1))**	**Conservation reserve.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2101(c)(1))**
Grasslands. Requires USDA to enroll 2 million acres through CRP grassland enrollment by the end of FY2023. Incrementally increases the minimum enrollment of grassland acres to 1 million acres in FY2019, 1.5 million acres in FY2020, and 2 million acres in FY2021-FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(d)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation reserve.** Reauthorizes the CRP grassland enrollment minimum of 2 million acres through FY2031. **(§2101(c)(2))**	**Conservation reserve.** Reauthorizes the CRP grassland enrollment minimum of 2 million acres through FY2031. Adds a maximum CRP grassland enrollment of 12 million acres. **(§2101(c)(2))**
State enrollment rates. Requires 60% of available CRP acres to be allocated per state on the basis of historical enrollment. Enrollment rates must consider the average number of acres enrolled in each state each year of FY2007-FY2016, the average number of acres enrolled in CRP nationally each year of FY2007-FY2016, and the acres available for enrollment each year of FY2019-FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(d)(4); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation reserve.** Extends the state enrollment rate requirement to include the acres available for enrollment for FY2026-FY2031. Historic enrollment dates for FY2007-FY2016 remain unchanged. **(§2101(c)(3))**	No comparable provision.

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Continuous enrollment procedure. Sets continuous CRP enrollment targets of not fewer than 8 million acres by FY2019, 8.25 million acres by FY2020, 8.5 million acres by FY2021, and 8.6 million acres by FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(d)(6)(B); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation reserve.** Maintains enrollment target of 8.6 million acres through FY2031. **(§2101(c)(4))**	**Conservation reserve.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2101(c)(3)(B))**
Continuous enrollment procedure. Requires CRP enrollment to be continuous for marginal pastureland, land that would have a positive impact on water quality if enrolled, select cropland, and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(d)(6)(A); P.L. 119-37)** The State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) is a CRP initiative administratively created by USDA in which it partners with nonfederal entities to protect wildlife habitat through CRP contracts.	**Conservation reserve.** Adds SAFE to the list of contracts required to be considered continuously. **(§2101(c)(5))**	**Conservation reserve.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2101(c)(3)(A))**
Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP). A subprogram under CRP since 2008, FWP is authorized through FY2026 to enroll up to 750,000 acres of wetland and buffer acreage in CRP. **(16 U.S.C. §3831b(a)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Farmable wetland program.** Maintains enrollment limit and reauthorizes FWP through FY2031. **(§2102)**	**Farmable wetland program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2103)**
Eligibility for consideration. Allows for land that expires from CRP to be considered for reenrollment. Land devoted to hardwood trees is only eligible for one reenrollment, unless the land is part of a riparian forested buffer, forested wetlands, or shelterbelt. **(16 U.S.C. §3831(h); P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Conservation reserve.** Adds that land with grazing infrastructure established under a CRP grassland contract is eligible for reenrollment. **(§2101(d))**
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Establishes CREP as a subprogram of CRP, in which USDA enters into agreements with states and conservation groups to target selected areas and natural resource concerns in exchange for continuous CRP sign-ups and higher payments for enrollment. **(16 U.S.C. §3831a)**	No comparable provision.	**Conservation reserve enhancement program.** Adds the option to update agreements under CREP following enactment. Adds payment requirements for CREP agreements that include the retirement of water rights or dryland agricultural uses. Adds an option for wetland-related CREP agreements to enroll seasonally flooded agricultural land. **(§2102)**

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Specified activities permitted. Permits certain specified activities (e.g., harvesting, grazing, or other commercial uses of the forage) on CRP land under selected conditions, including but not limited to emergencies. Allows emergency grazing at 50% of the normal carrying capacity on all practices during the primary nesting season without a reduction in rental rate under certain drought and forage loss conditions. **(16 U.S.C. §3833(b))**	No comparable provision.	**Duties of the Secretary.** Allows for emergency haying on 50% of contract acres during the final two weeks of the primary nesting season without a reduction in rental rates under certain drought and forage loss conditions. Adds that emergency haying or grazing is not permitted during the final two weeks of the primary nesting season if doing so would cause long-term damage to the vegetative cover for wildlife populations. Provides that haying and grazing activities without a reduction in rental rate are not required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. **(§2104)**
Cost sharing payments. Defines land enrolled in CRP as eligible to receive cost-share assistance for implemented practices. Limits cost-share payments to 50% of the actual cost of establishing the practice and no more than 100% of the total cost. Limits cost-share for seed to 50% of the seed mixture cost. No cost-share is available for mid-contract management activities. Owners are ineligible from receiving cost-share payments if assistance is provided under other federal programs, unless it is related to a CREP contract. **(16 U.S.C. §3834(b))**	No comparable provision.	**Payments.** Adds grazing and water infrastructure as eligible for up to 50% cost share if grazing is included in the conservation plan and addresses a resource concern. Allows cost share for mid-contract management activities, excluding grazing or haying. **(§2105(a))**
Annual rental payments. Authorizes annual rental payments for land enrolled in CRP. Provides USDA discretion in determining the amount to be paid, considering factors including the amount necessary to encourage enrollment. **(16 U.S.C. §3834(d)(1))**	No comparable provision.	**Payments.** Requires that the rental rate be based on the three predominant soils on the land. Prohibits adjustments to payments on the basis of the rate of inflation. **(§2105(b))**
Payment limitations for rental payments. Limits the total amount of rental payments received under CRP directly or indirectly to $50,000 per fiscal year. **(16 U.S.C. §3834(g))**	No comparable provision.	**Payments.** Increases rental payment limit to $125,000 per fiscal year. **(§2105(c))**

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Definitions. Defines 10 terms under EQIP. Defines *practice* as one or more improvements (e.g., structural, land management or vegetative practice; forest management; and other practices defined by USDA) or conservation activities (e.g., comprehensive nutrient management plans, precision conservation management planning, and other plans as determined by USDA). **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-1(6))**	**Definitions.** Amends the definition of *practice* to include composting practices in the description of improvements to eligible land and precision agriculture practices and technology in the description of a conservation activity. **(§2201)**	**Definitions.** Adds definitions of *precision agriculture* and *precision agriculture technology*. Precision agriculture is defined as a way of "managing, tracking, or reducing" inputs "to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality." Precision agriculture technology is defined as a technology that "contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs." **(§2201)**
Special rule involving payments for income forgone. Allows USDA, when determining payment rates, to accord great significance on certain practices that promote natural resource improvements. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(d)(3)(F))**	**Establishment and administration.** Adds wildlife habitat connectivity to the list of practices that may be accorded great significance by USDA when determining payment rates. **(§2202(a)(1))**	No comparable provision.
Other payments. Prohibits duplicative payments from other federal programs for EQIP-funded practices. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(d)(6))**	**Establishment and administration.** Exempts from the prohibition on duplicative payments USDA loans or loan guarantees used to cover the costs of EQIP practices. Requires USDA to inform EQIP participants that they may be eligible for a USDA loan for costs associated with implementing EQIP practices. **(§2202(a)(2))**	**Establishment and administration.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§§2202(a)(1), (a)(2))**
Increased payments for high-priority practices. Allows states the option, in consultation with the state technical committee, to identify no more than 10 high-priority practices that will be eligible for up to 90% of the practice cost. Practices must address nutrients in groundwater and surface waters, conservation of water, identified wildlife habitat, or watershed-specific resource concerns. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(d)(7))**	**Establishment and administration.** Adds "State-determined" to the paragraph heading. Expands the list of resource concerns that eligible practices may address to include restoration of wildlife habitat and increased carbon sequestration or reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. **(§2202(a)(3))**	**Establishment and administration.** Adds "State-determined" to the paragraph heading. **(§2202(a)(3))**
No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Allows payments for up to 90% of the cost of precision agriculture practices and technology. **(§2202(a)(4))**	No comparable provision.

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No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Allows payments for wildlife corridor costs on land enrolled in CRP and of ecological significance. Multiple payments may not be made for the same practice. **(§2202(a)(5))**	**Establishment and administration.** Similarly to the House provision, allows nonduplicative payments for CRP land. Different from the House version is a requirement that payments received for these practices may not alter or prevent emergency grazing and haying on the CRP enrolled land. **(§2202(a)(4))**
Allocation of funding. Requires that 50% of payments go to practices related to livestock production through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(f)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Establishment and administration.** Reauthorizes required payments for livestock-related practices through FY2031. **(§2202(b))**	**Establishment and administration.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2202(b))**
Water conservation or irrigation efficiency practice. Allows EQIP payments to producers or selected eligible entities for water conservation or irrigation efficiency practices. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(h)(1))**	**Establishment and administration.** Expands eligibility to include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and technology relating to water conservation and energy efficiency. **(§2202(c))**	No comparable provision.
Payments for conservation practices related to organic production. Limits a participant's payments for organic production conservation practices to a total of $140,000 for FY2019-FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(i)(3); P.L. 119-37)**	**Establishment and administration.** Increases a participant's payment limit for organic production conservation practices to a total of $200,000 for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2202(d))**	**Establishment and administration.** Extends a participant's payment limit for organic production conservation practices of a total of $140,000 for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2202(e))**
Conservation incentive contracts. Conservation incentive contracts under EQIP are multiyear contracts that address priority resource concerns within selected geographic regions. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(j)(2))**	**Establishment and administration.** Amends incentive practices to include precision agriculture practices and technology. **(§2202(e))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Creates an initiative to provide payments to address and repair agricultural land or infrastructure damage that may contribute to natural resource concerns. Limits eligibility to land at or near the U.S. southern border. **(§2202(f))**	No comparable provision.
Limitation on payments. Limits an EQIP participant's payments to an aggregate of $450,000 for FY2019-FY2024. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-7; P.L. 118-22)**	**Limitation on payments.** Limits an EQIP participant's payments to an aggregate of $450,000 for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2203)**	**Limitation on payments.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2203)**

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Conservation innovation grants and payments. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a competitive grant program within EQIP. Grants include cost-matching requirements to implement innovative conservation projects. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-8(a))**	**Conservation innovation grants and payments.** Adds development and evaluation of new technologies as an eligible project. **(§2204(a))**	**Conservation innovation grants and payments.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2204(a))**
On-farm conservation innovation trials. Requires $25 million of EQIP funds to be used for on-farm conservation innovation trials to test new or innovative conservation approaches either directly with producers or with eligible entities annually for FY2019-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-8(c))**	**Conservation innovation grants and payments.** Adds perennial production systems as an eligible approach. **(§2204(b))**	No comparable provision.
Reporting and database. Requires USDA to establish and maintain a public conservation practice database based on data reported under completed CIG projects. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-8(d))**	**Conservation innovation grants and payments.** Requires database to include management and structural conservation practices and data that may be used to evaluate new and emerging technologies. **(§2204(c))**	**Conservation innovation grants and payments.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2204(b))**
Definitions. CSP defines *conservation activities* as conservation systems, practices, or management measures, including structural, vegetative, and land management measures (including drainage management systems); priority resource concern planning; comprehensive conservation planning; soil health planning; and activities that assist with adaptation or mitigation against weather volatility. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-21(2))**	**Conservation activities defined.** Adds "energy-efficient pumping systems" and "composting practices" to conservation activities definition. **(§2205)**	No comparable provision.
No directly comparable provision. USDA requires, through regulation, that for an EQIP contract to include irrigation-related practices, the participant must provide documented evidence that there is a history of irrigation on the land. **(7 C.F.R. §1466.78(f))**	No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Adds a requirement that state technical committees be given the opportunity to apply for a waiver of the irrigation history requirement. The waiver request may cover the entire state or regions of the state. Approval may be contingent on demonstration of no adverse impact to aquifer depletion or surface stream flow. Water efficiency requirements apply to contracts resulting from a waiver. **(§2202(a)(4))**

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Wildlife habit incentives program. Subprogram under EQIP that provides payments for conservation practices that benefit wildlife habitat. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(g))**	No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Adds practices enrolled under the Working Lands for Wildlife initiative to the list of eligible practices. Adds that payments can be made for forested habitat for upland birds. **(§2202(c))**
Water conservation or irrigation efficiency practice. USDA may enter into an EQIP contract with states, irrigation districts, groundwater management districts, acequias, land grants-mercedes, or similar entities to implement water conservation or irrigation practices. Practices must be implemented on eligible land or land under the entity's control. USDA can waive payment and eligibility limitations for contracts. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-2(h)(2))**	No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Deletes the waiver authority for these contracts. Adds a requirement that payments to an entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed a total of $2 million between FY2027 and FY2031. **(§2202(d))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Establishment and administration.** Adds that USDA is not allowed to require soil testing (unless the practice requires soil testing) or planning beyond what is required to implement the practice under EQIP. **(§2202(f))**
No comparable provision.	**Conservation stewardship program.** Allows payments for wildlife corridor costs on land enrolled in CRP and of ecological significance. Multiple payments may not be made for the same practice. Payments for wildlife corridor costs do not alter emergency haying or grazing access on CRP acres. **(§2301(2))**	**Conservation stewardship program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2301(2))**
Conservation stewardship payments. CSP enrolls land into multiyear contracts to encourage producers to address priority resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. CSP payments are required to be based on several factors (e.g., costs incurred, income forgone, expected conservation benefits, and integration across an entire operation). **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-24(c)(2))**	**Duties of the Secretary.** Adds costs associated with planning and adopting precision agriculture technology to the factors in which CSP payments are based. Requires program annual payments to be no less than $4,000. **(§2302(a))**	No comparable provision.

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Supplemental payments for resource-conserving crop rotations and advanced grazing management. Authorizes additional payments for the adoption of resource-conserving crop rotations and advanced grazing management. Requires payments for these practices to be at least 150% of the annual payment rate. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-24(d))**	**Duties of the Secretary.** Adds precision agriculture conservation activities as eligible for additional payments. **(§2302(b))**	No comparable provision.
Payment limitations. Limits CSP payments to a total of $200,000 for all CSP contracts entered into by an individual participant for FY2019-FY2024. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-24(f); P.L. 118-22)**	**Duties of the Secretary.** Limits CSP payments to a total of $200,000 for all CSP contracts entered into by an individual participant for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2302(c))**	**Duties of the Secretary.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2302)**
No comparable provision.	**State assistance for soil health.** Creates a new Soil Health Program for eligible states and Indian Tribes. Grants are authorized to supplement existing state and tribal soil health programs. Limits grants to $5 million annually or to 50% or 75% of the cost of implementing a state program or tribal program, respectively. Grants are one year with the possibility of renewal. Makes $100 million of CSP funds available for the program annually for FY2027-FY2031, with limitations on administrative expenses. **(§2303)**	**State conservation assistance.** Similar to the House provision, including the creation of a new program, grants to supplement existing state and tribal soil health programs, and limits for grants and cost-share payments. Differences from the House version include the program name (Conservation Assistance Program). Expands the purpose of grants to include wildlife habitat or other local resource concerns. Limits grants to the lesser of $10 million or 100% of the cost of implementing a state or tribal program. Grants may be for up to five years, with possible renewal. Provides that the Secretary may require compliance with applicable federal laws. Limits administrative expenses to 3% of total program funding for USDA and to 7% of total grant funding for state and tribal participants. Authorizes $50 million annually in mandatory funding from the CCC for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2805)**
Conservation of private grazing land. Authorizes appropriations of $60 million annually through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3839bb(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation of private grazing land.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§2401)**	**Conservation of private grazing land.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2804)**

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Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program. Requires USDA, under the pilot program, to study the extent of damage from feral swine, develop eradication and control measures and restoration methods, and provide cost-share funding to agricultural producers in established pilot program areas. Requires the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to coordinate the pilot through NRCS state technical committees. Limits cost-share assistance to 75% of the costs of eradication and control measures or restoration. Provides $75 million in mandatory CCC funding for FY2019-FY2023, $15 million for FY2024, and $105 million for FY2025-FY2031. Requires funding to be split equally between NRCS and APHIS, with no more than 10% for administrative expenses. **(7 U.S.C. §8351 note)**	**Feral swine eradication and control program.** Codifies the pilot as a program with nearly identical requirements. Increases total funding for FY2025-FY2031 to $150 million. Amends the funding split as 40% to NRCS and 60% to APHIS. Retains the 10% limit for administrative expenses. Requires NRCS and APHIS to contract with one or more land-grant universities to assist with the program. Limits eligibility to selected universities. **(§2402)**	**Feral swine eradication and control program.** Similar to House provisions, including codification of the pilot program, program requirements, funding levels, and agency funding split. Differences from the House version include termination of the pilot program and the addition of transitional provisions to the newly established program. Does not include the House version's requirement to contract with certain land-grant universities. **(§2803)**
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The watershed operations program provides technical and financial assistance to states and local organizations to plan and install watershed projects. **(16 U.S.C. §1003)**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds a new provision allowing USDA to fund remedial actions for completed work under the program. **(§2403(a))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds a new provision requiring USDA to streamline procedures and expedite agreement approval methods for the watershed operations program. **(§2403(a))**	No comparable provision.
Data. Requires USDA to collect and maintain data at the national and state levels for the Watershed Operations program, including program expenditures and expected benefits from project implementation. **(16 U.S.C. §1010)**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Requires USDA to make collected data publicly available. Requires additional data to be collected and made public related to total allocations, funds expended, and contract and agreement details. The public data requirement is to exclude information relating to agreements with individual landowners. **(§2403(b))**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Requires USDA to make collected data publicly available. **(§2801(i))**

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Watershed Rehabilitation Program. Provides 65%-100% of the cost of rehabilitating dams built by NRCS that are near, at, or past their evaluated life expectancy. Implemented as the Watershed Rehabilitation Program. **(16 U.S.C. §1012(b)(2))**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Increases the minimum required federal share of the cost of rehabilitation to 90%. Removes the requirement that 20% of total benefits of the watershed rehabilitation project must relate to agriculture, which may include rural communities. Removes the requirement that more than 50% of land situated in the drainage area above retention reservoirs have agreements to carry out recommended soil conservation measures and farm plans. **(§2403(c)(1))**	No comparable provision.
Funding. Authorizes appropriations of $85 million annually for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §1012(h)(2)(E); P.L. 119-37)**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program through FY2031. **(§2403(c)(2))**	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2801(j))**
Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). ECP provides emergency funding and technical assistance to producers to rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters. Producers may accept a reduced payment for repairing or replacing fencing rather than receive a higher payment following the completion and inspection of fence installation. Limits advanced payments for fences to 25% of the total payment (based on cost). **(16 U.S.C. §2201)**	**Emergency conservation program.** Increases the advanced payment limit for repairing or replacing damaged fencing to 75% of the payment for replacement or rehabilitation (based on market value) and not more than 50% of the payment for fence repair (based on market value). Repair and replacement can include updated technology if it does not increase cost. Expands eligibility to include wildfires not caused naturally, including wildfires caused by the federal government. **(§2404)**	**Emergency conservation programs.** Adds that repair and replacement of fencing can include updated technology if it does not increase cost. **(§2802(a))**
Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. Assists sponsors, landowners, and operators in implementing emergency recovery measures for runoff retardation and erosion prevention to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by natural disasters, including the purchase of floodplain easements. **(16 U.S.C. §2203(b))**	**Emergency watershed program.** Amends EWP floodplain easement requirements to include floodplain restoration, maintenance, and compatible use authority. Allows restoration on floodplain easements to be undertaken at levels above immediate impairment needs if in the best interest of the long-term health and protection of the watershed. Requires that USDA identify costs that may be incurred prior to entering into an agreement with USDA under EWP. These identified pre-agreement costs may count toward the sponsor's share of the total project cost if an agreement is entered into. **(§2405)**	**Emergency watershed program.** Similar to the House provisions regarding amendments to allow increased restoration. Amends the eligible purpose of floodplain easements to include restoration and enhancement of the hydraulic functions and values of a floodplain and conservation of the natural values of a floodplain. Requires USDA to acquire the rights and interests necessary to restore, protect, manage, maintain, enhance, and monitor floodplain easements. Allows for compatible uses. **(§2802(c))**

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No directly comparable provision. The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is a USDA-created multiagency effort led by NRCS to quantify the effects of conservation practices on agricultural lands.	**National agriculture flood vulnerability study.** Requires a CEAP report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] within two years of enactment on the flood risk on agricultural lands, including analysis of economic loss, effectiveness of mitigation activities, analysis of flood risk based on available data, existing risk reduction activities, and recommendations for further flood risk reduction. **(§2406)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Study on environmental benefits of winter wheat as a cover crop.** Requires NRCS to submit a study on the environmental benefits of using winter wheat as a cover crop to the House Committee on Agriculture. **(§2407)**	No comparable provision.
Declaration of policy. Provides a declaration of policy that erosion, floodwater, and sediment damage in watersheds cause loss of life and property constituting a national menace. Declares that it is the sense of Congress that the federal government should cooperate with state and local governments to prevent such damages through preservation, protection, and improvement in water resources. **(16 U.S.C. §1001)**	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Retitles the section and adds a congressional finding that expands the declaration of policy to include drought, declines in agricultural production, and harm to wildlife as constituting a national menace. Amends the sense of Congress to focus on cooperation with local organizations. **(§2801(a))**
Definitions. Defines 3 terms under the Watershed Operations program, including *Secretary*, *works of improvement*, and *local organization*. *Works of improvement* is defined as any undertaking for flood prevention; the conservation, development, and utilization of water; or the conservation and proper utilization of land. Projects may not exceed 250,000 acres and no structure may exceed more than 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater detention capacity or 25,000 acre-feet of total capacity. Limits appropriations for larger projects. Requires that at least 20% of the total benefits of the project must directly relate to agriculture (including rural communities).	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds definitions for *conservation of water* and *management of water* and makes amendments to the definitions of *local organization* and *works of improvement*. Conservation of water means "a reduction in the total annual consumptive water use" created under the program. Management of water means a project or activity that increases water efficiency. Amends the defined "local organization" list to include a canal company, ditch association, or acequia. Amends the acreage limit under "works of improvement" to not exceed 250,000 acres, including

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Local organizations is defined as a state, political subdivision of a state, soil and water conservation district, flood prevention or control district, irrigation or reservoir company, water users' association, or tribal organization. **(16 U.S.C. §1002)**		federal land. Adds a definition of "rural communities" required to meet the 20% benefits threshold. Moves the appropriation limit for larger projects to a separate section. **(§2801(b))**
Assistance to local organizations. Authorizes USDA to conduct investigations and surveys, prepare plans (including engineering evaluation), enter into cooperative agreements with local organizations for works of improvement, and enter into agreements with landowners, operators, and occupiers based on developed conservation plans. Applications must be made in writing to the soil and water conservation districts involved with conservation plan development. Cost-share is determined by USDA. USDA may terminate agreements if determined to be in the public interest. USDA may waive watershed plans for projects if considered to be duplicative. **(16 U.S.C. §1002)**	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds subsection headings and conforming amendments. Adds a requirement that the NRCS state conservationist have final authority to approve watershed plans for works of improvement within the state. Local organizations may use program funds to pay for approved third parties to conduct preliminary investigations. Additional authorities may be granted to the NRCS state conservationist if the authorities support streamlining efforts. USDA has 45 days, plus a 45-day extension, to approve or disapprove applications. No funds may be provided for a project without an approved watershed plan, unless the need for a plan has been waived. **(§2801(c))**
Cost share assistance. Cost share assistance of up to 50% of the cost of acquiring an easement may be provided for perpetual wetland or floodplain conservation easements. **(16 U.S.C. §1003a)**	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds that other non-USDA federal funding provided for a project would be considered part of the nonfederal share of the project cost. **(§2801(d))**
Works of improvement. Works of improvement under the Watershed Operations program include flood prevention (both structural and land treatment measures) and water and land utilization projects with specific size limits. No appropriations are to be provided for projects that need an estimated federal contribution of more than $25 million for construction or include a storage structure with a capacity in excess of 2,500 acre-feet, unless the plan is approved by the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[0] No appropriations are to be provided for a projects with a single structure with a capacity in excess of 4,000 acre-feet, unless the plan	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Moves and restructures the congressional approval requirement to include a requirement that no funds be provided for works of improvement involving a federal contribution over $50 million or including any structure that provides more than 2,500 acre-feet of total capacity unless approved by resolution adopted by certain congressional committees—specifically the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] for plans involving a structure with less than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and

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(including the plan for the structure) is approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. **(16 U.S.C. §1002)**		Infrastructure for plans involving a structure with more than 4,000 acre-feet of total capacity. **(§2801(f))**
No comparable provision	No comparable provision.	**Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.** Adds a requirement that USDA, in collaboration with NRCS state conservationists and project participants, review and update the engineering standards and requirements used for projects. **(§2801(g))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Emergency conservation programs.** Adds a new provision allowing users (through permit or lease) of federal, state, and local lands to conduct permanent and temporary improvements on the land using ECP. Waives public comment periods and allows for the acceptance of certain environmental reviews on federal land. **(§2802(b))**
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). EFRP provides cost-share assistance to private forest land owners to repair and rehabilitate damage caused by a natural disaster, such as wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, or floods, on nonindustrial private forest lands. **(16 U.S.C. §2206)**	No comparable provision.	**Emergency conservation programs.** Expands EFRP land eligibility to include federal, state, and local lands. Expands the types of eligible assistance to include water for grazing livestock and affected structures. Waives public comment period and allows for the acceptance of certain environmental reviews on federal land conducted by approved qualified contractors under certain circumstances. **(§2802(d))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Natural resources conservation service initiative.** Requires NRCS to create an initiative on white oak. **(§2806)**
Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), CRP funding. Provides a total of $12 million for forest management thinning payments and a total of $50 million for transition contracts in mandatory CCC funding for FY2019-FY2023. Limits total funding for CRP by enrolled acres, not total dollars. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(a)(1))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Reauthorizes mandatory funding authority for forest management payments and transition contracts through FY2031. **(§2501(a)(1))**	**Funding.** Does not reauthorize mandatory funding authority for forest management payments and transition contracts. Adds $100 million annually in mandatory CCC funding for FY2027-FY2031 for CRP grazing and water infrastructure cost-share payments on land not enrolled in a CRP grassland contract. **(§2401(1))**

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EQIP funding. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $2.655 billion for FY2026, $2.855 billion for FY2027, and $3.255 billion annually for FY2028-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(a)(3)(A))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Reduces the mandatory CCC funding authority for EQIP to $2.53 billion in FY2027, $2.73 billion in FY2028, $3.13 billion in FY2029, $3.175 billion in FY2030, and $3.255 billion in FY2031. **(§2501(a)(2))**	**Funding.** Reduces the mandatory CCC funding authority for EQIP to $2.5 billion in FY2027, $2.6 billion in FY2028, $2.7 billion in FY2029, $2.9 billion in FY2030, and $3.255 billion in FY2031. **(§2401(2)(A))**
No directly comparable provision. Authorizes appropriations for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP) of $12 million annually through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §6578; P.L. 119-37)**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Provides mandatory CCC funding for a new Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) of $25 million in FY2027, $50 million annually for FY2028-FY2030, and $65 million in FY2031. **(§2501(a)(3))**	**Funding.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2401(3))**
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $425 million for FY2026 and $450 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3871d(a))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Moves funding authority for RCPP from within the program and provides mandatory CCC funding of $450 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. **(§2501(a)(3))**	No comparable provision.
Regional equity. Requires regional equity through proportional distribution of conservation program funds based on historical funding levels. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(e))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Excludes FCEP from regional equity requirements. **(§2501(b))**	**Forest Conservation Easement Program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2701(b)(4))**
Acceptance and use of contributions for public-private partnerships. Requires USDA to establish contribution accounts for public-private partnership projects to address natural resource priorities (e.g., climate change and carbon sequestration). Contributed funds are used to leverage existing funds for certain conservation programs (e.g., EQIP, CSP, ACEP, RCPP). Requires annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] through FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(f))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Amends eligible programs to include FCEP. **(§2501(c))**	No comparable provision.
Report on program enrollments and assistance. Requires annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] through FY2026, on program enrollments and assistance under conservation programs, including significant payments, waivers, and exceptions. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(i); P.L. 119-37)**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Reauthorizes the annual report requirements through FY2031. **(§2501(d))**	No comparable provision.

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Conservation standards and requirements. Requires that NRCS serve as the lead USDA agency for developing and establishing technical standards, including standards for conservation practices, and requirements for conservation programs. Requires technical standards used by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to be consistent with those developed by NRCS. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(j))**	**Commodity Credit Corporation.** Adds a requirement that USDA provide a technical standard for composting. Defines *composting* as an activity to produce compost from organic waste that is used and managed on a farm. Requires consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency on whether nearby community contribution of organic waste would result in a net reduction of GHG emissions. **(§2501(e))**	**Conservation standards and requirements.** Adds that NRCS is also the lead USDA agency for scheduling revisions to existing standards and establishing new standards. **(§2402)**
Delivery of technical assistance. Requires USDA to provide all producers participating in conservation programs technical assistance, either by USDA or through an approved third-party provider. **(16 U.S.C. §3842(a))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Adds definitions for *nonfederal certifying entity* and *farmer-to-farmer network.* Defines nonfederal certifying entity as a nonfederal entity, Indian Tribe, or state agency that is approved by USDA to certify third-party technical service providers. Defines famer-to-farmer network as an association of farmers sharing technical assistance, information, or related support. **(§2502(a))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2404(1))**
Certification of third-party providers. Technical Service Providers (TSPs), as labeled by USDA, are third-party providers (individuals or businesses) that have technical expertise in conservation planning and design for a variety of conservation activities. Farmers, ranchers, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies hire TSPs to provide these services on behalf of NRCS. NRCS certifies and approves TSPs through a certification process. **(16 U.S.C. §3842(e))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Expands TSP definition to specifically include commercial and nonprofit entities, state and local governments, and federal agencies. Amends the certification process to allow for other nonfederal certifying entities to approve TSPs. Adds requirements, including application deadlines for nonfederal certifying entities. **(§2502(d))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Similar to the House provisions, including expansion of TSP definition, allowance of other nonfederal certifying entities to approve TSPs, and additional requirements for nonfederal certifying entities' applications, duties, and deadlines. **(§§2404(2)-(4))**
Administration. Allows USDA to use mandatory funding authorized for CRP, ACEP, EQIP, and CSP to fund TSPs. Establishes terms of agreements with TSPs and requires a review of TSP certification requirements. Requires payments to TSPs to be based on fair and reasonable amounts. **(16 U.S.C. §3842(f))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Expands the use of mandatory funding to include all USDA conservation programs. Requires additional review of TSP certification requirements and adjustments for increased use, outreach, and quality of TSP services. Amends payment rates to be equal to, but not exceed, the cost of USDA providing technical assistance. Adds additional payment considerations for specialized equipment and services. Excludes	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Amends required review of TSP certification requirements to occur within one year of enactment. Adds a review requirement to conduct outreach and receive input from TSPs. **(§2404(5))**

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	TSP payments from any cost-share requirements under applicable conservation programs. Requires TSP information to be made public. Requires USDA to emphasize TSP use for planning relating to cover crops, precision agriculture practices, and comprehensive nutrient management. Allows mandatory funding to be used to fund farmer-to-farmer networks. **(§2502(e))**	
Review of conservation practice standards. Requires USDA to complete a review of conservation practice standards. Expands consultation requirements to include input from state technical committees. Requires USDA to develop an administrative process to expedite revisions of conservation practice standards, to consider scientific and technological advancements, to provide local flexibility in the creation of interim practice standards and partner-proposed techniques, and to solicit input from state technical committees. Requires a report to Congress every two years on the process and the revisions and innovations considered under the process. **(16 U.S.C. §3842(h))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Renames the section heading to "Establishment and Review." Reauthorizes required review of conservation practice standards and requires additional reviews at least every five years. Requires the evaluation of new and innovative technologies that provide equivalent or improved natural resource benefits compared with existing standards. Requires public input and reporting of the final decisions. Creates a new process for establishing interim and new conservation practice standards, including development of a streamlined process, consideration of public input, public reporting requirements, and required reports to Congress. Prioritizes review for innovative technologies, such as precision agriculture technologies, biological fertilizers, and perennial production systems. Establishes a new Office of Conservation Innovation within NRCS that would require the detailing of up to six staff to support and carry out the conservation practice standard review and revision processes. Requires the creation of a composting practice standard. **(§2502(f))**	**Establishment and review of conservation practice standards.** Similar to the House provision, including the heading change, reauthorization of reviews every five years, required evaluation of new and innovative technology, prioritization of review for innovative technologies, and required reports to Congress. Differences from the House version include the establishment of conservation practice standard requirements and considerations for local flexibility. Requires more detailed public information reporting. Does not include the House creation of an Office of Conservation Innovation. **(§2403)**
No comparable provision.	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Provides USDA with direct hire authority to appoint individuals to positions that provide technical assistance to NRCS conservation programs. Allows appointments to be made without regard to federal hiring preferences, standards, and ranking requirements. Maintains requirements for Selective Service	No comparable provision.

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	registration and prohibition on the consideration of recommendations of Senators and Representatives. Requires applicants to meet qualifications relating to the provision of technical assistance and standards established by the Office of Personnel Management. **(§2502(g))**	
No comparable provision.	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Requires USDA to support nonstructural methods of livestock control (e.g., virtual fence) and other practices to support wildlife habitat connectivity. **(§2502(h))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Creates a provision allowing USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities, such as nonprofits, Indian Tribes, local governments, institutes of higher education, states, and farmer-to-farmer networks, to build capacity and support for farmer-to-farmer networks. Priority is given for entities that would work with historically underserved and limited-resource producer groups or in high poverty areas. Entities would be required to complete certain actions, such as facilitating access to farmer-to-farmer networks and mentoring resources, coordinating training, supporting other farmer-to-farmer networks, or issuing subawards to increase farmer-to-farmer assistance. Requires USDA to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[0] **(§2502(i))**	**Delivery of technical assistance.** Similar to the House provision, including the cooperative agreement creation, priority, entity requirements, and reporting requirements. Different from the House-passed bill in that it includes authorization of the use of funds appropriated for NRCS conservation technical assistance to carry out cooperative agreements. **(§2404(6))**
Acreage limitations. Establishes that no county may enroll more than 25% of cropland into CRP or wetland reserve easements under ACEP. Allows not more than 15% of a county to be enrolled as a wetland reserve easement under ACEP. Permits USDA to waive this limitation in some situations. **(16 U.S.C. §3844(f))**	**Administrative requirements for conservation programs.** Deletes the limit that not more than 15% of a county may be enrolled as a wetland reserve easement under ACEP. **(§2503(b))**	**Administrative requirements for conservation programs.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2405)**

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Review and guidance of practice costs and payment rates. Requires USDA to review and issue guidance on the cost effectiveness of cost-share rates and payment rates for all farm bill conservation programs. Requires USDA to issue guidance to states for an annual review and adjustment of rates. **(16 U.S.C. §3844(j))**	**Administrative requirements for conservation programs.** Requires an annual review of the actual practice costs by state and the payment rates under all farm bill conservation programs. Requires USDA to establish procedures for updating payment rates to reflect practice costs at the time of practice implementation. **(§2503(c))**	No comparable provision.
Source water protection through targeting of agricultural practices. Requires USDA to encourage conservation practices relating to water quality and quantity that protect source waters used for drinking water through all farm bill conservation programs. Allows producers to receive incentives and increased payment rates (up to 90% of cost) for such practices. Requires USDA to collaborate with community water systems and NRCS state technical committees to identify local priority areas. Requires 10% of all annual funding for conservation programs (except CRP) to be used for water protection practices for FY2019-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3844(n))**	**Administrative requirements for conservation programs.** Requires USDA to identify a source water protection coordinator for each state. Requires an annual public report that includes program and funding information, including an interactive map with aggregated data. **(§2503(d))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Administrative requirements for conservation programs.** Allows USDA to encourage the use of conservation practices that support the development, restoration, and maintenance of habitat connectivity and wildlife corridors. **(§2503(e))**	No comparable provision.
CSP funding. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $1.3 billion for FY2026, $1.325 billion for FY2027, $1.35 billion annually for FY2028, $1.375 billion annually for FY2029-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3841(a)(3)(B))**	No comparable provision.	**Funding.** Reduces the mandatory CCC funding authority for CSP to $1.275 billion in FY2027, $1.3 billion in FY2028, and $1.325 billion annually in FY2029-FY2031. **(§2401(2)(b))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Temporary administration of conservation programs.** Allows USDA to carry out CRP, EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and RCPP using regulations and policies in effect before enactment, consistent with amendments made in the bill. This authority is to terminate 270 days

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		after enactment, upon which time USDA is required to carry out the programs in accordance with final regulations. **(§2406)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Prohibition on conservation payments benefiting foreign countries of concern.** Allows USDA to prohibit conservation program payments if they would benefit an entity or company that is headquartered in, owned by, or is the government of a foreign country of concern, as defined in 14 U.S.C. §19221(a). **(§2407)**
Definitions. Defines seven terms under ACEP. Defines *buy-protect-sell transaction* to allow land owned by an eligible entity to be eligible for the program, subject to the transfer of ownership to a farmer or rancher within three years following the acquisition of the agricultural land easement (ALE). Defines *eligible land* for an ALE as land that has a pending offer from an eligible entity or is a buy-protect-sell transaction. **(16 U.S.C. §3865a)**	**Agricultural land easements.** Deletes the definition of *buy-protect-sell transaction*. **(§2601)**	**Definitions.** Amends the definition of *buy-protect-sell transaction* to include one or more eligible entities. Does not allow for the eligible entity to hold both the ALE and have ownership of the land subject to the easement. Amends the definition of *eligible land* for an ALE to allow land owned by an eligible entity to be eligible for the program, subject to the transfer of ownership to a farmer or rancher prior to or upon the acquisition of the ALE. **(§2501)**
Availability of assistance. Provides ACEP funds for the purchase of ALEs by eligible entities, for technical assistance to implement the program, and to develop an ALE plan and for buy-protect-sell transactions. **(16 U.S.C. §3865b(a))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Deletes buy-protect-sell transactions as eligible for funding. **(§2602(a))**	No comparable provision.
Cost-share assistance. Limits the federal share of an ALE to 50% of the fair market value of the easement. Requires ALE eligible entities to provide contributions that are at least equivalent to the federal share. Allows grasslands of special environmental significance up to 75% of the fair market value for the federal share. The nonfederal portion used by the eligible entity can be cash, landowner donations, costs associated with the easement, or other costs determined by USDA. **(16 U.S.C. §§3865b(b)(1) and (b)(2))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Limits the federal share of an ALE to 65% of the fair market value of the easement. Creates a new exception in the case of a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who holds at least 50% ownership interest; the federal share may be up to 90% of the fair market value of the easement. Requires the nonfederal portion to cover the remainder in value of the easement. Adds a low cost-share option that reduces the federal share of an ALE to 25% of the fair market value of the easement if the agreement does not include a right of enforcement for USDA. Under the low cost-share option, allows the eligible	**Agricultural land easements.** Similar to the House provisions, including the addition of a low cost-share option and related allowances and requirements for the low cost-share option. Differences from the House version include an increase to the limit for the federal share of an ALE to 60% of the fair market value of the easement. Increases the federal share allowance for grasslands of special environmental significance to 80% of the fair market value of the easement and adds that eligible entities must pay the remainder of the fair market value of the easement not covered by USDA. **(§2502(1))**

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	entity to use its own terms and conditions for the ALE if USDA determines they are consistent with the purposes of the programs and permit effective enforcement. Requires entities using the low cost-share option to provide at least 50% of the fair market value of the ALE in cash. **(§2602(b)(1))**	
Evaluation and ranking of applications. Requires the evaluation and ranking criteria for ALE applications to maximize the benefit of federal investment under ACEP. **(16 U.S.C. §3865b(b)(3))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Adds a new provision allowing USDA to pool applications from socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and consider them separately from other ALE applications. **(§2602(b)(2))**	No comparable provision.
Agreements with eligible entities. ACEP ALE enrollment is through eligible entities that enter into cooperative agreements of three to five years in length with USDA. The entities acquire easements and hold, monitor, manage, and enforce the easements. Entities may use their own terms and conditions for ALEs if USDA determines they are consistent with the purpose of the program, permit effective enforcement, and include a right of enforcement for USDA. **(16 U.S.C. §3865b(b)(4))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Requires eligible entities' terms and conditions to include a right for USDA to require transfer of the easement if the eligible entity ceases to exist or is no longer eligible for ACEP. **(§2602(b)(3))**	No comparable provision.
Certification of eligible entities. Requires USDA to establish a process for certifying eligible entities with specified criteria. Land trusts accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission with more than 10 successful ALEs under ACEP or other easement programs and state agencies with more than 10 successful ALEs under ACEP or other easement programs may be considered certified under ACEP if they meet program responsibilities. Requires USDA to review eligible entities every 3 years. Allows USDA to revoke certifications if found ineligible after review and a 180-day grace period to correct actions. **(16 U.S.C. §3865b(b)(5))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Amends the certification process in order to minimize administrative burdens on USDA and to recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to administer easements with minimal USDA oversight. Lowers the threshold for certification to 5 successful ALEs under ACEP for both land trusts and states. Expands certification eligibility considerations to entities that are not land trusts or states but have more than 10 successful ALEs under ACEP or other easement programs. Requires annual quality review of a sample set of eligible entities. **(§2602(b)(4))**	**Agricultural land easements.** Amends the stated purpose of the certification process to be an effort to minimize administrative burdens on USDA and recognize the ability of experienced eligible entities to administer easements with minimal USDA oversight. Adds an expedited certification process for public entities and accredited land trusts. Adds that certification under ACEP applies to partnerships established under RCPP. Adds de minimis adjustments to be included in the required USDA review of eligible entities every 3 years. **(§2502(2))**

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Availability of assistance. Permits ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements (WREs) to enroll land to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through 30-year easements, permanent easements, or 30-year contracts for Indian Tribes. **(16 U.S.C. §3865c(b)(1))**	**Wetland reserve easements.** Expands eligibility of 30-year contracts to include socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers. **(§2603(a)(1))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Wetland reserve easements.** Allows USDA to evaluate and rank applications from socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers separately from other applications. **(§2603(a)(2))**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Wetland reserve easements.** Requires USDA to provide funding for repair, maintenance, and enhancement activities on existing WREs in accordance with a WRE plan. Prioritizes identified maintenance and management needs. Limits payments to 100% of the cost of the practice. Requires USDA to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] within two years of enactment on funds required and used under this provision. **(§2603(c))**	**Wetland reserve easements.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2503(5))**
Technical assistance. USDA may use contracts with private entities or agreements with states, nongovernmental organizations, or Indian Tribes to carry out restoration, enhancement, or maintenance of WREs. **(16 U.S.C. §3865c(d))**	**Wetland reserve easements.** Renames subsection. Expands eligibility to federal and local agencies. Adds repair, assessment, and monitoring to the actions that could be carried out through a contract or agreement. **(§2603(d))**	**Wetland reserve easements.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2503(5))**
Wetland reserve enhancement option. Authorizes USDA to conduct a WRE option (referred to as the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Partnership, WREP) that uses agreements with states to leverage funds for high-priority wetlands projects. **(16 U.S.C. §3865c(e))**	**Wetland reserve easements.** Requires at least 15% of funds available to carry out ACEP WREs to be used for WREP. **(§2603(e))**	No comparable provision.
Modification and exchange. Allows USDA to modify or exchange any ACEP easement if no reasonable alternative exists and the modification or exchange (1) results in a greater or equivalent conservation value, (2) results in a greater or equivalent economic value to the United States, (3) is	**Administration.** Separates the modification and exchange requirements into separate provisions. For modifications, removes the authority to modify an ACEP easement if no reasonable alternative exists and replaces it with a requirement that the modification supports the long-term	No comparable provision.

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consistent with the original intent of the easement and purposes of ACEP, and (4) is in the public interest and furthers the practical administration of ACEP. USDA may not increase payments because of modifications or exchanges. **(16 U.S.C. §3865d(c)(2))**	agricultural viability of the farm and conservation values of the easement. Removes the allowance for the modification based on creating a greater or equivalent economic value to the United States. Allows modifications of an easement to make corrections, exercise reserved rights, and make changes based on water availability. Amends the limitation on increased payments if the modification would add acres to the easement. Adds that ACEP modifications are not to be considered major federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Exchange requirements remain unchanged as a separate provision. **(§2604(a)(1))**	
No comparable provision.	**Administration.** Allows de minimis adjustments of ACEP easements if they further the practical administration of the programs and are not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination. Defines *de minimis adjustments* to include typographical errors, minor changes in legal descriptions due to mapping errors, transfers of interest between eligible entities, changes to building envelope boundaries, access relocations, temporary work areas, and other adjustments determined appropriate by USDA. Allows eligible entities to modify terms and conditions if they do not conflict with the required minimum terms and conditions. **(§2604(a)(2))**	**Administration.** Allows de minimis adjustments of ACEP easements if they increase conservation values or have limited to no negative effect on conservation values; are in the public interest or further the practical administration of the programs; and are not a subordination, modification, exchange, or termination. Eligible entities may be allowed to make de minimis adjustments if they would increase conservation values or have limited to no negative effect on conservation values, are consistent with the program purpose and further the practical administration of the program, are not made to resolve a violation, and are not made on easements co-held by the United States. Defines *de minimis adjustments* to include title corrections, typographical errors, minor changes in legal descriptions due to mapping errors, changes to building envelope boundaries, and easement access relocations. Eligible entities must report de minimis adjustments within 30 days or risk loss of certification or other remedies. **(§2504)**

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Limitation. Limits eligibility for various USDA programs (including ACEP) to persons and legal entities whose average adjusted gross income (AGI) is no more than $900,000. **(7 U.S.C. §1308-3a(b)(1))**	**Administration.** Exempts ACEP from AGI limits and removes any income derived from ACEP from being included in the AGI calculation. **(§2604(b))**	**Adjusted gross income limitation.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2505)**
No directly comparable provision. The purpose of ACEP ALEs is to protect agricultural use and future viability by limiting nonagricultural uses. **(16 U.S.C. §3865(b)(3))** HFRP assists private and tribal landowners in restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems for the purposes of species recovery, biodiversity improvement, and carbon sequestration enhancement as outlined in restoration plans. **(16 U.S.C. §6571)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Creates a forest conservation easement program that funds two types of easements: forest land easements and forest reserve easements. Forest land easements are similar to ALEs under ACEP. Forest reserve easements are similar to easements under HFRP, which would be repealed on enactment. Authorizes FCEP to acquire easements for the purpose of protecting the sustainability of forest lands by limiting non-forest land uses, protecting and enhancing forest ecosystems and species habitats, and carrying out the purposes of HFRP prior to repeal. **(§2701)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2701)**
No directly comparable provision. HFRP defines *acreage owned by Indian tribes* as land held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indian Tribes or tribal members; land held by Indian Tribes or individual Indians subject to federal restrictions; land subject to rights of use, occupancy, and benefit of certain Indian Tribes; land held in fee title by an Indian Tribe; land owned by a native corporation formed under §17 of the Indian Reorganization Act (25 U.S.C. §5124) or §8 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. §1607); or any combination thereof. **(16 U.S.C. §6572(e)(2)(A))**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Defines terms used by FCEP, including *Acreage owned by an Indian tribe*, which repeats the definition used under HFRP; *Eligible entity* means an "agency of state or local government," Indian Tribe, or eligible organization; *Eligible land* means private forest land or "acreage owned by an Indian Tribe" that, if enrolled in either a forest land easement or forest reserve easement, would protect forest use and species habitat; *Forest land easement* means an easement that protects forest land use while maintaining working forest production, in accordance with a forest management plan; *Forest management plan* means a "forest stewardship plan" or other plan developed by a third party or state forestry agency, as appropriate; *Forest reserve easement* means an easement that protects forest land use while maintaining working	**Forest conservation easement program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2701)**

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	forest production, in accordance with a forest reserve easement plan; *Program* means FCEP; and *Socially disadvantaged forest landowner* means a forest landowner who is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. **(§2701)**	
No directly comparable provision. ACEP ALEs provide for the purchase of conservation easements through eligible entities by limiting the land's nonagricultural uses. The federal cost may not exceed 50% of the fair market value of the easement. Grasslands of special environmental significance are allowed up to 75% of the fair market value for the federal share. Fair market value is determined through approved industry methods. The nonfederal portion can be cash, landowner donations, costs associated with the easement, or other costs determined by USDA. Requires the evaluation and ranking criteria for ALE applications to maximize the benefit of federal investment under ACEP. USDA must enter into agreements with eligible entities that have the authority and resources to enforce easements, polices, and procedures. Agreements with noncertified entities are three to five years in length, and they may use their own terms and conditions on approval. Substitution of qualified projects may be made if mutually agreed on. If an eligible entity violates the terms of the agreement, USDA may terminate the agreement and require a refund of any payments, plus interest. USDA must follow a certification process for eligible entities, including a periodic review. ALEs must be permanent or the maximum duration under state law. USDA may provide technical assistance on request. **(16 U.S.C. §3865b)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Authorizes FCEP to purchase forest land easements, support development of a forest management plan, and support technical assistance to implement the program. These new forest land easements are similar to ALEs under ACEP. Limits the federal share of an easement to 50% of the fair market value or up to 75% of fair market value if it is owned by a socially disadvantaged forest landowner or is of special environmental significance. Sets requirements for the nonfederal portion used by the eligible entity and the fair market value determination methods to be similar to ACEP. Requires USDA to rank applications to maximize federal investment, with priority given to easements that would maintain working forest land and land with an existing forest management plan. Allows eligible entities to enter into cooperative agreements of three to five years in length with USDA. Requires the entities to hold, monitor, manage, and enforce the easements. Allows entities to use their own terms and conditions that are determined by USDA to be consistent with the purpose of the program, permit effective enforcement, include a forest management plan, limit impervious surfaces, and include a right of enforcement for USDA. Additional permitted terms and conditions are allowed if they are intended to keep land in active forest management, allow mineral development in accordance with state law, and include other	**Forest conservation easement program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2701)**

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	relevant activities relating to the easement. Substitution and violation provisions are identical to ACEP. Allows forest management plans to be a reimbursable cost. Includes the same duration and technical assistance requirements as ALEs. **(§2701)**	
No directly comparable provision. HFRP enrolls acres using 10-year agreements, 30-year easements, and permanent easements. Provides first priority to endangered or threatened species listed under the Endangered Species Act, as amended (ESA, 16 U.S.C. §1533), and second priority to candidate species for listing under ESA, state-listed species, special concern species, or species in greatest conservation need. **(16 U.S.C. §6572(f))** Land enrolled in HFRP is subject to a restoration plan that includes practices that are necessary to restore and enhance species' habitats. **(16 U.S.C. §6573)** Payment for a permanent easement under HFRP is 75%-100% of the fair market value of the land before the easement, less the value after the easement. Cost-share payment for practices implemented is 100%. For 30-year easements, payment is 75% of the value of the easement and 75% of the practice costs. For 10-year agreements, payments are 50% of the lesser of the actual cost or average cost of the practices. **(16 U.S.C. §6574)** Requires USDA to provide technical assistance to landowners either directly or through third parties. **(16 U.S.C. §6575)** Land enrolled in HFRP may qualify for "safe harbor" protections if the land results in a net benefit for listed, candidate, or other species under ESA. **(16 U.S.C. §6576)** Allows USDA to consult with other federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and nonindustrial private forest landowners under HFRP. **(16 U.S.C. §6577)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Authorizes 30-year and permanent (or maximum duration under state law) forest reserve easements and 30-year contracts (Indian Tribes only). Forest reserve easements are similar to easements under HFRP, which would be repealed on enactment (**§2702**). Limits 30-year easements to 10% of funds. Priority is nearly identical to that of HFRP. Requires easement terms to be consistent with the purpose of the program, and additional terms may be added at the landowner's request. Payment for a permanent easement is similar to HFRP but at 100% of the fair market value. All nonpermanent easement payments are 50%-75% of the payment rate for a permanent easement. Forest reserve easement plans are similar to HFRP restoration plans. Cost-share for practices is 100% for permanent easements and 50%-75% for all other easements and contracts. Technical assistance requirements and safe harbor protections are similar to HFRP. Allows USDA to delegate management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities for easements to qualified federal or state agencies. Allows USDA to consult with agencies and organizations similar to those identified under HFRP. **(§2701)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2701)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No directly comparable provision. ACEP administration requirements outline ineligible land; application ranking priority; and requirements for subordination, exchange, modification, termination, and how land enrolled in other programs is to be handled. Ineligible land includes land owned by the United States (not held in trust for Indian Tribes), states, or local governments. The land may not be eligible if it currently has a similar easement or protection in place or where the easement could be undermined by other conditions (e.g., hazardous substances, rights of way). Prioritizes expiring CRP acres for ACEP easements. USDA may subordinate, exchange, modify, or terminate easements. Land enrolled in CRP may be modified or terminated if enrolled in ACEP. Land enrolled in previously repealed programs is considered enrolled in ACEP. **(16 U.S.C. §3865d)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Defines *ineligible land* similarly as under ACEP. Allows USDA to subordinate, exchange, modify, or terminate easements in a manner similar to amendments made to ACEP requirements. Land enrolled in HFRP prior to repeal is considered enrolled in FCEP. **(§2701)**	**Forest conservation easement program.** Similar to the House provisions, including the definition of *ineligible land*; allowances of subordination, exchanges, modification, or termination of easements; and treatment of land enrolled in HFRP. Includes a prohibition on limiting land eligibility—except when land is owned by a foreign entity or individual—on the basis of acreage size, type of private forest landownership, or presence of severed mineral rights. Does not require direct attribution of funds for payment limit purposes. **(§2701)**
Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP). HFRP assists private and tribal landowners in restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems for the purposes of species recovery, biodiversity improvement, and carbon sequestration enhancement as outlined in restoration plans. **(16 U.S.C. §§6571 et seq.)**	**Healthy forests reserve program.** Repeals HFRP with transitional provisions for existing contracts to remain in effect for the term of the contract using previously available funds or funds available under FCEP. **(§2702)**	**Healthy forests reserve program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§2702)**
Establishment and purpose. The purpose of RCPP is to address resource concerns relating to soil, water, wildlife, and agricultural land on a regional and watershed scale through grant agreements with eligible partners. **(16 U.S.C. §3871(b)(2))**	**Establishment and purposes.** Adds the prevention of flooding and drought mitigation to the list of resource concerns eligible for RCPP. **(§2801)**	**Establishment and purposes.** Identical to the House provision. **(§2601)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Definitions. Defines seven terms under RCPP, including *covered program, eligible activity, eligible land, eligible partner, partnership agreement, program,* and *program contract*. *Covered program* includes ACEP, EQIP, CSP, HFRP, CRP, and Watershed Operations. *Eligible partner* is defined as producer groups, state or local governments, Indian Tribes, farmer cooperatives, water district, irrigation district, rural water district or association, municipal water or waste treatment entity, institutes of higher education, and other nongovernmental entity or organizations with a history of working with producers on conservation projects. **(16 U.S.C. §3871a(1))**	**Definitions.** Deletes HFRP from the list of "covered programs" and adds FCEP. **(§2802)**	**Definitions.** Amends the definition of *eligible partner* to include agricultural retailers. Deletes HFRP from the list of covered programs and adds FCEP and EWP. **(§2602; §2603; §2702(c)(2))**
Partnership agreements authorized. Authorizes USDA to enter into partnership agreements with eligible partners to carry out approved projects. **(16 U.S.C. §3871b(a))**	**Regional conservation partnerships.** Requires partnership agreements to be entered into within 180 days after selection. Limits the information required in the agreement. Requires information on waiver process be made available. **(§2803(a))**	**Regional conservation partnerships.** Requires partnership agreements to be entered into within 180 days after selection. Limits the information required in the agreement. **(§2604(1))**
Duties of the Secretary. Requires USDA to establish program implementation timelines, identify state coordinators, provide assistance to partners, and ensure that activities achieve identified benefits. **(16 U.S.C. §3871b(d))**	**Regional conservation partnerships.** Requires payments to be made to eligible partners within 30 days of request. **(§2803(b))**	**Regional conservation partnerships.** Removes USDA reporting requirements to partners. **(§2604(3))**
Duties of eligible partners. Allows USDA to enter into funding agreements directly with partners. Requires activities through these agreements to be carried out on a regional or watershed scale; activities include infrastructure investment, restoration plan coordination with producers, innovative leveraging of federal and private funds, or other projects determined by USDA. Requires annual reports. **(16 U.S.C. §3871c(d)(3))**	**Assistance to producers.** Requires that under a funding agreement, at least 50% of the overall costs of the projects must be directly funded by the partner rather than as in-kind or a combination of in-kind and direct funding. **(§2804)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Availability of funds and duration of availability. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $425 million for FY2026 and $450 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. **(16 U.S.C. §3871d(a))**	**Funding.** Deletes provision and makes conforming amendments, with funding language for FY2027-FY2031 being moved to an earlier section with no change in funding levels. **(§2805(a))**	No comparable provision.
Limits on administrative expenses and technical assistance. Excludes administrative expenses of eligible partners from coverage. Allows advanced funding for outreach activities and project development. Advanced funding for partners is to be used within 90 days. Requires USDA to limit costs associated with providing technical assistance with the program, publicly reporting technical assistance costs, and encouraging the use of third-party assistance providers. **(16 U.S.C. §§3871d(d), (e))**	**Funding.** Allows up to 10% of funds available for a project to be used to reimburse administrative expenses of the partner. Allows non-reimbursed expenses to count toward the partner's required contribution. Removes the time limit for advanced funding. Requires USDA to provide a simplified process for fund reimbursement and advancement. **(§§2805(b), (c))**	**Funding.** Limits any single project from receiving more than $15 million from the program. Allows program funds to cover indirect costs for administrative expenses of the partner at a rate of 15% of the project cost if negotiated or 10% of the project cost if not negotiated. Prohibits USDA from requiring separate technical assistance agreements. Limits the cost of technical assistance provided by a partner to not more than 30% of the total cost of the project. **(§2606)**
Administration. Requires USDA to make information on selected projects publicly available. Requires a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] every two years on the status of projects funded. Prohibits USDA from providing assistance to producers out of compliance with highly erodible cropland and wetlands conservation requirements. Requires USDA to conduct outreach for historically underserved producers and issue regulations for RCPP. **(16 U.S.C. §3871e)**	**Administration.** Requires reports to Congress be made publicly available. Requires the terms and conditions of a program contract to be consistent with that of the covered program. Allows USDA to adjust regulatory requirements but not the application of statutory requirements for covered programs used in a partnership agreement. Allows USDA to waive selected ACEP land requirements and eligible entity certifications. Under EQIP, prohibits USDA from considering prior irrigation history when determining eligible land. Exempts terms and conditions for alternative funding agreements from consistency requirements. **(§2806)**	No comparable provision.
Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs). Requires USDA to use 50% of RCPP funds for partnership agreements in identified CCAs. Defines *priority resource concern* as a natural resource concern in a CCA that can be addressed through water quality and quantity improvement, wildlife habitat restoration, and other improvements determined by USDA. **(16 U.S.C. §3871f(a)(2))**	**Critical conservation areas.** Adds "wildlife connectivity" and "wildlife migration corridors" to the definition of *priority resource concern*. **(§2807(a))**	**Critical conservation areas.** Adds a definition for *native big game species* as a native large mammal, including wild deer, elk, pronghorn, wild sheep, and moose. Adds "wildlife connectivity" and "wildlife migration corridors" with a focus on "native big game species" to the definition of *priority resource concern*. **(§2607)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
CCA designations. USDA may establish up to eight CCAs at any one time. Designation may expire after five years, subject to redesignation. Areas are selected by USDA based on several criteria: multistate areas with significant agricultural production, those having an existing agreement or plan in place, those containing priority resource concerns, or those subject to regulatory requirements. **(16 U.S.C. §3871f(c))**	**Critical conservation areas.** Requires USDA to include the Columbia River Basin in the current Western Water CCA. **(§2807(c))**	No comparable provision.
Duties of partners. Requires that the eligible partner contribute a "significant portion" of the overall cost of the project. **(16 U.S.C. §3871b(c))**	No comparable provision.	**Regional conservation partnerships.** Adds that RCPP funding may be used to satisfy cost-match requirements under other non-USDA or nonfederal programs. **(§2604(2))**
Payments. Authorizes USDA to make payments to producers in accordance with the statutory requirements under covered programs. Five-year payments may be made for conversion to dryland farming and nutrient management. Adjusted gross income limits may be waived to fulfill the objectives of the program. **(16 U.S.C. §3871c(c))**	No comparable provision.	**Assistance to producers.** Adds an advance payment option for producers and partners. Advance payments must be expended within 90 days for producers or 120 days for partners or be returned. **(§2605)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title III, Trade[30]

The respective trade titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would address U.S. international food assistance and agricultural trade programs (**Table 6**). Under the farm bill authority, U.S. international food assistance is distributed through three main programs: (1) Food for Peace Title II Grants (FFP Title II), which provides emergency and nonemergency food assistance; (2) Food for Progress, which supports agricultural development; and (3) the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which procures food to be used in school programs and other feeding programs. Traditionally, these three programs have relied on U.S. agricultural commodities for their activities. Recent farm bills have added flexibility to purchase food in local markets or to directly transfer cash or vouchers to needy recipients. Currently, by statute, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) administers FFP Title II, and USDA administers the other two programs.[31]

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would reauthorize all international food aid programs. Both bills would move to USDA the responsibilities of USAID under the Food for Peace Act (FFPA; P.L. 83-480), as amended, including administration of FFP Title II grants. Both bills would require the use of at least 50% of available funds to procure U.S. agricultural commodities and related ocean transportation on U.S.-flag vessels and narrow FFPA Title II authorities to provide emergency food aid.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would extend authorities for several other FFPA and related international programs, including the Farmer-to-Farmer program, Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust, and Global Crop Diversity Trust through FY2031. The bill also would create the International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program.

Current U.S. agricultural export promotion programs include the Market Access Program (MAP), the Foreign Market Development (FMD) Cooperator Program, the E. (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program, and Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops.[32] These programs fall under the umbrella Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program (ATPFP) and are administered by USDA. H.R. 7567 would increase annual mandatory Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding for these programs for FY2027 to a total of $500 million (up from $255 million). The House-passed bill would then increase annual funding for these programs to $533 million annually from FY2028 through FY2031. S. 5526 would increase annual funding for ATPFP for FY2027 to $515 million and increase funding for FY2028 and each subsequent fiscal year to $533 million annually. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would authorize an FMD subprogram beginning in FY2027 to improve infrastructure to address issues relating to the loss or damage of U.S. agricultural exports in new and developing foreign markets. H.R. 7567 would reauthorize direct credits or export credit guarantees for agricultural exports to emerging markets of not less than $1 billion annually through FY2031. Both bills would repeal the prohibition of using MAP funding to assist mink trade associations and repeal a supplemental agricultural trade promotion program set under current law to be funded by mandatory CCC funding beginning in FY2027 at $285 million annually.

[30] This section was prepared by Benjamin Tsui, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[31] According to USDA, the agency currently administers Food for Peace Title II through an interagency agreement with the U.S. Agency for International Development. For more information about the status of U.S. international food assistance, see CRS In Focus IF13162, *U.S. International Food Assistance: A Primer*, by Rhoda Margesson et al..

[32] For more information about USDA's agricultural export promotion programs, see CRS In Focus IF12155, *Farm Bill Primer: Trade and Export Promotion Programs*, by Benjamin Tsui.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require USDA to define the term *common name* for agricultural products. The House-passed bill would require USDA, in coordination with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), to negotiate U.S. rights to use common names for agricultural products in foreign markets. The Senate-reported bill requires USDA to support USTR to secure U.S. rights and would not preclude USTR's ability to negotiate trade agreements if provisions related to common names are not included. Both bills would establish an interagency working group on the trade of seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables and an interagency task force for agricultural trade enforcement. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report that includes policy options for USDA to support the competitiveness of U.S. shrimp and seafood producers in domestic and global markets. In the House version, GAO is required to submit the report to the House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The Senate version requires GAO to submit the report to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Senate Committee on Finance; House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; and House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 7567 would require USDA and USTR to submit two distinct reports to the House Committee on Agriculture; House Committee on Ways and Means; House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee on Finance; and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. One report would discuss how potential changes or revocation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement would affect U.S. agricultural imports and exports.[33] The other report would discuss the effect of a change in U.S. tariff-rate quotas or other duties on fresh and frozen Argentinian beef imports on U.S. beef and cattle markets.[34]

S. 5526 would require USDA, in coordination with USTR and the U.S. International Trade Commission, to submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress analyzing the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural commodities in the domestic market. No later than 30 days after the release of the report to the public, USDA would be required to brief any classified information not in the public report to the House Committee on Agriculture; Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Senate Committee on Finance; and House Committee on Ways and Means.

[33] For more information about the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and its joint review process, see CRS Report R48787, *USMCA Joint Review: Process and Role of Congress*, by Kyla H. Kitamura and Danielle M. Trachtenberg and CRS Report R48964, *USMCA Joint Review: Background on Prior Negotiations and Selected Issues for Congress*, coordinated by Kyla H. Kitamura.

[34] On February 5, 2026, the United States and Argentina signed an Agreement on Reciprocal Trade and Investment. The U.S. tariff-rate quota for Argentinian beef imports for 2026 was increased by Presidential Proclamation 11010 of February 6, 2026, "Ensuring Affordable Beef for the American Consumer." For more information, see CRS Insight IN12687, *Argentine Beef Import Quota Expansion*, by Benjamin Tsui and Christine Whitt.

Table 6. Title III, Trade

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Titles II-IV of the Food for Peace Act (FFPA; P.L. 83-480), as amended. Under FFPA Title II, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) may provide agricultural commodities to meet emergency food needs and for nonemergency assistance. FFPA Title III authorizes USAID to implement a program for "least developed countries" that allows the sale of donated agricultural commodities. Revenue from sales may be used for economic development activities in the recipient countries. Title IV provisions consist of general authorities, requirements, and authorization of appropriations for FFPA programs. (**7 U.S.C. §§1721 et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**Transfer of authorities to the Secretary of Agriculture.** Replaces "Administrator" of USAID with Secretary of Agriculture in most cases and strikes out Administrator of USAID under provisions of FFPA Titles II-IV. On or after January 1, 2026, USAID's assets, liabilities, orders, determinations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, certificates, and licenses under FFPA are to be transferred to USDA. Authorizes any other authority or responsibility of USAID under FFPA to be exercised by USDA. References to USAID in related laws or regulations are deemed to refer to USDA. Requires USDA to promulgate or amend rules and regulations to complete the transfer of all functions and duties previously carried out by USAID. Requires USDA to consult with the U.S. Department of State (DOS) "from time to time" in carrying out FFPA. **(§3101)**	**Plan and transfer of functions of Food for Peace to Department of Agriculture**. States that the purpose of U.S. international food assistance programs is to respond to food security crises, support the growth of healthier and more stable societies with which the United States can engage "in enduring security, development, and trade partnerships" and eventually end the need for food assistance. Lists examples of how Food for Peace has been and remains critical to U.S. international food assistance. States U.S. policy is to be fully aligned with "the humanitarian, development, and economic growth programs" of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195), as amended. Requires USDA, in consultation with DOS, to submit a plan for the transfer of USAID FFPA authorities to USDA and reorganization USDA to the appropriate committees of Congress, including the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the House Committee on Appropriations no later than 180 days after enactment. Extends the interim interagency agreement between USDA and DOS until USDA submits the plan to the appropriate committees of Congress. The plan is to go into effect 15 days after USDA's submission to the appropriate committees of Congress. References to USAID in related laws or regulations are deemed to refer to USDA. Requires USDA to submit a report about administration of the FFPA to the appropriate committees of Congress no later than one year after enactment. Requires USDA in coordination with DOS to carry out FFPA Title II in support of the Global Food Security Strategy and disaster and humanitarian assistance programs. **(§3112)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Provision of agricultural commodities. Under FFPA Title II, USAID may provide agricultural commodities to meet emergency food needs through governments and public or private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations, "notwithstanding any other provisions of law." Authorizes USAID to provide agricultural commodities for nonemergency assistance through eligible organizations, including private voluntary organizations or cooperatives and intergovernmental organizations. Limits certain funding sources for assessing donated food quality characteristics and other activities to $4.5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1722; P.L. 119-37)**	**Food aid quality assurance.** Amends the notwithstanding clause for emergency assistance under FFPA Title II to apply only to other FFPA provisions. Amends USDA's authorization to provide nonemergency assistance to include assistance in the form of agricultural commodities. Adds nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) as eligible entities to receive nonemergency assistance. Requires at least 50% of the funds made available to USDA under FFPA Title II to be used to procure U.S. agricultural commodities and provide their ocean transportation. Extends annual funding limit at current levels through FY2031. **(§3102)**	**Food aid quality assurance.** Amends the notwithstanding clause for emergency assistance under FFPA Title II to apply only to other FFPA provisions. Amends USDA's authorization to provide nonemergency assistance to include assistance in the form of agricultural commodities through eligible organizations. Expands nonemergency food assistance activities funded under FFPA Title II to include support for access to fertilizer and fertilizer solutions and food resilience activities to prevent food insecurity. Adds NGOs to list of eligible entities to receive nonemergency assistance. Requires at least 50% of the funds made available to USDA under FFPA Title II to be used to procure U.S. agricultural commodities and provide for their ocean transportation. Replaces "agricultural commodities" with "assistance" in the subsection about ensuring the effective use and in the areas of greatest need of assistance under FFPA Title II. Extends annual funding limit at current levels through FY2031. Requires USDA, in coordination with DOS and in consultation with the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification System, the annual Hunger Hot Spots Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Research Service, and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network to determine countries eligible for Food for Peace after identifying countries and populations with the most acute food insecurity and greatest need for emergency and nonemergency food assistance from the United States. Requires USDA to consult and coordinate with DOS on disaster, humanitarian, and other food security programs regarding the previously mentioned identified countries. Requires USDA to use all mechanisms, including locally and regional produced food and market-based mechanisms, to respond to time-sensitive food crises. **(§3102)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Levels of assistance. Requires USAID to make at least 2.5 million metric tons of agricultural commodities available annually for food distribution, including at least 1.875 million metric tons for nonemergency food distribution through FY2026. Requires nonemergency food assistance to be at least 75% value-added commodities and requires at least 50% of bagged whole grain commodities to be bagged in the United States. Authorizes USAID to waive the abovementioned requirements. **(7 U.S.C. §1724; P.L. 119-37)**	**Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.** Repeals section. **(§3103)**	**Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.** Repeals section. **(§3103(a))**
Food Aid Consultative Group. Consists of the Administrator of USAID, the USDA Under Secretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs (TFAA), the Inspector General of USAID, organizations participating or receiving funds under FFPA Title II, foreign indigenous nongovernmental organizations, U.S. agricultural producer and processing groups, and the maritime transportation sector involved in FFPA programs. Terminates the group at the end of calendar year 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1725; P.L. 119-37)**	**Food Aid Consultative Group.** Replaces the Administrator of USAID with the Secretary of Agriculture and replaces USAID with USDA. Eliminates the membership role of the USDA TFAA Under Secretary. Adds the Secretary of State as a member. Extends the authority of the Food Aid Consultative Group through calendar year 2031. **(§3104)**	**Food Aid Consultative Group.** Extends the authority of the Food Aid Consultative Group through calendar year 2031. **(§3104)**
Administration. Requires USAID to issue all necessary regulations and revisions to agency guidelines regarding changes in the operation or implementation of programs under FFPA Title II no later than 270 days after the enactment of the 2018 farm bill. Authorizes USAID to use up to 1.5%, but not less than $17 million, of the funds available annually through FY2026 for FFPA Title II to implement program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation. Not more than $500,000 is available for information technology systems maintenance. Not more than $8 million annually through FY2026 may be used for early warning assessments and systems to help prevent famines. **(7 U.S.C. §1726a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.** Requires USDA to issue all necessary regulations and revisions to agency guidelines regarding changes in the operation or implementation of programs under FFPA Title II no later than 270 days after enactment. Strikes out references of USAID to consult with USDA to conform with changes from §3101. Extends funding requirements for program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation through FY2031. **(§3105)**	**Program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.** Extends funding requirements for program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation through FY2031. **(§3105)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
International food relief partnership. Authorizes USAID to provide grants to prepare, stockpile, and distribute shelf-stable prepackaged foods for needy individuals in foreign countries. In addition to other available funding, authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026, to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. §1726b; P.L. 119-37)**	**International food relief partnership.** Removes separate authorization of appropriations. In addition to other funds available to carry out this program, requires at least $15 million annually made available to USDA under FFPA Title II to be made available for this program from FY2027 through FY2031, to remain available until expended. **(§3106)**	**International food relief partnership.** Removes separate authorization of appropriations. In addition to other funds available to carry out this program, requires at least $15 million annually made available to USDA under FFPA Title II to be made available for this program from FY2027 through FY2031, to remain available until expended. **(§3106)**
Use of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). Lists the specific costs associated with acquiring and distributing commodities under FFPA Titles II and III that may be paid using CCC funds. **(7 U.S.C. §1736(b))**	**Use of Commodity Credit Corporation.** Authorizes the CCC to pay "all associated and incidental costs" of commodities available under FFPA Titles II and III. **(§3107)**	**Use of Commodity Credit Corporation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3107)**
Administrative provisions. Requires USAID to transfer, arrange transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities under FFPA Titles II and III. Authorizes USAID to use funds made available for FY2001-FY2026 to implement FFPA Titles II and III procurement, transportation, and storage of agricultural commodities for prepositioning. Limits funds to preposition commodities in foreign countries to $15 million annually through FY2026. Requires USAID and USDA annual international food assistance reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. **(7 U.S.C. §1736a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Prepositioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities.** Extends authority and funding requirements at current levels for prepositioning of agricultural commodities through FY2031. Makes changes to the required USDA annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Removes some specified topics and adds others. **(§3108)**	**Technical corrections and administrative provisions.** Amends subsection letterings and numberings for provisions in 7 U.S.C. §1736a that were amended in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-127; §216). Extends authority and funding requirements at current levels for prepositioning of agricultural commodities through FY2031. Makes changes to the required USAID and USDA annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Removes some specified topics and adds others. **(§3108(a)(2))**
Expiration date. Prohibits new agreements under FFPA to finance sales or to provide assistance after calendar year 2024. **(7 U.S.C. §1736b; P.L. 119-37)**	**Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.** Permits new agreements until the end of calendar year 2031. **(§3109)**	**Expiration date.** Identical to the House provision. **(§3109)**
Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance. Requires at least $365 million to be made available annually for nonemergency food assistance through FY2026. Limits funding for nonemergency food assistance to 30% of the total made available annually under FFPA Title II through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1736f; P.L. 119-37)**	**Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.** Extends minimum and maximum funding levels for FFPA Title II nonemergency food assistance through FY2031. Adds a new provision, "Minimum Levels of Funding to Address Child Wasting," requiring at least $200 million to be made available annually for the procurement of ready-to-use	**Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.** Extends minimum and maximum funding levels for FFPA Title II nonemergency food assistance from FY2027 through FY2031. **(§3110)**

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	therapeutic foods under certain circumstances. This funding is to be made available when the global child wasting rate is above 5% and annual funding for FFPA Title II is above $1.2 billion. **(§3110)**	
Micronutrient fortification programs. Requires USAID, in consultation with USDA, to establish programs to assist developing countries in correcting micronutrient dietary deficiencies and apply technologies and systems to ensure the quality, shelf life, bioavailability, and safety of fortified food aid. Terminates programs at the end of FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1736g-2; P.L. 119-37)**	**Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs.** Strikes out reference to USAID. Terminates programs at the end of FY2031. **(§3111)**	**Micronutrient fortification programs.** Terminates programs at the end of FY2031. **(§3111)**
John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) Program. Authorizes the F2F program to use individuals and groups from the U.S. agriculture sector to provide technical assistance to producers and farm organizations in qualifying countries to improve agricultural systems and to strengthen agricultural groups in those countries. **(7 U.S.C. §1737; P.L. 119-37)**	**John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program.** Extends authority and authorization of appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Replaces USAID with USDA to carry out the F2F program. **(§3112)**	**John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program.** Extends authority and authorization of appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§3113)**
No comparable provision.	**Food for Peace Act administration.** Authorizes USDA to use appropriated funds for the salaries and expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) under an appropriations act or any other provision of law to pay for the administrative expenses of USDA to implement FFPA from FY2026 through FY2031. For FY2026-FY2031, unexpended funds for the administrative expenses of USDA to implement FFPA at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over to the following fiscal year. **(§3113)**	No comparable provision.
United States policy. States U.S. policy to use its abundant agricultural productivity to promote U.S. foreign policy by enhancing the food security of the developing world by using agricultural commodities and local currencies accrued under FFPA. Lists U.S. policies to combat world hunger and malnutrition and their causes;	No comparable provision.	**United States policy.** Adds "child wasting" to list of U.S. policies to combat along with "world hunger, malnutrition … and their causes." **(§3101)**

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promote broad-based, equitable, and sustainable development, including agricultural development; expand international trade; foster and encourage the development of private enterprise and democratic participation in developing countries; and prevent conflicts. **(7 U.S.C. §1691(1); P.L. 119-37)**		
Agreements. Requires USDA or USAID entering agreements with foreign countries under FFPA Title I and III to consider the extent whether those recipient foreign countries are undertaking measures of economic development that improves "food security and agricultural development, alleviate poverty, and promote broad-based, equitable, and sustainable development." Mult-year agreements are allowed under FFPA Titles I and II and required under Title II. USDA or USAID may determine, as appropriate, to make assistance available on an annual basis for a recipient country or eligible organization if past performance of the country or organization meeting program objectives does not warrant a multi-year agreement; anticipated need of the country or organization for food aid does not extend beyond 1 year; or other circumstances determined by USDA or USAID, as appropriate, that indicate there is "only a need for a 1 year agreement." **(7 U.S.C. §1734; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Technical corrections and administrative provisions.** Amends the provision allowing other circumstances as determined by USDA or USAID, as appropriate, to provide assistance to a country or through an organization on an annual basis by changing "need for a 1 year agreement" to "need for a 1-year agreement." **(§3108(a)(1)(A))**
Assistance in furtherance of narcotics control objectives of United States. Prohibits local currencies made available under FFPA to be used to finance the production of agricultural commodities and products for export to compete with similar U.S. agricultural commodities and products in the world market if, as determined by the President, such competition would cause substantial injury to U.S. producers. Provides the President exceptions to the restrictions in providing assistance under FFPA that would cause substantial injury to U.S. producers	No comparable provision.	**Technical corrections and administrative provisions.** Amends reference to the definitions section of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195). **(§3108(a)(1)(B))**

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if the eligible country is a major illicit drug producing country as defined by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (P.L. 87-195) as amended. **(7 U.S.C. §1736g–1; P.L. 119-37)**		
John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter F2F Program. Authorizes the F2F program to use individuals and groups from the U.S. agriculture sector to provide technical assistance to producers and farm organizations in qualifying countries to improve agricultural systems and to strengthen agricultural groups in those countries. **(7 U.S.C. §1737; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Technical corrections and administrative provisions.** Inserts a semicolon within an inclusive list of example topics under the F2F program to improve agricultural and agribusiness operations and agricultural systems in qualifying countries. **(§3108(a)(1)(C))**
Administrative provisions. Requires USAID to transfer, arrange transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities under FFPA Titles II and III. Authorizes USAID to use funds made available for FY2001 to FY2026 to implement FFPA Titles II and III procurement, transportation, and storage of agricultural commodities for prepositioning. Limits funds to preposition commodities in foreign countries to $15 million annually through FY2026. Requires USAID and USDA annual international food assistance reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. **(7 U.S.C. §1736a; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Technical corrections and administrative provisions.** Amends subsection letterings and numberings for provisions in 7 U.S.C. §1736a that were amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-127; §216). **(§3108(a)(2)(A))**
Foreign Market Development (FMD) Cooperator Program. Establishes FMD to maintain and develop foreign markets for U.S. agricultural commodities in cooperation with eligible trade organizations. Provides mandatory CCC funding of not less than $34.5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5623(c); 7 U.S.C. §5623(f)(3)(ii); P.L. 119-37)**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Requires USDA, as part of a new FMD subprogram, to enter into contracts or other agreements with eligible trade or nonprofit organizations to enhance infrastructure capabilities in new and developing foreign markets to ensure U.S. agricultural commodities are not damaged or lost due to infrastructure deficiencies. For FY2027, not more than $1.5 million may be made available for this subprogram. For FY2028 and every fiscal year after, not more than $5 million may be	**Technical assistance to improve infrastructure in foreign markets for United States agricultural commodities.** Establishes FMD subprogram similar to House provision. For FY2027-FY2031, authorizes appropriations for this subprogram of $1 million annually and only for this subprogram. Unobligated appropriated amounts by the end of the fiscal year shall be available the following fiscal year for this subprogram. In addition to amounts made available for this subprogram from appropriated

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	made available for this subprogram. **(§3201(a))**	funds beginning in FY2027, no more than $1.5 million annually may be made available annually for this subprogram. **(§3202)**
Annual report. Requires an annual USDA report to the appropriate congressional committees on factors affecting the export of specialty crops, including trade barriers, and reasons for any unobligated funds provided to Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC), an export assistance program. **(7 U.S.C. §5623(e)(7))**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Changes report requirements. Requires USDA, in consultation with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] House Committee on Ways and Means, and Senate Committee on Finance every two years a public report on the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops. Requires the report to identify foreign countries' policies and practices that are barriers to U.S. specialty crop exports, enhancements to imported specialty crop competitiveness to U.S. specialty crops, and differences in food safety regulations that may result in risks to U.S. consumers from imported specialty crops. Requires the report to include information about actions taken or expected to be taken by executive and legislative branches to address foreign trade barriers, policies, and practices. Requires reasons for any unobligated TASC funds remaining unspent during the fiscal year prior to the submission of the report. Requires USDA, in coordination with USTR, to seek and consider comments from the public and the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee for Trade (ATAC) on Fruits and Vegetables for preparation of the report. **(§3201(b))**	**Report on competitiveness of United States exports of specialty crops.** Similar to the House provision. Changes report requirements. The report requires USDA, in consultation with USTR, to submit to the "appropriate committees of Congress" an annual public report on the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops. Requires USDA and USTR in conjunction with the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) to make estimates on the impact of U.S. specialty crop export competitiveness due to foreign countries' policies and practices and, if feasible, the value of additional exports during the prior year of the report's submission if the foreign countries' policies and practices did not exist. Requires descriptions for any unobligated TASC funds from the fiscal year prior to the submission of the report. Requires USDA, in coordination with USTR, to seek and consider comments from the public and the ATAC on Fruits and Vegetables for preparation of the report. No later than 30 days after the report is made public, USDA is required to brief any classified information not in the public report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] Senate Committee on Finance, and House Committee on Ways and Means. **(§3203)**
Technical assistance for specialty crops. Requires USDA to establish an export assistance program to address barriers that prohibit or threaten U.S. specialty crop exports. **(7 U.S.C. §5623(e))**	No comparable provision.	**Definition of specialty crops.** Adds in the section for technical assistance for specialty crops that "specialty crop" has the meaning of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture) as given in the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-465, §3; 7 U.S.C. §1621 note). **(§3204)**

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Funding and administration. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $255 million annually for the agricultural trade promotion and facilitation programs and allocates not less than $200 million annually for the Market Access Program (MAP), not less than $34.5 million annually for the FMD program, not more than $8 million annually for the E. (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program (EMP), $9 million annually for TASC, and $3.5 million annually for the Priority Trade Fund. Authorizes MAP and FMD funding to be used in Cuba but prohibits the funding of activities that contravene directives set by the National Security Presidential Memorandum "Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba" during "the period in which that memorandum is in effect." **(7 U.S.C. §5623(f); P.L. 119-37)**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Maintains mandatory CCC funding for programs under the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program for FY2026. Increases mandatory CCC funding to $500 million for the programs for FY2027 and to $533 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. Increases funding allocation for MAP to not less than $400 million for FY2027 and not less than $410 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. Increases funding allocation for FMD to not less than $70.5 million for FY2027 and $82 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. Maintains funding allocation for EMP of not more than $8 million for FY2027. Increases funding allocation for EMP to not more than $16 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. Increases funding allocation for TASC to $18 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. Maintains funding allocation for the Priority Trade Fund of $3.5 million for FY2027. Increases funding allocation for the Priority Trade Fund to $7 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. **(§3201(c))**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Increases mandatory CCC funding to $515 million for the Agricultural Trade Promotion and Facilitation Program for FY2027 and to $533 million annually for FY2028 and each fiscal year after. Increases funding allocation for MAP to not less than $421 million for FY2027 and not less than $437 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. Increases funding allocation for FMD to not less than $73.5 million for FY2027 and $75.5 million annually for FY2028-FY2031. **(§3205(a))**
Prohibition on assistance to mink associations. Prohibits MAP from assisting any mink industry trade association. **(7 U.S.C. §5623 note)**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Repeals the prohibition. **(§3201(d)(1))**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3205(b)(1)(A))**
Supplemental agricultural trade promotion program. Requires USDA to carry out an agricultural export promotion program. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $285 million annually for the program indefinitely beginning in FY2027. **(7 U.S.C. §5623a)**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Repeals the program. **(§3201(d)(2))**	**Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.** Program repeal language contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. Strikes §10602 from the table of contents of the FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21). **(§§3205(b)(1)(B), 3205(b)(2))**
Definitions. Defines terms used in the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-501), as amended. **(7 U.S.C. §5602)**	**Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.** Inserts and defines *common name* as a name that USDA determines is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product, typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product, and consistent with standards of the Codex	**Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3201(a))**

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	Alimentarius Commission. Lists examples of food, wine, and beer names that are considered common names. Adds to the definition of *unfair trade practice* of a foreign country (i.e., prohibiting or disallowing the use of the common name of a U.S. agricultural or food product). **(§3202(a))**	
No comparable provision.	**Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.** Requires USDA to coordinate with USTR 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 negotiations of agreements, memoranda of understanding (MOUs), or the exchange of letters. Requires USDA and USTR to jointly brief the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] House Committee on Ways and Means, and Senate Committee on Finance twice annually on their efforts and successes. **(§3202(b))**	**Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.** Similar to the House provision. Requires USDA to advise USTR 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 negotiations by USTR of agreements, MOUs, or the exchange of letters. Specifies that the section does not limit USTR to negotiate trade agreements or require any trade agreement to include language concerning the use of common names. **(§§3201(b), (c))**
No comparable provision.	**Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group.** Requires TFAA, USTR, Department of Commerce (DOC), and other federal agencies (as determined appropriate by USDA) to jointly establish an interagency working group to monitor and assess seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information. Requires the working group to consult with the ATAC on Fruits and Vegetables, seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and trade associations to identify import threats to domestic seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables producers. **(§3203)**	**Interagency seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetable working group.** Requires USDA, USTR, DOC, and other federal agencies (as determined appropriate by USDA) to jointly establish an interagency working group to monitor and assess seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information. Requires the working group to consult with the ATAC on Fruits and Vegetables, seasonal or perishable agricultural producers, and trade associations to identify import threats to domestic seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables producers. **(§3206)**
Biotechnology and agricultural trade program. Establishes a program to provide grants to address significant, regulatory, nontariff barriers for U.S. agricultural exports through public and private sector projects, EMP, or the Cochran Fellowship Program. Authorizes appropriations of $2	**Growing American food exports.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§3301)**	No comparable provision.

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million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5679; P.L. 119-37)**		
Food for Progress (FFPr). Establishes FFPr, which requires USDA to enter into agreements with eligible entities to furnish agricultural commodities acquired by USDA or the CCC to developing countries and emerging democracies. No less than 400,000 metric tons of commodities are to be provided annually but no more than $40 million may fund costs outside of the cost of commodities annually through FY2026, unless authorized by appropriations in advance. Authorizes proceeds generated from the sale of agricultural commodities to be used for food assistance and development programs. Terminates the program on December 31, 2026. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually for FY2019-FY2026 for pilot agreements that target "hunger and malnutrition." Requires USDA to submit annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the pilot agreements of the prior fiscal year. **(7 U.S.C. §1736o; P.L. 119-37)**	**Food for Progress Act of 1985.** Extends FFPr funding requirements through FY2031. Requires USDA to enter into two or more agreements annually with two or more eligible entities to provide developing countries and emerging democracies with agricultural commodities acquired by USDA or the CCC. Removes the term *humanitarian* from program purposes and for costs incurred by eligible entities. Program terminates on December 31, 2031. **(§3302)**	**Food for Progress Act of 1985.** Extends FFPr funding requirements through FY2031. Extends authorization of appropriations for pilot programs through FY2031. Requires USDA to purchase more than one commodity type under FFPr in each fiscal year. Requires USDA to designate more than one country recipient in each fiscal year when it enters into agreements under FFPr. **(§3301)**
Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust (BEHT). Establishes BEHT, a trust of agricultural commodities or funds maintained by USDA, to meet emergency humanitarian food needs in developing countries. Authorizes USAID to release the funds or commodities to provide food and cover costs under FFPA Title II to address emergencies when Title II cannot sufficiently do so during the fiscal year. Terminates the program on September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1736f-1; P.L. 119-37)**	**Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.** Reauthorizes BEHT through FY2031. Replaces USAID with USDA in determining whether funds and commodities held in BEHT are to be made available if FPPA Title II cannot sufficiently meet emergency needs during the fiscal year. Strikes out the provision to not require a waiver under FFPA Title II for minimum levels of assistance and the reporting requirement to Congress for the reason of the waiver. Requires USDA to reimburse the CCC for the release of eligible commodities from funds made available to carry out FFPA and makes the funds available to replenish BEHT. **(§3303)**	**Repeal of minimum levels of assistance.** Strikes out BEHT provision to conform to the repeal of 7 U.S.C. §1724 by §3103(a)). **(§3103(b))** **Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.** Reauthorizes BEHT through FY2031. **(§3302)**

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Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets. Provides mandatory CCC funding of not less than $1 billion annually through FY2026 for direct credits or export credit guarantees for exports to emerging markets. Makes a portion of export credit guarantees available to establish or improve facilities and services for U.S. products. **(7 U.S.C. §5622 note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets.** Extends mandatory CCC funding at current levels through FY2031. Extends the funding allocation to establish or improve facilities and services to FY2031. **(§3304)**	No comparable provision.
International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program. Establishes the fellowship program for eligible U.S. citizens to assist developing countries in establishing school-based agricultural education and youth extension programs. Authorizes the program to be contracted out to experienced outside organizations. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026, to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. §3295; P.L. 119-37)**	**International agricultural education fellowship program.** Extends authorization of appropriations through FY2031. Requires USDA, to the maximum extent possible, to implement fellowship programs in participating host countries for no less than three consecutive years and ensure contracts awarded to outside organizations are multiyear. **(§3305)**	**International agricultural education fellowship program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3304)**
No comparable provision.	**International agriculture cultural immersion and exchange program.** Establishes an exchange program for eligible U.S. citizens and eligible foreign residents aged 19-30 years for the purpose of developing globally minded U.S. citizens and strengthening trade in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries. Requires USDA to enter into a cooperative agreement with an experienced nonprofit organization. Nonprofit organizations that enter into a cooperative agreement with USDA must provide equal matching funds from nonfederal sources. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually from FY2027 through FY2031. **(§3306)**	**International agriculture cultural immersion and exchange program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3305)**
International food security technical assistance. Requires USDA to compile and make available information on the improvement of international food security. Authorizes USDA to provide technical assistance to implement programs for the improvement of international food	**International food security technical assistance.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§3307)**	**International food security technical assistance.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3306)**

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security. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1736dd; P.L. 119-37)**		
McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Establishes the program to procure agricultural commodities and provide financial and technical assistance for education and child nutrition programs in foreign countries. Limits funds available for purchase of agricultural commodities produced in recipient countries or developing countries in the same region to 10% of program funding. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1736o-1; P.L. 119-37)**	**McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.** Extends the program and reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Allows "lower-middle" income recipient countries to be eligible for USDA payment for commodity transportation, storage, and handling costs. Requires at least 8% but no more than 15% of program funds to be used to purchase agricultural commodities produced in recipient countries or developing countries in the same region. **(§3308)**	**McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§3303)**
Global Crop Diversity Trust. Requires USAID to contribute funds to the trust to assist in the conservation of genetic diversity in food crops through the collection and storage of the food crop germplasm. Limits federal government contributions to the trust to 33% of total funds contributed to the trust from all sources. Limits federal government contributions to $5.5 million annually through FY2026. Authorizes appropriations of $60 million total for the combined 13 years of FY2014-FY2026. **(22 U.S.C. §2220a note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Global crop diversity trust.** Limits the aggregate federal government contribution to the trust for FY2027-FY2031 to no more than 33% of the total amount of funds contributed from all sources and for all purposes. Limits federal government contributions to $5.5 million annually through FY2031. Authorizes appropriations of $60 million total for the combined nine years of FY2023-FY2031. **(§3309)**	**Global crop diversity trust.** Limits the aggregate federal government contribution to the trust for FY2027-FY2031 to no more than 33% of the total amount of funds contributed from all sources and for all purposes. Limits federal government contributions to $5.5 million annually through FY2031. Authorizes appropriations of $60 million total for the combined five years of FY2027-FY2031. **(§3307)**
Local and regional food aid procurement projects. Requires USDA to provide grants or enter into cooperative agreements with eligible organizations to carry out field-based projects consisting of local or regional procurement of eligible commodities to respond to food crises and disasters. Authorizes appropriations of $80 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1726c; P.L. 119-37)**	**Local and regional food aid procurement projects.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§3310)**	**Local and regional food aid procurement projects.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels from FY2027 through FY2031. **(§3308)**

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No comparable provision.	**Agricultural trade enforcement task force.** Requires the President to establish the task force within 30 days of enactment. The task force is to include members from FAS, USTR, and other federal agencies as needed. Requires the task force to identify trade barriers for 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 to enforce trade agreement violations, identify "like-minded trading partners" as potential participants in disputes, and report to Congress quarterly on progress toward resolving cases or filing disputes. Requires the task force to regularly consult with private sector stakeholders, including the agricultural trade advisory committees, federal departments and agencies not part of the task force, and like-minded trading partners. Requires the task force to submit a report to Congress within 90 days of enactment and on a quarterly basis thereafter to include information on significant trade barriers, progress on developing dispute settlement cases, and the status of ongoing disputes registered with the WTO. Requires a plan to file a request for a WTO dispute settlement process for consultations to address India's minimum price supports. Requires USTR and USDA to brief Members of Congress and congressional staff on the task force. **(§3311)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Report on international shrimp trade.** Requires the Government Accountability Office to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, within 180 days of enactment, a report examining policy options available to USDA to boost the competitiveness of domestic shrimp in global and domestic markets. **(§3312)**	**Report on international shrimp trade.** Similar to the House provision. The report must be submitted to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a]; Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Senate Committee on Finance; House Committee on Energy and Commerce; and House Committee on Ways and Means. **(§3402)**

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No comparable provision.	**Report on modifications to USMCA.** Requires USDA, in coordination with USTR, before July 1, 2026, to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] House Committee on Ways and Means, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate Committee on Finance, and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations a publicly available report on how any expected or implemented modification or revocation of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) will affect agricultural imports and exports, including pricing and domestic producer revenue and profitability. **(§3401)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Sense of Congress and report on Argentine beef imports.** Expresses the sense of Congress that U.S. ranchers and cattle producers produce the healthiest and highest quality beef on the planet; U.S.-Argentina trade agreements allowing expanded Argentinian beef quota market access into the United States are detrimental to U.S. ranchers, cattle producers, and cattle markets; many U.S. consumers prefer U.S.-raised beef; increased Argentinian beef imports and unfair competition could depress cattle prices and impact the U.S. economy; and U.S. consumers are at risk from inconsistent regulatory enforcement abroad. Requires USDA and USTR to jointly submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] House Committee on Ways and Means, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Senate Committee on Finance, and Senate Committee on Foreign Relations a report, no later than 180 days after the United States signs a trade agreement with Argentina that includes a change in the tariff-rate quotas or other duties for fresh and frozen Argentine beef imports, on the effect of imported beef on U.S. beef and cattle markets. **(§3402)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Report on the domestic competitiveness of United States-grown agricultural commodities.** Requires USDA, in coordination with USTR and USITC, to submit a public report to the appropriate committees of Congress analyzing the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural commodities in the domestic market. Requires the report to identify U.S. agricultural commodities injured from increased foreign agricultural commodity imports; identify foreign countries' policies and practices that unfairly enhance the competitiveness of their agricultural commodities that are imported into the United States; estimate, if feasible, the injury to U.S. producers and industry and the value of U.S. agricultural commodities sold in the United States during the prior year of the report's submission if the foreign countries' policies and practices did not exist; include information from USTR on actions taken by the executive branch the year prior to the report submission to enhance the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural commodities and counter the foreign policies and practices; and include recommendations for executive or legislative actions to promote the competitiveness of U.S. agricultural commodities in the domestic market against foreign agricultural commodity imports. No later than 30 days after the report is made public, USDA is required to brief any classified information not in the public report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] Senate Committee on Finance, and House Committee on Ways and Means. **(§3401)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title IV, Nutrition[35]

The respective nutrition titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would amend the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), food distribution programs, and related nutrition assistance and food access programs and policies (**Table 7**). Title IV contains nearly all of the bills' policies relating to programs administered by USDA's Food and Nutrition Administration (FNA, formerly Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)).[36] The bills generally would reauthorize SNAP and farm bill nutrition programs' expiring authorities for five years, through the end of FY2031.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21) made changes to SNAP's financing, rules for determining benefit amounts, and eligibility requirements (work and citizenship rules specifically).[37] Neither H.R. 7567 nor S. 5526 would make changes to SNAP's household eligibility or benefit calculation rules, but S. 5526 would further amend the state-federal financing of SNAP benefits. S. 5526 would change the reconciliation law's establishment of a state cost-share for SNAP benefits based on the state's payment error rate.[38] It would delay implementation to FY2029 instead of FY2028 and increase the cost share required for states with higher error rates. H.R. 7567 did not include these changes.

Current law requires SNAP certification of eligibility and benefits to be made by state employees; the bills would give states authority to outsource via contract these SNAP certifications under certain circumstances, though the precise circumstances and certification activities that may be conducted by private contractors vary in each bill. The bills require USDA to provide supplemental information on SNAP payment errors for informational purposes, with S. 5526 requiring more supplemental information than the House-passed bill.

The bills propose changes to the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) and retailer policy. The bills would permanently bar EBT fees for switching or routing SNAP benefits. For stores that apply to accept SNAP and fail to meet criteria, the bills would change their waiting period for reapplication. The bills also would require USDA to transition the current SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot to permanent nationwide operations. H.R. 7567 would set a deadline of six months for USDA to propose a regulation to secure SNAP EBT cards from electronic theft. S. 5526 would require more specific EBT card security regulations which must include a nationwide transition from magnetic stripe cards to chip-enabled cards. S. 5526 would also, for a five-year period, reimburse states for the cost of upgrading EBT cards. Under current law, SNAP recipients

[35] This section was prepared by Randy Alison Aussenberg, CRS Specialist in Nutrition Assistance Policy, Domestic Social Policy Division (DSP); Lisa Benson, former CRS Specialist in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Kara Clifford Billings, CRS Analyst in Social Policy, DSP; Gene Falk, CRS Specialist in Social Policy, DSP; Karen Lynch, CRS Specialist in Social Policy, DSP; Alexandria K. Mickler, CRS Analyst in Health Policy, DSP; Laura Pineda-Bermudez, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; and Zachary T. Neuhofer, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[36] Effective June 1, 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture, as part of a reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, renamed FNS to FNA. See USDA, Press Release 0062.26, April 30, 2026, https://www.fna.usda.gov/newsroom/usda-0062.26; USDA, FNA, "Reorganization," https://www.fna.usda.gov/reorganization (accessed July 20, 2026).

[37] See CRS Report R48552, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Related Nutrition Programs in P.L. 119-21: An Overview*, by Randy Alison Aussenberg.

[38] SNAP operates in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands (references to "state" or "SNAP state agency" in this report refer to these jurisdictions). In lieu of SNAP, Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) block grant funding is provided to Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

cannot use SNAP benefits to purchase hot prepared foods in authorized stores; both bills would make hot rotisserie chicken newly eligible for SNAP purchase.

The bills would alter how some incentives may be offered for SNAP participants' purchases of certain foods. Under current law, the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP) makes competitive grants for "nutrition incentive" projects that incentivize SNAP purchases of fruits and vegetables and "produce prescription" projects that provide fresh fruits and vegetables to specified individuals with or at risk of diet-related disease.[39] Both bills would prioritize GusNIP nutrition incentive grant applications for projects that incentivize all forms of fruits and vegetables (i.e., not limited to "fresh"). The bills would require produce prescription project grantees to provide all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes. The bills also would waive matching fund requirements for GusNIP grantees in counties with persistently high poverty, though the definition of persistently high poverty varies between the bills. While the GusNIP reauthorization provisions in the House-passed and Senate committee-reported bills are largely similar, only S. 5526 requires reports on policy options for moving the GusNIP produce prescription projects from USDA to the Department of Health and Human Services. The bills would rename the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives (HFMI) Projects as the Dairy Nutrition Incentive Projects. It would make certain cheeses and yogurts eligible for incentives under those projects. For SNAP incentive initiatives generally (not GusNIP or HFMI), the bills would make it easier for animal protein to qualify as an eligible incentive purchase.

Certain SNAP policies are included only in H.R. 7567 or only in S. 5526. H.R. 7567 would alter the statutory purpose of SNAP, amending it to state that Congress recognizes that the program can further the health of individuals in low-income households and that USDA is to administer the program in such a way as to provide participants with access to a variety of foods for optimal health and well-being. The House-passed bill would also require a Government Accountability Office report on SNAP administrative expenses. Also, H.R. 7567 would require that USDA issue a report to Congress after the completion of the state waivers recently granted by USDA, which test restricting the foods that SNAP recipients may purchase.[40] On the other hand, only S. 5526 would create new eligibility requirements for certain categories of retailers, "house-to-house trade routes" and "online-only entities," to become authorized to accept SNAP benefits.

Food Distribution Programs

The bills' nutrition titles would continue and, in some cases, amend the nutrition assistance programs that distribute USDA-purchased foods to low-income households—Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP); and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).

For CSFP, the bills would authorize a competitive grant pilot program for food delivery projects, prioritizing grants for rural areas, with some variations between the bills' language.

Both bills would set new policies regarding how CSFP and FDPIR work with Tribes. H.R. 7567 would direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a "demonstration project" allowing tribal organizations to use self-determination contracts (under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638)) to purchase CSFP foods instead of using USDA

[39] 7 U.S.C. §7517.

[40] See USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, "SNAP Food Restriction Waivers," updated September 25, 2026, https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/waivers/foodrestriction.

commodities.[41] Relatedly, that bill would require USDA to appoint an existing office to administer tribal self-determination contracts. S. 5526 would add new requirements for tribal input in FDPIR and CSFP administration.[42] S. 5526 would also establish required actions by USDA in the event of a supply chain disruption, including designating an emergency warehouse and, for FDPIR, allowing Tribes and tribal organizations to purchase replacement foods with USDA payments or reimbursements.

Both bills would expand the emergency feeding organizations' fresh produce options by giving states the option to redeem up to 20% of their TEFAP entitlement commodity allocations through the USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (USDA DoD Fresh).[43] S. 5526 would also increase TEFAP entitlement commodity funding by approximately $60 million in FY2026 (with that new base adjusted annually for inflation in subsequent years).[44]

Other Nutrition Programs and Policies

The bills propose changes to other existing nutrition programs and policies and would create new programs and initiatives.

For the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP), the bills would expand the list of eligible items for purchase: H.R. 7567 would add maple syrup and tree nuts; S. 5526 would add only tree nuts. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require new and more frequent reports from the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison. Both bills would increase the authorized funding for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. Additionally, the bills would nearly identically amend the timeline, scope, and committee requirements for the publication of the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans*.

Both bills propose a new local food procurement program, which would draw from aspects of the USDA-initiated Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program that operated in 2022-2024. In October 2024, USDA announced the availability of additional LFPA funding and rescinded the funding in 2025.[45] The proposed local food programs in both bills resemble each other but have some differences such as the requirements for the use of funds. An example of a difference between the two bills is that S. 5526 would require that at least 51% of the total value of products purchased in the program be from small-size producers, medium-size

[41] For more information on the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, including a similar demonstration project authorized for FNS FDPIR in the 2018 farm bill, see CRS Report R48256, *Tribal Self-Determination Authorities: Overview and Issues for Congress*, coordinated by Mariel J. Murray.

[42] For background on federal-tribal consultation, see CRS Report R48093, *Federal-Tribal Consultation: Background and Issues for Congress*, coordinated by Mariel J. Murray. For USDA tribal consultation requirements, see USDA, "Departmental Regulation- Tribal Consultation," April 30, 2024, https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/dr-1350-002.pdf.

[43] The Department of Defense is "using a secondary Department of War designation" under Executive Order 14347 of September 5, 2025, "Restoring the United States Department of War."

[44] CRS estimate comparing proposed level to the FY2026 entitlement commodity allocation in USDA, "The Emergency Food Assistance Program; Availability of Foods for Fiscal Year 2026," 91 *Federal Register* 29110, May 19, 2026. For more information on TEFAP and its entitlement commodities, see CRS Report R45408, *The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP): Background and Funding*.

[45] USDA, "USDA Announces Availability of $1.13 Billion for Local Food Programs," press release, December 10, 2024, https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2024/12/10/usda-announces-availability-113-billion-local-food-programs. Data from USAspending reflects the recission of funds in 2025. Industry groups reported the cancellation of contracts for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program in 2025. For more information, see National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, "USDA Programs Freeze: What We Know," press release, December 10, 2024, https://www.usda.gov/about-usda/news/press-releases/2024/12/10/usda-announces-availability-113-billion-local-food-programs.

producers, beginning farmers or ranchers, or veteran farmers or ranchers, while H.R. 7567 would require 25% to be purchased from these groups. Both bills would authorize $200 million in appropriations for FY2027 to FY2031; however, S. 5526 would provide $200 million in mandatory funding for FY2027 and FY2028 while H.R. 7567 would not provide any mandatory funding for the program. (Note: the S. 5526 provision is in Title X, not Title IV.)

For the school meals programs (National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program), the nutrition titles in both bills would change Buy American requirements (e.g., proposing to codify a 5% cap on nondomestic purchases), and S. 5526 would make technical changes to certain statutory definitions for certain child nutrition programs.

H.R. 7567 would require USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services to develop and update food safety preparation regulations and guidelines for child care facilities regarding fresh fruits and vegetables and other foods typically served raw or minimally processed. H.R. 7567 would create a "streamlined application process" for farmers and ranchers to become authorized to accept multiple food assistance program benefits and to receive equipment for benefit redemption.

Table 7. Title IV, Nutrition

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Declaration of policy. Lists the findings of Congress and the purposes of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in response to findings. Includes "[i]t is … the policy of Congress, in order to promote the general welfare, to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's population by raising levels of nutrition among low-income households." Finds that limited food purchasing power contributed to hunger and malnutrition in low-income households and that increasing "utilization of food" also benefits the nation's agricultural and marketing industry. Authorizes SNAP to alleviate such hunger and malnutrition via increased purchasing power through normal channels of trade. The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 **(P.L. 118-5, §313)** added program purposes related to obtaining employment and increasing earnings. **(7 U.S.C. §2011)**	**Declaration of policy.** Adds that Congress recognizes that SNAP allows low-income households to obtain supplemental food for an active, healthy life and supports the prevention of diet-related chronic disease (e.g., diabetes), disability, premature death, unsustainable health care costs, and undermining of military readiness. States that it is the policy of Congress that USDA should administer SNAP in a manner that provides participants, especially children, access to a variety of foods essential to optimal health and well-being. **(§4101)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
State quality control incentive; state cost share. Until October 1, 2027, the federal government pays 100% of the cost of SNAP benefits in all SNAP states. Beginning FY2028, states may be required to pay a share of benefit costs, depending upon the state's payment error rate (PER). States with a PER from 6% up to 8% are to contribute 5% of SNAP benefit costs; states with a PER from 8% up to 10% are to contribute 10% of SNAP benefit costs; and those with a PER of 10% or greater are to contribute 15% of SNAP benefit costs, with the following exception. States with the highest payment error rates (of 13.33% or higher) qualify for a delay in cost-sharing to at least FY2029. For FY2028, states may elect to use the state's error rate from FY2025 or FY2026. For FY2029 and thereafter, USDA must use the error rate for the third fiscal year preceding the year for which the state's share is being calculated. **(7 U.S.C. §2013(a)(2))**	No comparable provision.	**State cost share delay.** The bill delays states' SNAP benefit cost-sharing to FY2029, with either the FY2026 or FY2027 payment error rate (PER) determining the FY2029 cost share. Beginning in FY2031, states with a PER of 10% or higher are responsible for 20% of benefit costs. The bill narrows the high-PER delay, requiring a state to have a PER above 13.33% in both FY2025 and FY2026 to delay implementation until FY2030. **(§4102)**
Fees. Through FY2026, bars a state or an agent or contractor of the state from charging any fee for switching or routing SNAP benefits. *Switching* is defined as "routing of an intrastate or interstate transaction that consists of transmitting the details of a transaction electronically recorded through the use of an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card in one State to the issuer of the card that may be in the same or different State." **(7 U.S.C. §2016(h)(13); P.L. 119-37).** Historically, these are fees that retailers would pay.	**Prohibited fees.** Makes the prohibition of these fees permanent (i.e., removes the end date). **(§4102)**	**Prohibited fees.** Identical to the House provision. **(§4105)**
SNAP staffing. Requires states to use state merit system personnel to conduct SNAP certification interviews and make final decisions on eligibility determinations. A "major change in operations" triggers a review by USDA (see USDA Food and Nutrition Service [FNS] Memo, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Use of Nonmerit Personnel in SNAP Administration, March 20, 2024). **(7**	**SNAP staffing flexibility.** Authorizes states to hire a private contractor to conduct SNAP certification or other functions when a state (1) is unable to process SNAP applications in a timely way because of causes such as pandemics and health emergencies, seasonal workforce cycles, temporary staffing shortages, and weather or other natural disasters; (2) has an error payment	**Staffing flexibility.** Authorizes states to hire one or more private contractors to conduct some activities associated with SNAP certification or other functions when a state is unable to process SNAP applications because of causes such as pandemics and health emergencies, seasonal workforce cycles, temporary staffing shortages, weather and other natural disasters; or

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
U.S.C. §2020(e)(6); 7 U.S.C. §2020(a)(4))	rate (as determined through the quality control system) greater than or equal to 6%; or (3) experiences an increase in applications. The contract cannot provide an incentive to delay eligibility determinations or deny eligibility for SNAP. The contractor may have no direct or indirect financial interest in an approved retail store. If the contract is made because of a temporary staffing shortage, the contract (1) must not override collective bargaining agreements or other agreements between the state and its employees or local government employees, (2) must end when the application backlog is eliminated, and (3) must end when the payment error rate is less than 6%. Contracts must supplement, not supplant, existing merit-based personnel. Contractors must apply general principles of merit employment, such as adequate compensation, training, nondiscrimination, and protection from political coercion. Requires a state to notify USDA of its intention to use this authority and USDA to publish such notifications on the agency website (within 10 days). Stipulates that such use of contractors must not be subject to USDA procedures for major changes in state operations. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the use of contractors. **(§4103)**	experiences an increase in applications. The contractors may not: determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, initiate enforcement actions, conduct quality control, conduct administrative hearings, or screen for referral to employment and training programs. The contractor may have no direct or indirect financial interest in an approved retail store, wholesale food concern, or employment and training program. If the contract is made because of a temporary staffing shortage, the contract (1) must not override collective bargaining agreements or other agreements between the state and its employees or local government employees and (2) must end when there is adequate staffing for the timely processing of applications. Contracts must supplement, not supplant, existing merit-based personnel. Contractors must apply general principles of merit employment, such as adequate compensation, training, nondiscrimination, and protection from political coercion. Requires a state to notify USDA of its intention to use this authority and USDA to publish such notifications on its website (within 10 days). Stipulates that such use of contractors must not be subject to USDA procedures for major changes in state operations. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the use of contractors. **(§4112)**
Waiting period for new application. A retailer that is denied SNAP authorization because the retailer does not meet USDA criteria may not, for at least six months, submit a new application to participate. USDA has authority to establish a longer time period, including permanent disqualification, based on the severity of the reason for denial. **(7 U.S.C. 2018(d))**	**Updates to administrative processes for SNAP retailers.** Amends the minimum six-month waiting period to apply when the retailer applicant does not meet USDA criteria on two consecutive occasions in a three-year period. **(§4104)**	**Administrative processes for retailers.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4110)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Quality control system. SNAP Quality Control (QC) measures payment error rates in SNAP by comparing estimated overpayments and underpayments that exceed the error tolerance level or threshold with total benefits issued. Each year, USDA publishes payment error rates by state annually. The reported rates are based on the number of errors that exceed a dollar threshold amount. The error threshold amount has changed over the years via statute and regulation. Since FY2014, the QC error threshold has been set in statute with annual inflation adjustment. The FY2026 error threshold is $58. **(7 U.S.C. §2025(c))**	**Report on all identified payment errors.** Requires USDA to provide a supplement to annual reports on the payment error rate. The supplement is to show all errors, including those below the tolerance level. These supplemental data must not be used to change the official payment error rates under the QC system and must not affect state matching for benefits or liabilities. **(§4105)**	**Quality control improvements**. Requires USDA to provide a supplement to annual reports on the payment error rate. The supplement is to show all errors, including those below the tolerance level. Requires the supplemental report to include all unknown and improper payments (as identified under the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019), regardless of dollar size. These supplemental data must not be used to change the official payment error rates under the QC system and must not affect state matching for benefits or liabilities. **(§4113)**
Appropriations and allotments, Authorization of allotments. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually for SNAP through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2027(a); P.L. 119-37)**	**Authorization of appropriations.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§4106)**	**Authorization of appropriations.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4114)**
Retail food store and recipient trafficking grants. Authorizes appropriations of up to $5 million annually through FY2026 to strengthen USDA's efforts in preventing the fraudulent use of SNAP benefits (i.e., SNAP benefit *trafficking*). **(7 U.S.C. §2036b; P.L. 119-37)**	**Retail food store and recipient trafficking.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§4107)**	**Retail food store and recipient trafficking.** Identical to House provision. **(§4115)**
Definitions. "EBT card" defined as an electronic benefit transfer card. **(7 U.S.C. §2012(i))**	No comparable provision.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for SNAP, Definition of EBT card.** Broadens SNAP's EBT card definition to include "potential successor technology." **(§4107(b))**

EBT benefit fraud prevention. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328), requires USDA to issue guidance to state agencies, on an ongoing basis, describing security measures to detect and prevent theft of SNAP benefits through card skimming, card cloning, and other fraudulent methods. USDA must further promulgate regulations, through notice-and-comment rulemaking, to require state agencies to take the security measures described in that guidance. **(7 U.S.C. §2016a(a))** Law does not explicitly require a transition to chip-enabled cards. Subsequent to the House's passage and Senate committee's reporting, USDA published a proposed rule on SNAP EBT card security. (USDA, Food and Nutrition Administration, "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Security Measures," 91 *Federal Register* 66958, October 23, 2026.)

EBT card security regulations. Requires USDA to promulgate proposed regulations to enhance EBT card security within six months of enactment of this provision. **(§4108)**

Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, enhanced cybersecurity and online transaction security for EBT cards. Requires the Secretary to promulgate within two years after enactment, and review every five years thereafter, "cybersecurity and digital service regulations relating to EBT cards and mobile technologies" including to ensure that cybersecurity measures keep pace with security safeguards used by the private sector and those required by federal agencies for other payment cards and mobile technologies.

Requires that the Secretary's regulations direct state agencies to provide certain account services to households. The Secretary is to maintain a list of one or more "user interfaces" via which households may manage their EBT account with their state agency, such as a web-based online portal. Regulations must require state agencies to enable households to check their enrollment status through each user interface. For the 10-year period following final regulations, the regulations are to maintain the user interfaces of text message, voice telephone service, and U.S. postal mail. The regulations are also to require state agencies to provide households the chance to opt into certain services, including electronic notice of EBT transactions; the ability to report a fraudulent transaction; receipt of notifications regarding funds available for reimbursement; and available fraud prevention measures.

Specifies that the bill's required cybersecurity regulations supersede any regulations promulgated pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, 7 U.S.C. §2016a(a)(2).

Effective one year after enactment, prohibits a state agency from specified Personal Identification Number (PIN) or password practices that conflict with those that are prohibited by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) PIN and password standards.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		Requires EBT cybersecurity regulations to include certain specifications regarding online transactions using EBT cards. These include security measures that detect and prevent theft of benefits and prevent sensitive data from being stolen as well as establishing standard reporting methods for state agencies to collect and share data with USDA. Requires USDA to consult with HHS's Administration for Children and Families, Department of Justice, U.S. Secret Service, state agencies, retail food stores, and EBT card contractors for this aspect of regulations. **(§4107(c))**
To prevent benefit theft and other security violations, some states have upgraded or have plans to upgrade from magnetic stripe SNAP EBT cards to chip-enabled cards.[b] These state-led upgrades are eligible for federal funding under cost-sharing rules for state administrative costs: prior to October 1, 2026, USDA reimburses 50% of state administrative costs, and after October 1, 2026, USDA reimburses 25% of state administrative costs. **(7 U.S.C. §2025(a))**	Provision **(§4108)** does not specifically require a policy on chip-enabled cards.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, enhanced cybersecurity and online transaction security for EBT cards.** Not later than two years after the regulations promulgated become final, state agencies shall begin issuing chip-enabled cards. Not later than four years after the final regulations, state agencies will no longer be able to issue new cards with magnetic stripes. Not later than five years after the final regulations, state agencies must be required to reissue existing magnetic stripe cards as chip-enabled cards. The bill creates exceptions to this timeline, allowing the Secretary to issue a one-time waiver to a state agency subject to specified conditions. Also, the deadline to start issuing chip-enabled cards does not apply to state agencies that began to issue chip-enabled cards before the enactment of this act. For the five-year period after state agencies are required to reissue cards as chip-enabled, all cards issued must be chip-enabled unless the Secretary provides a specified waiver or extends the five-year period for all state agencies. This requirement does not apply to cards issued by state agencies that implemented chip-enabled regulations prior to this enactment, for Disaster SNAP (D-SNAP) cards, or cards solely for Summer EBT.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		After the 5-year period where only chip-enabled cards may be issued, the Secretary may implement a "successor electronic benefit transfer product" pursuant to a review of EBT card security measures. Requires USDA to reimburse each state agency that is upgrading EBT cards in order to comply with the new regulation. More specifically, reimbursement is for "all reasonable costs incurred by the State agency" during the five-year period beginning on the date of final regulations. These costs include one-time up-front costs paid by the state agency to EBT card vendors, additional annual fees associated with chip-enabled cards, and postage or other delivery costs. After this five-year period, "any reasonable costs incurred by the state agency" shall be subject to SNAP law's administrative cost-share requirements. **(§4107(c))**
Requires regulations regarding replacement of benefits and liability for replacement of benefits under EBT system to be similar to the paper-based system. **(7 U.S.C. §2016(h)(7)) (see 7 C.F.R. §274.6)**	Provision **(§4108)** does not specify a policy on replacement cards.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, ensuring no loss of access to benefits due to EBT card damage, loss, or fraud.** Requires Secretary to promulgate regulations, within one year of enactment, requiring state agencies to issue, if a card is damaged, no longer functions properly, is stolen, or is frozen due to fraud, a replacement card to households within five business days of a household's request and to offer households the option to collect a new or replacement card in person. **(§4107(d))**
State agencies are authorized to collect fees for replacement of an EBT card by reducing the monthly allotment of the household receiving the replacement card. **(7 U.S.C. §2016(h)(8)(A)) (see 7 C.F.R. §274.6)**	Provision **(§4108)** does not specify a policy on replacement fees.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, no replacement fees for certain EBT cards.** Effective 60 days after enactment, a state agency may not collect a fee if the card to be replaced has not been replaced more than three times over the last year; or the replacement is due to theft, fraud, or is being replaced as part of the transition from magnetic stripe cards. Any fees charged must not exceed the cost of issuing the replacement card. **(§4107(e))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No directly comparable provision. USDA and state agencies are working with retailers to encourage them to be prepared to accept new cards. Although retailer authorization law does not explicitly require chip-enabled payment terminals, such technology is needed to conduct a SNAP transaction.[b]	Provision **(§4108)** does not specify a policy for chip-enabled cards or retailers.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, requirement for retailer use of chip-enabled payment terminals as a condition of SNAP participation.** Requires the Secretary, 180 days after the regulations become final, to require "retail food stores" and wholesale food establishments seeking authorization or reauthorization to accept and redeem SNAP benefits to have a chip-enabled payment terminal at each retail location, excepting those with exclusively online transactions. **(§4107(f))** **Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, enhanced cybersecurity and online transaction security for EBT cards, grant program for chip-enabled cards.** Authorizes a USDA grant program, which terminates on September 30, 2031, to provide funding (via an administering entity) to certain SNAP retailers to upgrade to chip-compatible payment terminals that support contact and contactless payment card technology. Authorizes discretionary funding of $15 million for each of FY2027-FY2031. **(§4107(c))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	Requires card security reports from USDA and Government Accountability Office (GAO): **Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, enhanced cybersecurity and online transaction security for EBT cards, public reports.** Requires USDA to submit reports (to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and publish on the USDA website) that identify trends relating to the theft of benefits, including specific elements related to USDA EBT card and online transaction security. The public report must exclude certain protected information to be included in a "nonpublicly available annex." Reports must be submitted 1 year after enactment and, during the five-year period after final

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		cybersecurity regulations, every 2 years thereafter. **(§4107(c))** **Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, GAO report.** Requires GAO to submit, within two years after enactment, to agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] a report describing and assessing state agency and retailer actions to decrease or eliminate risks involving EBT card transactions. **(§4107(g))**
Puerto Rico receives a block grant in lieu of SNAP, Nutrition Assistance Program block grant. **(7 U.S.C. §2028)**	No comparable provision.	**Enhanced cybersecurity for EBT cards, report on EBT cards issued in Puerto Rico.** Within one year of enactment, Secretary shall submit to agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and publish on the USDA website, a report on the security of EBT cards in Puerto Rico. Certain information shall be excluded from the public version in a nonpublicly available annex. **(§4107(h))**
No comparable provision.	**Report on SNAP administrative expenses**. Requires GAO to examine and report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the causes of state variation in SNAP administrative costs, including an identification of factors that contribute to an increase in costs. The report is to recommend how USDA and Congress can improve oversight of SNAP administration. **(§4109)**	No comparable provision.
Incentives. SNAP-authorized retailers may apply for a waiver in order to offer an incentive to SNAP households for the purchase of an eligible incentive food at the point of purchase. Statute defines *eligible incentive food* as a "staple food" (defined in 7 U.S.C. 2012(q)) that is "identified for increased consumption, consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations" and a fruit, vegetable, dairy, whole grain, or product of these four foods. **(7 U.S.C. §2018(j))** This definition of eligible incentive food applies to incentives that do not receive federal funding (i.e., it is	**Animal protein an eligible incentive food.** Amends the definition of eligible incentive food to include animal protein or animal protein products, not limited to whether such food or food product is identified for increased consumption consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations. **(§4110)**	**Animal protein as eligible incentive food.** Identical to House provision. **(§4111)**

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not the definition for the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program [GusNIP] or Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives [HFMI] Projects).		
Acceptance of program benefits through online transactions. Requires, depending on results of a demonstration project, that USDA authorize retailers to accept SNAP benefits via online transactions. **(7 U.S.C. §2016(k))** The SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot is currently available in the 50 states and the District of Columbia.	**Permanent authority for supplemental nutrition assistance program online purchasing.** Requires USDA to begin transitioning the SNAP online purchasing initiative from demonstration status to permanent nationwide operations within 120 days of enactment. Within that same time frame, directs USDA to (1) establish a formal process for stakeholder consultation to incorporate lessons learned from the pilot program and (2) to report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on that consultation process and recommendations. Not later than two years from the provision's enactment, USDA is to issue regulations and guidance addressing specific program issues and when the transition to permanent operations is expected to be completed. **(§4111)**	**Permanent authority for online purchasing.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4106)**
Emergency food program infrastructure grants. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually for the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) infrastructure grants through FY2026. The grants are not currently funded. **(7 U.S.C. §7511a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Emergency food assistance programs—Emergency food program infrastructure grants.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§4112(a))**	**The emergency food assistance program—Emergency Food program infrastructure grants.** Identical to House provision. **(§4116(a))**
Availability of commodities for emergency food assistance program. For each of FY2014-FY2026, requires USDA to use specified amounts from the SNAP account to purchase TEFAP entitlement commodity foods. Each year, this amount for TEFAP entitlement commodities is adjusted for inflation using the change in the Thrifty Food Plan. **(7 U.S.C. §2036(a), P.L. 119-37**)	**Emergency food assistance programs--Availability of Commodities for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.** Extends USDA's purchasing authority through FY2031.[c] **(§4112(b))**	**The Emergency Food Assistance Program—Availability of Commodities.** Extends USDA's purchasing authority through FY2031 and increases annual mandatory funding by $59.8 million for FY2026, adjusted for inflation using the Thrifty Food Plan each fiscal year thereafter. **(§4116(b))**

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Allotment and delivery of commodities. Provides the formula for the allocation and reallocation of TEFAP entitlement commodities. **(7 U.S.C. §7515(c))** States currently use their allocation of entitlement commodities to order from USDA's TEFAP offerings, primarily shelf-stable foods with some limited fresh produce offerings. The USDA Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (DoD Fresh) is a partnership between USDA and the Department of Defense (DOD)[d] that enables child nutrition programs and the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) to use DOD's food supply chain to procure fresh fruits and vegetables.	**Emergency food assistance programs—Option for purchasing through DoD Fresh.** Adds an option for state TEFAP agencies to use a portion of their entitlement commodity allocation to purchase foods through USDA DoD Fresh. At the request of a state agency, USDA may allow the state agency to use not more than 20% of its entitlement commodity allotment. **(§4112(c))**	**Option for purchasing TEFAP through DoD Fresh.** Identical to the House provision. **(§4308)**
Food distribution program on Indian reservations. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026 for a FDPIR traditional and locally grown food fund. **(7 U.S.C. §2013(b)(6); P.L. 119-37)**	**Food distribution program on Indian reservations.** Reauthorizes appropriations at the current levels through FY2031. **(§4113)**	**Food distribution program on Indian reservations—Traditional and locally- and regionally-grown food fund.** Identical to House provision**.** §4103(b)(1) is summarized below and contains additional FDPIR policies not included in the House provision. **(§4103(a))**
Definitions, food. In general, SNAP benefits may be redeemed at SNAP-authorized retailers for any foods for home preparation and consumption. SNAP benefits may not be redeemed for alcohol, tobacco, or hot foods intended for immediate consumption. There are some exceptions for hot foods (e.g., the Restaurant Meals Program). **(7 U.S.C. §2012(k))** Retailer authorization is, in part, based on the retailer's inventory of "staple foods." **(7 U.S.C. §2012(q))**	**SNAP Eligible Hot Rotisserie Chicken.** Adds hot rotisserie chicken to foods eligible for purchase with SNAP. **(§4114)**	**Eligible food.** Adds hot rotisserie chicken to foods eligible for purchase with SNAP. Specifies hot rotisserie chicken is not a staple food. **(§4101)**
No directly comparable provision. **Pilot projects.** In 2025, USDA began to grant states' "SNAP Food Restriction Waivers" and cited the pilot project authority of **7 U.S.C. 2026(b)**. This statutory provision requires the approved project to include an evaluation to determine its effects. On June 22, 2026, a U.S. district court halted the pilot projects in five states. **Aragon et**	**Foods eligible for purchase with SNAP benefits.** Requires USDA to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] a report on the feasibility, implementation, and effectiveness of the SNAP food restriction waiver projects, not later than 120 days after conclusion of the projects. **(§4115)**	No comparable provision.

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al. v. Rollins et al., 1:26-cv-00861 (D.D.C.).		
Food distribution program on Indian reservations (FDPIR). Establishes FDPIR, a commodity distribution program provided to tribal organizations on their request. References are to "tribal organization." No mention of tribal input on contracts or supply chain disruptions in statute. **(7 U.S.C. §2013(b))**	No comparable provision.	**Food distribution program on Indian reservations—Increasing tribal input on nutrition.** Amends uses of the phrase "tribal organization" to "Tribal organization." Adds a requirement for USDA to, prior to evaluating FDPIR contracts, "consult with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations and ensure their feedback is integrated into the evaluation" and "consider feedback from Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations throughout the evaluation process." Adds requirements for USDA's response to FDPIR "supply chain disruptions" (defined in bill, with further interpretation delegated to USDA). Not later than 45 days after the USDA has determined there has been a supply chain disruption, USDA is to designate an "emergency warehouse contractor" to provide "the required food capacity in a timely manner," and USDA may provide direct payments or reimbursements to an Indian Tribe or tribal organization administering FDPIR to purchase agricultural commodities. Such payments are not to exceed the amounts that USDA otherwise would have expended for the Tribe/organization during the same time period under FDPIR; and Tribes' food purchases are to meet specified conditions (e.g., domestically produced; supplant, not supplement, the type of agricultural commodities in the organization's existing FDPIR food packages; similar or higher nutritional quality than what the organization would have received). If USDA designates an emergency warehouse contractor, USDA is required to notify Tribes and publish the designation on the USDA website. **(§4103(b)(1))**

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Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Provision establishes program **(7 U.S.C. §612c note; Public Law 93-86)** Tribes and tribal organizations participate in CSFP. Some tribal CSFP projects participate via state agency. CSFP statute does not include tribal consultation requirements.	No comparable provisions to Senate committee-reported bill.	**Food distribution program on Indian reservations—Commodity Supplemental Food Program.** Requires USDA to implement CSFP "in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the members of Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations by conducting annual consultations with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations." Encourages CSFP state agencies to consult Tribes when proposing any amendments to the CSFP state plan and to document such consultations. USDA is required to provide technical assistance to state agencies on how to properly conduct tribal consultations. Provision includes supply chain disruption authorities similar but not identical to those included in §4101(b)(1) for FDPIR. Supply chain disruption is defined identically, and the timeline for designating an emergency warehouse contractor, as well as notifying Tribes and publishing on the USDA website, are identical. If USDA designates an emergency warehouse contractor, USDA is required to notify Tribes and publish the designation on the USDA website. While there is authority to designate an emergency warehouse contractor, there is not a payment authority to pay or reimburse Tribes for their purchases as in the FDPIR provision. **(§4103(b)(2))**
Definitions—retail food store. Definition of *retail food store* includes "an establishment, house-to-house trade route, or online entity that sells food for home preparation and consumption…." **(7 U.S.C. §2012(o)(1))**	No comparable provision.	**Approval of retail food stores and wholesale food concerns.** In the definition of retail food store, replaces "sells food" with "owns food inventory and sells food." **(§4108(a))**
Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP). Through FY2026, provides $20.6 million in annual mandatory funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for the SFMNP. The program provides benefits redeemable for "fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, honey, and herbs from farmers' markets,	**Commodity distribution program, Expansion of the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program** Reauthorizes the program and its current annual mandatory CCC funding level through FY2031. Adds maple syrup and tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts) to eligible SFMNP foods. **(§4201(a))**	**Seniors farmers' market nutrition program.** Reauthorizes the program and its current annual mandatory CCC funding level through FY2031; contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. Adds tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts) to eligible SFMNP foods. Unlike the House provision,

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roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs to low-income seniors." **(7 U.S.C. §3007; P.L. 119-37)**		does not add maple syrup to eligible SFMNP foods. **(§4301)**
Commodity Distribution Program. Authorizes purchase and distribution of agricultural commodities for various food assistance programs through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §612c note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Commodity distribution program, authorization of appropriations.** Extends current law through FY2031. **(§4201(b))**	**Commodity distribution program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4202)**
Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). State and local agencies distribute USDA commodity foods to low-income seniors (60 years of age or older). Various program authorities expire at the end of FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §612c note; P.L. 119-37)** Recipients typically pick up their foods from the local agencies, but some local agencies deliver.	**Commodity supplemental food program.** Extends current law through FY2031. **(§4202(1)-(2))**	**Commodity supplemental food program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. See §4101(b)(2), above, for CSFP tribal provision. **(§4203)**
No comparable provision.	**Commodity supplemental food program.** Establishes a new competitive grant pilot program "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." Requires USDA to award competitive grants to CSFP state agencies or to state agencies on behalf of local or sub-distributing CSFP agencies. Requires state awardees to prioritize entities that serve participants residing in rural areas. Grant funds are to be used "to operate projects that facilitate delivery of commodities to participants in [CSFP]." Maximum grant award depends on the size of grantee's caseload and ranges from $10,000 to $4 million. Requires state agency awardees to submit a report to USDA according to specifications. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2031 to carry out this pilot program. **(§4202(3))**	**Delivering for rural seniors.** Establishes a competitive grant program for CSFP state agencies that generally differs in minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision, with some substantive differences noted here. Establishes competitive grants for "home delivery," not the House provision's "home delivery or other means." Requires USDA to award competitive grants to CSFP "state agencies," (in contrast to the House provision's "on behalf of local or sub-distributing CSFP agencies"). Grant funds are to be used to operate projects that facilitate home delivery of commodities to participants in CSFP. Maximum grant award calculation differs from H.R. 7567 in some respects; it depends on the size of grantee's caseload, but the maximum is whichever is less: caseload multiplied by $60.12 (even if less than $10,000) or $4 million. **(§4201)**

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Distribution of surplus commodities to special nutrition projects; reprocessing agreements. When bonus commodities are made available to nutrition assistance programs, requires USDA to encourage further processing into end-use products by private companies. Requires recipient agencies to bear any costs of such processing. Authorized through the end of FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1431e(a); P.L. 119-37)**	**Distribution of surplus commodities to special nutrition projects.** Extends current law through FY2031. **(§4203)**	**Distribution of surplus commodities to special nutrition projects.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4204)**
No directly comparable provision. All CSFP projects distribute foods purchased by USDA. **(7 U.S.C. §612c note (d))** Some project operators are Indian tribal organizations. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334) established a demonstration project for one or more tribal organizations to enter into self-determination contracts for Tribes to purchase commodities for FDPIR, subject to the availability of discretionary appropriations. **(7 U.S.C. §2013(b); P.L. 115-334, §4003)**	**Commodity supplemental food program demonstration project for Tribal organizations.** Requires USDA to establish a demonstration project under which one or more tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638) to purchase agriculture commodities for CSFP. Includes requirements for tribal consultation, participating Tribes, and procured commodities (e.g., must be domestically produced). Requires USDA to submit a report to Congress not later than one year after the date on which funds are appropriated. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million. **(§4204(a))** Requires USDA to appoint an existing office of the USDA to administer tribal self-determination contracts (including awarding of FNS program contracts). Authorizes appropriations of $1.2 million annually through FY2031 for the payment of USDA contract officers and program staff salaries. **(§4204(b))**	No comparable provision. See §4102(b)(2)) above for Tribes-related provision.
Purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions. Of a required $200 million in annual specialty crop purchases under Section 32 for domestic food programs, USDA must use at least $50 million in each of FY2008-FY2026 for fresh fruit and vegetable purchases for distribution to	**Purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions.** Extends current law through FY2031. **(§4301)**	**Purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools and service institutions.** Identical to the House provision. **(§4302)**

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schools and other service institutions participating in child nutrition programs. **(7 U.S.C. §612c-4(b)); P.L. 119-37)**		
Buy American in school meals programs. School food authorities located in the 48 contiguous states that participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), or both must purchase domestic commodities or products to the maximum extent practicable. Current law does not define *maximum extent practicable*, but recent USDA regulations institute a 10% cap on schools' nondomestic purchases beginning in school year 2025-2026, an 8% cap beginning in school year 2028-2029, and a 5% cap beginning in school year 2031-2032. Such non-domestic purchases must meet certain product availability or cost constraints, or both. **(42 U.S.C. §1760(n); 7 C.F.R. §210.21(d))** Appropriations laws in recent years have included provisions specifically prohibiting raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported from the People's Republic of China from being used in the programs. **(e.g., P.L. 119-37)**	**Buy American requirements for certain school meals.** For school food authorities in the 48 contiguous states participating in NSLP, SBP, or both, institutes a 5% cap on nondomestic purchases effective with the first school year that begins after enactment of this provision. Domestically unavailable products and commodities included on a list determined by USDA (within six months after enactment and revisited at least once every two years) do not count toward the cap. The 5% cap applies "with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service" [AMS] (e.g., fruits, vegetables, beef, dairy products) in contrast to the total limit across food categories in current regulations. Limits USDA from waiving or making accommodations to these Buy American requirements, except with respect to products or commodities on the domestically unavailable list. Requires USDA to prohibit school food authorities from purchasing raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation. **(§4302)**	**Buy American requirements.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision, with the exception of the following listed substantive differences: Does not include the House's language limiting USDA from making waivers or accommodations. Does not include the House's prohibitions on purchases of raw or processed poultry products or seafood imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation. **(§4304)**
The Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program. GusNIP awards competitive grants for nutrition incentive projects (bonus incentives awarded for SNAP purchases of fruits and vegetables) and produce prescription projects (fresh fruits and vegetables for specified low-income individuals with or at risk of diet-related disease). **(7 U.S.C. §7517)**	**Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.** Replaces the requirement that produce prescription projects provide fresh fruits and vegetables with a requirement that they provide "all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes." **(§4303(2))**	**Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program reauthorization.** Replaces the requirement that produce prescription projects provide fresh fruits and vegetables with a requirement that they provide "all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes." Adds "legumes" to the language establishing the produce prescription project grants to require USDA to award grants that demonstrate and evaluate the improvement of dietary health through increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, and legumes (previously fruits and vegetables only). **(§4303(2)(A)-(B))**

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Priority criteria for awarding grants to nutrition incentive projects are listed in statute, with USDA's request for applications typically providing additional prioritization criteria. **(7 U.S.C. §7517)**	**Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.** Adds a priority that nutrition incentive projects increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits and vegetables. **(§4303(1)(B))**	**Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program reauthorization.** Identical to House provision. **(§4303(1)(B))**
The Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program. Authorizes and funds one or more Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers (NTAEs). Requires nutrition incentive grantees, with the exception of tribal organizations, to provide matching resources of not less than 50% of activity costs. (USDA has implemented this as requiring a 50% match of grantees.) **(7 U.S.C. §7517)**	**Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.** Amends the nutrition incentive matching requirement to authorize USDA to waive matching requirements for activities carried out in high-poverty counties. Specifically, a county that in the preceding 30-year period has had a population where 20% or greater are living in poverty; or a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20% in the preceding 30-year period. The provision includes specific U.S. Census Bureau data sources for these measurements. **(§4303(1)(A))**	**Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program reauthorization.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision, with the exception of a substantive difference to an area's eligibility for waiver. Does not include a census tract with a poverty rate of at least 20% in the preceding 30-year period as a basis for waiving the matching requirement. Lists different U.S. Census Bureau data sources than the House provision does. **(§4303(1)(A))**
The Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $56 million for FY2023 and each year thereafter. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026. Within each year of funding through FY2026, USDA shall use not more than 10% for the produce prescription program and not more than 8% for National Institute of Food and Agriculture and FNS administration. For NTAEs, funding is $7 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7517, P.L. 119-37)**	**Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Extends through FY2031 the limits on produce prescription program and federal administrative costs. Extends $7 million per year for NTAEs through FY2031. **(§4303(3))**	**Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program reauthorization.** Identical to House provision, and also corrects a typographical error in 7 U.S.C. §7517(f)(2). **(§4303(3))**
The Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program. National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) (in consultation with FNS) administers all of GusNIP, including produce prescription programs.	No comparable provision.	**Gus Schumacher nutrition incentive program reauthorization.** Directs GAO to finalize and submit a report to agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and House Committee on Energy and Commerce not later than 18 months after enactment, that examines policy options related to the transition of the GusNIP produce prescription program from USDA to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Directs USDA, in consultation with

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		HHS, to issue recommendations to Congress, within two years of enactment, on this transition. Requires USDA and HHS to consider the policy options described in the GAO report. **(§4303(2)(C))**
Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison. Establishes the position of Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison to coordinate federal, state, local, and nongovernmental efforts involving food loss and waste. The liaison is required to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] a report on the results of a USDA study on food waste. Similarly, USDA is to submit a report two years after the enactment of the 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) that estimates food waste from the previous year and provides an overview of USDA food waste loss and prevention activities. The reports are to be provided to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(7 U.S.C. §6924(e))**	**Food loss and waste reduction liaison annual report.** Requires USDA to submit the report estimating food waste from the previous year and providing an overview of USDA food waste loss and prevention activities every year. The report is to be expanded to include project descriptions, how USDA plans to manage market disruptions, and a summary of activities coordinated with the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration (FDA), among other requirements. **(§4304)**	**Food loss and waste reduction liaison annual report.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision **(§4306)**
Healthy fluid milk incentive projects. Authorizes USDA to carry out pilot projects to develop and test methods that, by providing an incentive at the point of purchase, increase SNAP households' purchases and consumption of fluid milk. *Fluid milk* is defined as pasteurized cow's milk that is without flavoring or sweeteners, is consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations, is packaged in liquid form, and contains vitamins A and D levels consistent with FDA, state, and local standards. USDA may award cooperative agreements or grants to governmental agencies or nonprofit organizations that meet selection criteria for this purpose. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million, with no more than 7% of funding used for required evaluation. **(7 U.S.C. §2026a)**	**Dairy nutrition incentives projects.** Renames the program as "Dairy nutrition incentive projects" and broadens it to allow incentives for "covered dairy products," including cheese and yogurt along with fluid milk. Amends the definition of fluid milk to remove the requirements that it be without flavoring or sweeteners and consistent with more recent dietary guidelines. Provides that included cheese must be made from pasteurized cow's milk, a good source of protein (as determined by the Secretary), and sold as a block, chunk, shred, slice, stick, string, or in snack-size form. Requires that "yogurt (or other cultured dairy product)" also be made from pasteurized cow's milk and be determined to be a good source of protein, in addition to containing limited amounts of added sugar. Increases authorization of appropriations to $50 million. **(§4305)**	**Dairy nutrition incentive program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision, with the exception of several substantive differences. For the newly eligible yogurt, the limited amounts of added sugar are noted "as determined by the Secretary." Increases authorization of appropriations to $80 million, more than the House provision's $50 million. **(§4117)**

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No directly comparable provision. In 2022-2024, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) designed and operated the Local Food Purchase Assistance (LFPA) Cooperative Agreement Program. Total funding for the program was approximately $900 million, using funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (P.L. 117-2) and the CCC. The program provided funding for state, tribal, and territorial governments to purchase domestic foods produced within the state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination. Preference was given to the procurement of commodities from socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The foods were distributed to local networks, including nonprofits that served underserved communities.	**Local farmers feeding our communities program.** Directs USDA to establish a cooperative agreement program that provides funds to state, tribal, and territorial governments to purchase unprocessed or minimally processed foods from domestic producers either within the state or within 400 miles of the delivery destination. Gives preference to the procurement of foods from small-size producers, medium-size producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, or veteran farmers and ranchers. Program funds may be used for procurement, technical assistance, distribution, and the expansion of economic opportunities for local producers, with specific allocations stated in the section. The program funds are to be awarded to organizations with experience in food distribution, including nonprofits. Requires that 25% of the total value of products purchased be from small-size producers, medium-size producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers. Allows eligible entities to use no more that 15% of funds for administrative expenses and technical assistance, of that 15% at least 50% is required to be used for technical assistance. Authorizes appropriations of $200 million annually through FY2031. **(§4306)**	**Strengthening local food security program.** Substantively similar to House provision, with noted substantive differences. Allows USDA to enter cooperative agreements with eligible entities to distribute food within the geographic boundaries of the eligible entity including hunger relief organizations and schools participating in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Allows USDA to require that food purchased under a cooperative agreement be purchased from a farm that has undergone food safety training or has certification but prevents USDA from requiring this to be a federal certification. Requires that 51% of the total value of products purchased be from small-size producers, medium-size producers, beginning farmers and ranchers, and veteran farmers and ranchers. Allows eligible entities to use no more than 25% of funds for administrative expenses and technical assistance. Of that 25%, at least 35% is required to be used for technical assistance. Provides $200,000,000 in mandatory funding from the CCC for FY2027 and FY2028. **(§10114)**
Healthy Food Financing Initiative. Established to improve access to healthy foods in underserved areas, create and preserve quality jobs, and revitalize low-income communities by providing loans and grants to eligible food retailers and enterprises. Funds provided are to help overcome the initial barriers to entry in underserved areas. Authorizes appropriations of $125 million, to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. §6953)**	**Healthy food financing initiative.** Increases authorization of appropriations for the initiative from $125 million to $135 million. **(§4307)**	**Healthy food financing initiative.** Identical to House provision. **(§4307)**

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Establishment of dietary guidelines. Requires USDA and HHS to jointly publish a Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) report at least every five years, which must include information and guidelines based on the preponderance of current scientific and medical knowledge. The report must also include nutritional and dietary information specific to pregnant women and children up to age two. Since 1985, the DGA report has been informed by a scientific report published by an external federal advisory committee; this is not required in current statute. **(7 U.S.C. §5341)**	**Dietary guidelines.** Revises the timeline for the DGA report to at least every 10 years, beginning with the 2030 report, and applies rulemaking requirements (in 5 U.S.C. §553) to the development of the report. Expands the required scope and rigor of scientific evidence included in the DGA report. Requires the report to include information for individuals with nutrition-related chronic disease and recommendations that are affordable, available, and accessible to the general population, among other requirements. Authorizes USDA and HHS to publish the report more frequently if their Secretaries determine such action is necessary to support health and updated Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) values. Should they plan to update the report, requires USDA and HHS to provide 90 days of notice and appropriate justification to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a]; the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Requires USDA and HHS to establish an Independent Advisory Board of experts in nutrition and food science tasked with raising high-priority questions to inform DGA development within the 90-day notice period (introduced above). Establishes membership totals, expertise, and duties; meeting requirements; and termination details for the board. Prohibits USDA and HHS from including topics deemed not relevant to dietary guidance (taxation, social welfare policies, and other specifications). Establishes a definition of *evidence-based review*. Establishes financial disclosures and other reporting requirements for members of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee or the Independent Advisory Board. Establishes the 2025 DGA report as current and controlling until publication of the next DGA report. **(§4308)**	**Dietary guidelines**. Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§4305)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act includes a definitions section. **(42 U.S.C. §1760(d))**	No comparable provision.	**Technical corrections.** Includes multiple technical changes to current law. **(§4309)**
No directly comparable provision. Multiple federal agencies, including USDA and HHS, share food safety responsibilities and promulgate regulations that seek to ensure the safety of the food supply. State and local agencies implement and enforce food safety regulations that are at least equal to federal standards, such as those in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. §§301 et seq.). FDA publishes a model Food Code, which includes science-based guidelines and best practices to reduce the risks of foodborne illnesses, that may be used by state, local, and other food and public health regulators to develop standards for institutions serving foods, such as child care facilities. Adoption of FDA's Food Code is voluntary. The Food Code includes preschool-aged children and child care centers within its definition of *highly susceptible population* ("persons who are more likely than others in the general population to experience foodborne disease.") The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA; P.L. 111-353) directed FDA to designate a list of high-risk foods for which additional recordkeeping requirements would apply for specified entities in the food supply chain. In designating such a list, FDA was to consider factors such as the food's likelihood to become contaminated or support the growth of pathogens and the history and severity of foodborne illness outbreaks associated with the food **(21 U.S.C. §2223(d)(2)(A))**. This list was published on FDA's website in 2022 and includes foods such as fresh cut fruits and vegetables, certain cheeses and seafood, as well as other ready-to-eat foods.[e] The HHS Administration for Children and Families separately	**Fresh fruits and vegetables categorization.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to "develop a low-risk classification for fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods that are typically consumed raw or with minimal processing and update relevant nutrition and food safety and preparation regulations and guidelines for child care providers...." The Secretaries are to include three listed considerations in their development of the required low-risk classification. The Secretaries' implementation is required to ensure that state regulations reflect the low-risk classification under this section and to protect child care providers from any penalties. States failing to comply with the implemented policies may have funds withheld (the program or programs from which funds are withheld is not specified). **(§4309)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
carries out the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act, which requires participating states and territories to certify that they have licensing requirements for child care services provided within their jurisdiction. States and territories have flexibility in the contents of licensing requirements and the entities to whom they apply (e.g., not all child care providers must be licensed). To be eligible to serve children participating in the CCDBG program, child care providers must meet certain health and safety standards. These standards are set by the state, but the CCDBG Act requires that state standards, at a minimum, cover certain broad topics (e.g., emergencies due to food or allergic reactions). **(42 U.S.C. §9858c(c)(2); 45 C.F.R. §98.41)** USDA's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) regulations require that participating child care institutions and facilities store, prepare, and serve food that meets the sanitation and health standards set out in applicable state and local laws and regulations. **(7 C.F.R. §226.20(l))**		
For authorization to accept SNAP benefits, retailers must apply with USDA **(7 U.S.C. §2018, 7 C.F.R. §278.1)**. For authorizations to accept Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and SFMNP, retailers apply with the state or tribal agency administering the program, as applicable **(e.g., 42 U.S.C. §§1786(f), (m)(2))**. For GusNIP, the administrative processes depend on the specific project. **Imposition of costs.** USDA must require retail food stores participating in SNAP to pay 100% of the costs of EBT equipment and services. USDA may exempt from costs certain listed types of retailers, including farmers' markets	**Promoting Access to Local Agriculture.** Requires USDA to establish a "streamlined application process" for direct marketing farmers and ranchers to apply to be vendors in each of five programs (SNAP, WIC, WIC FMNP, SFMNP, and [as practicable] GusNIP). The streamlined process may either be the development of a single application or an information sharing system with specified functions. Requires USDA to, not later than one year after enactment, submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] describing progress made in developing the streamlined application process. Requires USDA to establish a streamlined process for direct marketing farmers and ranchers "to process [those programs'] benefits through the use	**Support for wireless and mobile equipment for certain entities.** Identical to House's §4310(b). **(§4104)** **Streamlining applications for farmers.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from House's §4310(a). **(§4109)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
and other direct-consumer markets. **(7 U.S.C. §2016(f)(2))**	of standardized technology." **(§4310(a))** Amends 7 U.S.C. §2016(f)(2) to require USDA to ensure that the entities exempt from paying for EBT equipment and services costs are provided equipment that "is appropriate for the entity, including, with respect to farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer markets, wireless or mobile processing equipment and technology systems." **(§4310(b))**	

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Notes:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

b. See USDA, Food and Nutrition Administration, "SNAP EBT Modernization," September 22, 2026, https://www.fna.usda.gov/snap/ebt/modernization.

c. CBO estimated this provision would neither increase nor decrease TEFAP funding compared with the baseline.

d. The Department of Defense is "using a secondary Department of War designation" under Executive Order 14347 of September 5, 2025.

e. See CRS Report R48925, *The Food and Drug Administration's Food Traceability Rule: Overview and Issues for Congress*, by Laura Pineda-Bermudez.

Title V, Credit[46]

The respective credit titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would amend agricultural credit programs that are designed to increase access to loans (**Table 8**). They would reauthorize appropriations and make policy changes to the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) farm loan programs in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. §§1921 et seq.). They also would modify policies in the Farm Credit Act, which authorizes the Farm Credit System (FCS) and Farmer Mac (12 U.S.C. §§2001 et seq.). Additionally, they would make technical corrections to eliminate outdated terms and update references.

FSA is a direct government lender for family-sized farms that do not qualify for credit elsewhere at reasonable terms. FSA also provides credit guarantees on loans made by other lenders. Although FSA has a small share of the market, it is considered an important lender for certain segments, such as beginning farmers and ranchers. FCS is a private, cooperative lender with a statutory mandate to serve creditworthy farmers, ranchers, and aquatic producers and certain agribusinesses, cooperatives, and rural homeowners. As a government-sponsored enterprise, FCS has lower costs of funds to help ensure credit availability in rural areas. Farmer Mac is a privately owned secondary market for agricultural loans, a separate government-sponsored enterprise from FCS.[47]

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would increase the maximum loan amounts for individual farmers and ranchers who borrow from USDA. For direct farm ownership loans, the limit would increase from $600,000 to $850,000. For direct operating loans, the limit would increase from $400,000 to $750,000. For guaranteed loans, the limit would increase from an inflation-adjusted $2.3 million in FY2026 to $3 million for operating loans and $3.5 million for farm ownership loans, both of which would adjust for inflation after FY2026 in the House-passed bill and after FY2027 in the Senate committee-reported bill. Because the guaranteed loan programs operate with a combined limit, each limit being reduced by any outstanding balance in the other, establishment of different limits for the two guaranteed loan programs could complicate implementation. For direct microloans, the maximum loan would increase from $50,000 to $100,000. The bills would eliminate a separate limit on down payment loans. These increased limits follow inflation in land prices and input costs since the last increases in 2018. For eligibility, H.R. 7567 would reduce a three-year experience requirement to qualify for the farm loan program to two years and give USDA authority to determine other training or experience that could qualify. Both bills would let USDA define *qualified operators* as entities that could be eligible for loans, in recognition of evolving business arrangements for family farming. For the Heirs Property Relending Program, which resolves title issues, both bills would authorize new cooperative agreements to provide legal services to heirs. Both bills would expand eligibility for USDA farm loans for seafood fishers, including wild-caught fish and shellfish. H.R. 7567 would allow both farm ownership and farm operating loans for commercial fishing vessels and fish processing facilities. The Senate committee-reported bill would allow farm operating loans for commercial fishing vessels.

For FCS, both bills would permit lending for essential community facilities, provided that FCS offers a loan participation opportunity to local rural community banks. For CoBank, the FCS lender for cooperatives, both bills would expand the limit on financing agricultural exports from

[46] This section was prepared by Jim Monke, CRS Specialist in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[47] CRS Report R46768, *Agricultural Credit: Institutions and Issues*, by Jim Monke; CRS In Focus IF10767, *Farm Credit Administration and Its Board Members*, by Jim Monke; and CRS In Focus IF11595, *Farmer Mac and Its Board Members*, by Jim Monke.

50% of CoBank's capital to 15% of its assets.[48] Both bills would expand the definition of *rural* for financing water and waste disposal systems of cities with up to 20,000 people to areas with up to 50,000 people.

For Farmer Mac, both bills would expand coverage to include Rural Energy for America Program guaranteed loans. Both bills also would raise the individual loan limit for farms greater than 2,000 acres from $17.4 million in 2025, adjusted for inflation, to 10% of Farmer Mac's Tier 1 capital (about $171 million as of December 31, 2025), unless the regulator, the Farm Credit Administration, were to set a smaller limit.

Table 8. Title V, Credit

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Farm Service Agency Farm Ownership Loans		
Eligibility requirements. Establishes that to be eligible for direct or guaranteed farm ownership loans, applicants must be individuals or certain entities engaged primarily in farming or ranching, have majority ownership, have citizenship, have sufficient training and experience, operate a farm the size of a *family farm* as defined by USDA, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable terms. A special rule allows entities that are owner-operators to be eligible if they own more than 50% of the farm. An embedded entity (an entity that is owned by other entities) may be eligible if 75% of each embedded entity is owned by individuals who own the farm. **(7 U.S.C. §1922(a))**	**Persons eligible for real estate loans.** Replaces "majority" with "at least 50 percent" for the eligibility of entity and individual ownership interests. Replaces the special rules for entities to allow USDA to define *qualified operators* as entities that could be eligible. Changes the requirement that 75% of each embedded entity be owned by individuals who own the farm; allows more flexibility in ownership arrangements as long as 75% of the total interest in the entities is owned by qualified operators. **(§5101)**	**Persons eligible for loans.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5205(a))**
Experience requirements. Requires three years of farming experience or other acceptable experience for direct loans. Allows certain alternatives to substitute for parts of the experience requirement. **(7 U.S.C. §1922(b))**	**Experience requirements.** Reduces the farming experience requirement to two years. Revises the list of alternatives for meeting the experience requirement by allowing "operational" responsibilities for hired farm labor and adding "other criteria established by the Secretary." **(§5102)**	No comparable provision.

[48] At the end of 2025, CoBank had nearly $15.1 billion of capital and $223 billion of assets (see CoBank, *2025 Annual Report*, pp. 87, 158). These amounts allow up to $7.5 billion of export loans under current law and would allow about $33 billion under H.R. 7567 and S. 5526.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Refinancing. A temporary bridge loan made by a commercial or cooperative lender may be refinanced into a USDA direct farm ownership loan if the USDA loan application was approved and funds were not available at the time the loan was approved. **(7 U.S.C. §1923(a)(1)(E)(ii))**	No comparable provision.	**Refinancing of bridge loans.** Provides additional flexibility to refinance a bridge loan into a direct farm ownership loan if funding was not available at the time the bridge loan was closed. **(§5206)**
Refinancing. Limits refinancing using USDA loans to certain direct and guaranteed operating loans and guaranteed farm ownership loans (excludes direct farm ownership loans). **(7 U.S.C. §§1923, 1942)**	**Refinancing of indebtedness into direct loans.** Adds a section for farm ownership loans in 7 U.S.C. §1923 that requires USDA to issue regulations within one year of enactment that allow refinancing of guaranteed loans into direct loans. Eligible loans must be determined by USDA to be in distress, in monetary default such that the lender has initiated liquidation or foreclosure, and have a reasonable chance of success. The amount that may be refinanced is subject to any otherwise applicable limit on direct loans. **(§5103)**	**Refinancing of guaranteed loans into direct loans.** Substantively similar to the House provision, with the additional requirements that in determining eligibility, USDA consult with the lender holding the guaranteed loan and that the borrower has attempted to work with the lender and been unsuccessful. **(§5210)**
Conservation Loan Program. Authorizes USDA loans and loan guarantees for qualified conservation projects. Prioritizes beginning farmers or ranchers, conversion to organic or sustainable production, and practices for highly erodible land. Authorizes appropriations of $150 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1924; P.L. 119-37)**	**Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.** Adds precision agriculture practices and technologies to the priority list without specifically defining the terms. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§5104)**	**Precision agriculture under the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.** Same as the House provision **(§§5203(2), (3)).** Adds definitions of *precision agriculture* and *precision agriculture technology*. **(§5203(1))**
Limitations on farm ownership loans. Sets the maximum individual direct loan limit at $600,000. Sets the total guaranteed loan limit at $1.75 million, adjusted for inflation after FY2019 ($2.3 million in FY2026), reduced by the outstanding amount of guaranteed farm operating loans. **(7 U.S.C. §1925(a)(2))**	**Limitations on amount of farm ownership loans.** Increases the limit on direct farm ownership loans from $600,000 to $850,000. Increases the limit on guaranteed farm ownership loans to $3.5 million, adjusted for inflation after FY2026. (§5202 sets the limit on guaranteed operating loans at $3 million; having different limits on the two types of guaranteed loans may complicate implementation given that the limits are reduced by the amount of borrowing in the other type). **(§5105)**	**Limitations on loan amounts.** Similar to the House provision except the Senate provision indexes for inflation beginning with FY2027. **(§5201(a))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Inflation adjustment. Adjusts the individual limit based on inflation using the USDA Prices Paid by Farmers Index. **(7 U.S.C. §1925(c))**	**Inflation percentage.** Changes the inflation adjustment to an index of values per acre of farm real estate, cropland, and pastureland, equally weighted, as measured by USDA. **(§5106)**	**Inflation percentage.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5202)**
Farm Credit System (FCS) financing for essential rural community facilities. FCS is not authorized to lend for rural community facilities. (FCS may participate in loans to entities that are not eligible, but are functionally similar to eligible entities, for risk management purposes. This authority is subject to limits of 10% of capital limit and 50% of the loan.) **(12 U.S.C. §2206a)**	**Authority of Farm Credit System institutions to provide financial support for essential rural community facilities projects.** Expands the authority of FCS to lend for *essential rural community facilities*, as defined in USDA Rural Development. The total of such loans may not exceed 15% of an FCS institution's loans. FCS must offer loan participation opportunities to at least one other non-USDA lender, with priority for local rural community banks. Offers must be reported to the Farm Credit Administration (FCA). Requires annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(§5107)**	**Financing for essential rural community facilities.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that it includes eligibility for tribal areas and does not require priority for loan participation opportunities be given to local rural community banks. **(§5104)**
Down Payment Loan Program. Authorizes USDA direct loans for down payment on farm real estate if the borrower provides a 5% down payment. The maximum loan amount is 45% of the purchase price or appraised value, up to $300,150 (45% of the $667,000 specified in statute). **(7 U.S.C. §1935(b)(1))**	**Down payment loan program.** Removes the $300,150 limit and makes the down payment loan subject to the overall limit on farm ownership loans in 7 U.S.C. §1925. **(§5108)**	**Down payment loan program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5204)**
Heirs' Property Relending Program. Authorizes loans to third-party entities to relend to individuals to resolve land title issues for heirs with inherited property. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1936c; P.L. 119-37).**	**Heirs' property.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels for the relending program through FY2031. **(§5109(a)).** Requires annual reports to Congress on the operations and outcomes of the program. **(§5109(c))**	**Support for resolving ownership and succession issues relating to farmland**. Contains the House provisions to reauthorize the program through FY2031 and require annual reports. Adds authority for USDA to support lending entities for their administrative costs and for provision of technical assistance. Expands eligibility to be a relending entity to the Farm Credit System and commercial lenders. Deems that borrowers in the Heirs' Property Relending Program or Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan Program are eligible for, without making another application, FSA farm ownership or operating loans if needed to ensure a viable farm operation. Requires USDA to

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		provide up to 30% of the loan amount to entities for administrative and technical assistance. Increases the authorization of appropriations to $50 million. **(§5207(a))**
Rural Development and Small Farm Research and Education. Authorizes a national program to develop knowledge for rural development, including technical assistance to families operating small farms. **(7 U.S.C. §§2661-2669)**	**Cooperative agreements for heirs' property resolution through direct public interest legal services.** Creates a cooperative agreement program for nonprofit organizations to provide legal services to heirs to resolve title issues, including maintaining or transitioning land to agricultural production or increasing access to USDA programs. Establishes conditions for legal contract duration and success. Authorizes separate appropriations for cooperative agreements for legal services of $60 million annually through FY2031. Requires annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] for the cooperative agreements for legal services and the overall Heirs' Property Relending Program. **(§5109(b))**	**Cooperative agreements for heirs' property resolution through direct public interest legal services.** Same as the House provision except the Senate provision authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2031. **(§5207(b))**
Prompt approval for loan guarantees and simplified application forms. Requires USDA to provide short application forms for farm loan guarantees that are below $125,000, and for business and industry guaranteed loans that are below $400,000 (or $600,000 if default risk is not increased). **(7 U.S.C. §1983a(g))**	**Prompt approval of loans and loan guarantees.** Increases the threshold for the short application forms from $125,000 to $1 million for guaranteed farm loans. Sets a five-day decision window for USDA to notify USDA-preferred or certified lenders of the decision. Makes the maximum guarantee on such loans 90% for loans up to $125,000, 75% for loans up to $500,000, and 50% for loans up to $1 million. Requires USDA to develop an expedited application process for business and industry loan guarantees up to $400,000 ($600,000 if default risk is not increased). **(§5110)**	**Prompt approval of loans and loan guarantees.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5215(a))**
Rules and regulations. Establishes categories of Certified Lenders and Preferred Certified Lenders for nongovernmental lending institutions to receive expedited approval and decisionmaking authority for the guaranteed loan program. **(7 U.S.C. §1989(c) and (d).**	No comparable provision.	**Authority to include certain certified lenders as preferred certified lenders.** Reorganizes headings and numbering. Adds authority for the Secretary to establish alternative criteria to designate certain Certified Lenders as Preferred Certified Lenders. **(§5215(b))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Farmer loan pilot projects. Authorizes USDA to conduct limited pilot projects to evaluate processes that may improve efficiency and effectiveness. **(7 U.S.C. §1983d)**	**Expedited approval pilot program.** Requires USDA to create a pilot program for expedited qualification and approval of direct loans and guaranteed farm ownership loans from Preferred Certified Lenders. Within one year of enactment, USDA is to report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the results. Authority for the pilot program ends in FY2031. **(§5111(a))**	**Pilot projects for preapproval of direct farm ownership loans.** Requires USDA to create a pilot program for preapproval or prequalification for direct farm ownership loans, using financial benchmarking and streamlined loan assessments. **(§5211)**
Set-aside for beginning farmers. Requires a portion of loan authority to be maintained for beginning farmers for part of the fiscal year as follows: for direct down payment loans (66.67% for 6 months); other direct farm ownership loans (75% for 11 months); direct farm operating loans (50% for 11 months); and guaranteed loans (40% for 6 months). **(7 U.S.C. §1994(b)(2)).** The set-aside requirement for direct farm operating loans expires after FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1994(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III); P.L. 119-37).**	**Loan fund set-asides.** Extends the direct farm operating loan set-aside through FY2031. **(§5403).** Adds the phrase, "to the extent practicable," to the portion of the fiscal year for the other set-asides **(§5111(b))**	**Loan fund set-asides.** Similar to the House provision with wording differences in extending the set-aside for direct farm operating loans. **(§5303(1)(B)).** Adds the phrase, "to the extent practicable," to the portion of the fiscal year for the other set-asides. **(§§5303(1)(A), (C), and (2))**
Eligibility requirements. Establishes that to be eligible for direct or guaranteed farm operating loans, applicants must be individuals or certain entities engaged primarily in farming or ranching, have majority ownership, have citizenship, have sufficient training and experience, operate a farm the size of a family farm as defined by USDA, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable terms. A special rule allows embedded entities (entities that are owned by other entities) to be eligible if 75% of the embedded entity is owned by individuals who own and operate the farm. **(7 U.S.C. §1941(a))**	**Persons eligible for operating loans.** Replaces "majority" with "at least 50 percent" for the eligibility of entities and ownership interests. Adds a second part to the special rule that USDA may define qualified operators as entities that could be eligible. Changes the requirement that 75% of each embedded entity be owned by individuals; allows more flexibility in ownership arrangements as long as 75% of the total interest in the entities is owned by qualified operators. **(§5201)**	**Persons eligible for loans.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5205(b))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Limitations on farm operating loans. Sets the maximum individual direct loan at $400,000. Sets the total limit on guaranteed loans at $1.75 million, adjusted for inflation after FY2019 ($2.3 million in FY2026), reduced by the outstanding amount of guaranteed farm ownership loans. **(7 U.S.C. §1943(a)(1))**	**Limitations on amount of operating loans.** Increases the limit on direct farm operating loans from $400,000 to $750,000. Increases the limit on guaranteed farm operating loans to $3 million, adjusted for inflation after FY2026. (§5105 sets the limit on guaranteed farm ownership loans at $3.5 million; having different limits on the two types of guaranteed loans may complicate implementation given that the limits are reduced by the amount of borrowing in the other type). **(§5202)**	**Limitations on loan amounts.** Same as the House provision except the Senate provision indexes for inflation beginning with FY2027. **(§5201(b))**
Limitation on microloans. Limits microloans to $50,000; microloans have streamlined application and approval processes. **(7 U.S.C. §1943(c)(2))**	**Limitation on microloan amounts.** Increases the limit on microloans from $50,000 to $100,000. **(§5203)**	**Limitation on microloan amounts.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5208)**
Cooperative lending pilot projects for microloans. Authorizes a pilot program through FY2026 for community development financial institutions to make or guarantee microloans and provide services to borrowers. **(7 U.S.C. §1943(c)(4)(A); P.L. 119-37)**	**Cooperative lending pilot projects.** Reauthorizes the pilot program through FY2031. **(§5204)**	**Cooperative lending pilot projects.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5209)**
Eligibility requirements. Establishes that to be eligible for emergency loans, applicants must be individuals or certain entities engaged primarily in farming or ranching, have majority ownership, have citizenship, have sufficient training and experience, operate a farm the size of a family farm as defined by USDA, and be unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable terms. Embedded entities (those owned by other entities) may be eligible if 75% of the embedded entity is owned by individuals who own the farm. **(7 U.S.C. §1961)**	**Persons eligible for emergency loans.** Replaces "majority" with "at least 50 percent" for the eligibility of entities and ownership interests. Adds special rules for eligible entities that USDA may define qualified operators as entities that could be eligible. Changes the requirement that 75% of each embedded entity be owned by individuals; allows more flexibility in ownership arrangements as long as 75% of the total interest in the entities is owned by qualified operators. **(§5301)**	**Persons eligible for loans.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5205(c))**
Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Accounts Program. Authorizes a pilot program for beginning farmers and ranchers to contribute to savings accounts and receive matching contributions. Authorizes appropriations through FY2026. (The program has never received	**Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§5401)**	**Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5301)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
appropriations.) **(7 U.S.C. §1983b(h); P.L. 119-37)**		
Loan authorization levels. Authorizes annual USDA farm loan-making levels of $10 billion per year through FY2026, including $3 billion for direct loans and $7 billion for guaranteed loans, each equally divided between farm ownership and farm operating loans. **(7 U.S.C. §1994(b)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Loan authorization levels.** Extends the loan authorization levels through FY2031. **(§5402)**	**Loan authorization levels.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5302)**
Loan and loan servicing limitations. Prohibits borrowers from receiving USDA direct farm loans if they received debt forgiveness on USDA direct or guaranteed loans. Prohibits borrowers from receiving USDA guaranteed loans if they received debt forgiveness on a USDA direct or guaranteed loan more than three times before April 4, 1996, or any time after April 4, 1996. **(7 U.S.C. §2008h(b)(1))**	No comparable provision.	**Temporary prohibition of loans to borrowers that have received debt forgiveness.** Strikes the provision and replaces it with a 7-year prohibition on a borrower to receive a USDA direct or guaranteed loan after receiving debt forgiveness on a USDA direct or guaranteed loan. **(§5304)**
Additional funds for microloans. Authorizes additional appropriations up to $5 million annually, if needed, for direct operating microloans through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1994(b)(5)(C); P.L. 119-37)**	**Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§5404)**	**Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5213)**
USDA farm loan programs. The terms *farmer* and *farming* in the USDA direct and guaranteed farm loan programs are defined to include *fish farming*. **(7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(1) and (2))** Regulation defines *aquaculture* as the husbandry of aquatic organisms raised in a controlled or selected environment of which the applicant has exclusive rights to use. The term *established farmer* is defined specifically to not be an integrated livestock, poultry, or fish processor who operates primarily as a commercial business through contracts or business arrangements with farmers **(7 C.F.R. §761.2).** Establishes that to be eligible for direct or guaranteed farm ownership or farm operating loans, applicants must be individuals or certain entities engaged primarily in farming or ranching, as defined **(7**	**Department of Agriculture loans and grants for commercial fishing and fish processing businesses.** Defines for the USDA farm loan program the terms *commercial fishing*, *commercial fishing vessel*, *fish processing*, and *fish processing facility*. Adds commercial fishing and fish processing to the definitions of farmer and farming. Adds wild-caught fish and shellfish to the eligibility for direct and guaranteed farm ownership and farm operating loans, including defining *farm* and *ranch* to include a commercial fishing vessel and fish processing facility. Adds to the purposes of farm ownership loans acquirement of a commercial fishing permit or acquirement or improvement of a commercial fishing vessel or fish processing facility. Adds to the	**Farm operating loans for commercial fishing.** Defines for the USDA farm loan program the terms *commercial fishing*, *commercial fishing vessel*, and *fish*. A fishing vessel does not include a fish processing vessel, unlike the House-passed bill. Adds "wild-caught fish and shellfish" to the eligibility for direct and guaranteed farm operating loans, including defining *farm* and *ranch* to include a commercial fishing vessel. Adds to the purposes of farm operating loans the acquisition, operation, and maintenance of a commercial fishing vessel. Directs USDA to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to the commercial fishing industry, including through cooperative agreements and partnerships, to promote

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
U.S.C. §1922(a), 7 U.S.C. §1941(a)). Establishes that the purposes of direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans are to acquire or improve a farm or ranch **(7 U.S.C. §1923(a)).** Establishes that the purposes of direct and guaranteed farm operating loans are to operate and maintain a farm or ranch. **(7 U.S.C. §1942).**	purposes of farm operating loans operation and maintenance of a commercial fishing vessel or fish processing facility. Directs USDA to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to the commercial fishing industry, including through cooperative agreements and partnerships, to promote awareness of and access to relevant programs. **(§12420)**	awareness of and access to relevant programs. **(§5216)**
Eligibility for credit. Authorizes Farm Credit Banks and Production Credit Associations to make loans to businesses that furnish farm-related services directly related to a farm's or ranch's on-farm operating needs (in addition to farmers, ranchers, producers, or harvesters of aquatic products and owners of rural homes). **(12 U.S.C. §§2017, 2019(c)(1), 2075(a))**	**Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products**. Adds eligibility to businesses that furnish products or services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products that are directly related to the producers' or harvesters' operating needs. **(§5501)**	**Extension of credit to businesses providing services to producers or harvesters of aquatic products**. Substantively similar to the House provision but specifies the purpose is for the producers' or harvesters' aquatic operating needs. **(§5101)**
Export finance authority. Limits the amount of loans to finance agricultural exports that are made by a bank for cooperatives to 50% of the bank's capital (CoBank, an entity of FCS, is the sole such bank). **(12 U.S.C. §2128(b)(2)(A)(i))**	**Export finance authority.** Changes the limit on CoBank's export financing to 15% of CoBank's total assets. **(§5502)**	**Export finance authority.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5102)**
Rural water and waste systems. Authorizes CoBank to make direct loans and guaranteed loans to cooperatives and public agencies for water and waste disposal facilities in *rural areas*, which are defined as areas not within a town greater than 20,000 people. **(12 U.S.C. §2128(f))**	**Support for rural water and waste systems.** Expands the definition of *rural* for CoBank rural water systems guaranteed loans to areas not within a town greater than 50,000 people or areas adjacent to such cities as defined in 7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(13)(A). Expands the purpose of loans to cooperatives and any other public or private entity to include waste from any source, telecommunication services, and producing electricity. **(§5503)**	**Support for rural water and waste systems.** Similar to the House-passed bill, except that it does not include telecommunication services in the expansion of loan purposes. **(§5103)**
—	**Limitation on rural business investment companies.** For more information, see §6426 in the House-passed bill. **(§6426, Title VI—Rural Development)**	**Limitation on rural business investment companies.** For more information, see §6426 in the House-passed bill. **(§5105)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Farm credit system regulation.** Adds a section to the Farm Credit Act of 1971 stating that (a) FCA is the sole regulator of FCS; (b) the section does not limit the authority of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation; and (c) a law or rule enacted after the farm bill shall not be considered to supersede FCA's sole authority unless it does so expressly. **(§5504)**	No comparable provision.
Qualified loans. Defines *qualified loans* for Farmer Mac, which is a secondary market for agricultural loans, to include the portion of loans that are guaranteed by USDA under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (ConAct). **(12 U.S.C. §2279aa(7)(B))**	**Loan guarantees.** Expands the Farmer Mac charter for accepting guaranteed loans to include the portion of loans guaranteed by the Rural Energy for America Program (7 U.S.C. §8107). **(§5505)**	**Loan guarantees.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5106)**
Standards for qualified loans. Requires Farmer Mac, under the supervision of FCA, to establish standards for qualified loans that meet the quality standards of mortgage investors. **(12 U.S.C. §2279aa-8(a)(3))**	**Standards for qualified loans.** Replaces the term *mortgage investors* with *investors in those types of loans* to reflect private institutional investors. (See also §5508(t) regarding the paragraph heading.) **(§5506(1))**	**Standards for qualified loans.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5107(1))**
Qualified loans. Sets an individual loan limit of $2.5 million starting in 1988 and adjusted for inflation thereafter ($17.4 million in 2025), for loans accepted by Farmer Mac. Loans secured by mortgages under 2,000 acres are not subject to the limit **(12 U.S.C. §2279aa-8(c))**. An internal Farmer Mac policy sets a limit for loans not subject to the statutory limit to 10% of Farmer Mac's Tier 1 capital ($171 million as of December 31, 2025). **(Farmer Mac, 10-K Annual Report**, February 19, 2026**)**	**Standards for qualified loans.** Strikes the individual loan limit, including the 2,000-acre exception, and replaces it with a cumulative loan limit per borrower of 10% of Farmer Mac's Tier 1 capital ($171 million as of December 31, 2025), except that FCA may establish a smaller limit if necessary for safe and sound operations. **(§5506(2))**	**Standards for qualified loans.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5107(2))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Study on Rural Home Mortgage Credit.** Requires FCA to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] within180 days of enactment that describes any gaps in rural home mortgage private credit and how the cost of such credit compares with urban and suburban home mortgage credit. **(§5108)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
State agricultural loan mediation programs. Authorizes grants of up to $500,000 to states that operate agricultural loan mediation programs to resolve disputes. Authorizes appropriations of $7.5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5101, 7 U.S.C. §5102, 7 U.S.C. §5106; P.L. 119-37)**	**State agricultural mediation programs.** Adds a definition of *state* that includes any federally recognized Indian Tribe. Increases the maximum grant amount from $500,000 to $700,000. Authorizes states to carry over up to 25% of unobligated amounts. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§5507)**	**State agricultural mediation programs.** Substantively similar to the House provision to increase the maximum grant amount and allow carryover. Does not add the definition of state. Increases the authorization of appropriations to $10 million per year through FY2031. **(§5214)**
County committees. The ConAct makes references to the involvement of county committees in the process of making and guaranteeing USDA farm loans, such as for prompt approval **(7 U.S.C. §1983a(a)(2)(B)(vi))**, conflicts of interest **(7 U.S.C. §1986)**, certification of loan guarantees **(7 U.S.C. §1989)**, and requirements for borrower training. **(7 U.S.C. §2006a(c)(1))**	**Technical corrections.** Eliminates outdated references to county committees for processes in which they are no longer involved. **(§5508(a))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(a))**
Loan assessments. Requires USDA direct farm loans to be reviewed annually and guaranteed loans to be reviewed periodically to assess the progress in meeting the goals of the farm or ranch. **(7 U.S.C. §2006b(d)(1))**	**Technical corrections.** Revises the assessment interval for direct loans so they will be reviewed periodically as determined by USDA. **(§5508(b))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(b))**
Outdated agency names. Numerous sections in the ConAct refer to the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Agency, Rural Development Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration. **(7 U.S.C. §§1928, 1929, 1981, 1981a, 1983a, 1985, 1988, 1995, 1997, 2001a, 2004, 2006c, 2008e)**	**Technical corrections.** Amends provisions to replace outdated names with Farm Service Agency, Rural Development, or Rural Utilities Service. **(§5508(c))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(c))**
Sale of acquired property. For farm property acquired by USDA during loan servicing (such as through foreclosure), sets the interval for USDA to advertise the property to 15 days and for sale to occur not later than 135 days after acquisition. **(7 U.S.C. §1985(c)(1))**	**Technical corrections.** Extends the interval to 60 days for USDA to advertise property and not later than 180 days after acquisition for sale to occur. **(§5508(d))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(d))**
Inventory property disposition. Sets terms for USDA to dispose of loan inventory property. **(7 U.S.C. §§1981(b)(1), 1985(f))**	**Technical corrections.** Strikes outdated language pertaining to the 1970s and 1980s about contracting for inventory disposal and resolving security interests. **(§5508(e))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(e))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
District offices. The ConAct refers to "District Offices." **(7 U.S.C. §1983a(a)(2)(B))**	**Technical corrections.** Replaces references to "District Office" with "District Director." **(§5508(f))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(f))**
Definition of *United States* and *state*. Includes the states, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. **(7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(6))**	**Technical corrections.** Corrects an outdated reference to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands by specifying "Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands." **(§5508(g))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(g))**
Definition of *farmer program loan*. The definition includes farm ownership loans, farm operating loans, soil and water loans, and emergency loans. **(7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(10))**	**Technical corrections.** Adds conservation loans to the list of loan programs after 2008 and adds a sunset date for soil and water loans before 2008. **(§5508(h))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(h))**
Definition of *qualified beginning farmer or rancher*. Sets criteria for being considered a beginning farmer to those farmers operating less than 10 years, to business entities with certain organizational structures, and for material participation in the operation of the farms, among other criteria. **(7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(11))**	**Technical corrections.** Removes wording in 7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(11)(C) that requires entities have individuals who are all related "by blood or marriage" and replaces it with "qualified beginning farmers." **(§5508(i))**	**Definition of qualified beginning farmer or rancher.** Removes the requirement in 7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(11)(C) that entities have individuals who are all related "by blood or marriage." **(§5212)**
Purpose of loans. Includes references to specific conservation loan practices. **(7 U.S.C. §§1923(a)(1)(D) and (2)(D), 1934)**	**Technical corrections.** Updates provisions to more generally refer to conservation practices, rather than referencing a list of specific practices. **(§5508(j))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(i))**
Debt restructuring and loan servicing. Requires using registered or certified mail for notices of ineligibility. **(7 U.S.C. §2001(i)(1))**	**Technical corrections.** Authorizes any method of notification that provides documentation of delivery. **(§5508(k))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(j))**
Water and waste facility loans and grants. Requires USDA to use the Soil Conservation Service in providing technical assistance to applicants. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(13))**	**Technical corrections.** Updates the agency reference to the Natural Resources Conservation Service. **(§5508(l))**	No comparable provision.
Interest rates. Sets the range for interest rates for direct loans in the low-income farm ownership loan program to be not less than 5% and not more than one-half of the yield on five-year Treasury notes, plus up to 1% (7 U.S.C. §1927(a)(3)(B)). The same range is allowed for microloans for veteran farmers or	**Technical corrections.** Sets a maximum interest rate of 5%; that is, for the same referenced programs, sets the interest rate to be the rate for direct farm ownership loans, not to exceed 5%. **(§5508(m))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(k))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
beginning farmers and ranchers and for other direct operating loans to low-income limited resource borrowers. **(7 U.S.C. §1946(a)(2))**		
Reference to down payment loans. A section with the heading "Beginning farmer loans" provides a 95% loan guarantee to beginning, socially disadvantaged, and veteran farmers and ranchers. **(7 U.S.C. §1929(h)(6))**	**Technical corrections.** To make the heading consistent, strikes "Beginning farmer loans" and inserts "Down payment loan program participant." **(§5508(n))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(l))**
Private reserve for family living expenses. Permits up to the smaller of 10% or $5,000 of an operating loan to be reserved for family living expenses. **(7 U.S.C. §1942(d))**	**Technical corrections.** Eliminates specific authority for a private reserve account. (Family living expenses are allowed in the general purposes of loans in 7 U.S.C. §1942(a).) **(§5508(o))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(m))**
Graduation of borrowers to private credit. Requires USDA to have a plan to help borrowers develop their borrowing capacity so as not to need USDA loans and to be able to obtain commercial credit. **(7 U.S.C. §1949)**	**Technical corrections.** Eliminates references to loan guarantees in the graduation requirement, since guaranteed loans no longer have term limits in other farm loan provisions. **(§5508(p))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(n))**
Long-term cost projection, low-income limited resource requirement. Requires USDA to develop three-year projections of the loans beginning in 1983. Requires 25% of loans be for low-income limited resource borrowers and that USDA inform borrowers of such provisions. **(7 U.S.C. §§1994(c) and (d))**	**Technical corrections.** Eliminates the requirement for cost projections. Eliminates the set-aside for low-income limited resource borrowers; such priorities are expressed in other provisions. **(§5508(q))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(o))**
Appeals. Provides an appeal process for homestead protection **(7 U.S.C. §2000(c)(3))** and for debt restructuring **(7 U.S.C. §2001(h) and (j))**	**Technical corrections.** Deletes an obsolete reference to a repealed appeals provision and inserts updated references. **(§5508(r))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(p))**
Farmer loan pilot projects. Requires that loan pilot projects be consistent with subchapter A (real estate loans). **(7 U.S.C. §1983d(a))**	**Technical corrections.** Eliminates subchapter A from the requirement. **(§5508(s))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(q))**
Standards for qualified loans; mortgage loans. Directs Farmer Mac to establish standards for qualified loans. **(12 U.S.C. §2279aa–8(a)(3))**	**Technical corrections.** Changes the heading from "Mortgage loans" to "Loan quality." **(§5508(t))**	**Technical corrections.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§5305(r))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Reporting on improving creditworthiness of direct and guaranteed loan borrowers.** Requires USDA to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] within one year of enactment, that evaluates the feasibility of requiring adoption of risk management practices as a condition for approving direct and guaranteed farm operating loans. The goal is to improve the creditworthiness of borrowers. **(§5509)**	No comparable provision.
Examinations of FCS institutions. Requires FCA to examine FCS institutions at least once every 18 months. **(12 U.S.C. §2254(a))**	**Farm Credit Administration option to examine low-risk Farm Credit System institutions on a 24-month cycle.** Authorizes FCA discretion to extend by 6 months (to 24 months) the period between mandatory examinations for small, low-risk institutions. **(§5510)**	No comparable provision.

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title VI, Rural Development[49]

The respective rural development titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would amend many of the more than 40 programs administered through the USDA Rural Development (RD) mission area (**Table 9**). These programs address rural utilities, rural business development, and rural community facilities. The bills would extend authorization of appropriations for most of these programs through FY2031. The bills also would establish new RD programs and initiatives. In particular, the bills would address RD programs and initiatives related to rural health care, broadband deployment, and water and waste disposal infrastructure.

Rural Health Care

In the 2018 farm bill, Congress prioritized funding within certain RD programs for projects that address substance use disorder.[50] The programs with prioritized funding were the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, and Rural Health and Safety Education Program. Under H.R. 7567, through FY2027, such funding would be prioritized for projects that address behavioral, maternal, and mental health services as well as substance use disorder. S. 5526 would expand prioritized funding for behavioral and mental health projects, but not for maternal health projects, of the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program and the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would expand the types of health care institutions eligible to refinance debt using RD loans under certain circumstances.[51] The bills would expand eligibility from rural hospitals to include rural health care facilities, such as psychiatric hospitals, critical access care hospitals, religious nonmedical health care institutions, and community health centers. In addition, the bills would establish a new program called the Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program that would provide grants to help rural health care facilities improve their long-term financial positions.

Broadband Deployment

The Rural Broadband Program and ReConnect Program aim to help deploy broadband to rural areas.[52] The Rural Broadband Program provides loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities to acquire, construct, or modernize broadband infrastructure in rural areas (i.e., areas of 20,000 or fewer people).[53] The program allows any broadband technology to be used to deliver broadband to the proposed service area. The ReConnect Program is a pilot program that provides loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to acquire, construct, or modernize broadband infrastructure in rural areas (i.e., areas of 20,000 or fewer people).[54] The program requires fixed terrestrial broadband technology to be used to deliver broadband to the proposed service areas. Fiber

[49] This section was prepared by Lisa S. Benson, former CRS Specialist in Agricultural Policy, RSI, and Zachary T. Neuhofer, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[50] Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334), §6101.

[51] 7 U.S.C. §1990a.

[52] CRS Report R47017, *USDA's ReConnect Program: Expanding Rural Broadband*, by Lisa S. Benson.

[53] The Rural Broadband Program is authorized by §601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. §950bb).

[54] The ReConnect Program is a pilot program without specific statutory authority. Congress provided USDA general statutory authority to create the pilot program through the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. §§901 et seq.).

technology has been the most common form of broadband technology used in the program to deliver broadband.

H.R. 7567 would amend the authority for the Rural Broadband Program and rename it the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. The bill would terminate the ReConnect Program and transfer the unobligated funds into the proposed program. As the name suggests, the proposed program would incorporate elements of the Rural Broadband Program and the ReConnect Program. The proposed program would issue grants, loans, loan guarantees, and loan-grant combinations. The proposed program would also allow projects to use any type of broadband technology that can meet the buildout speed requirements.

S. 5526 would amend the authority for the Rural Broadband Program and rename it the ReConnect Program. It would prioritize funding for applicants that demonstrate experience with constructing and operating broadband networks and would ensure that the funded projects use technology that can scale speeds to meet future bandwidth needs. It would require USDA to establish a simplified application process and would provide alternative ways for applicants to demonstrate their financial ability to carry out their projects.

The program proposed in S. 5526 is similar to the one proposed in H.R. 7567. For instance, both bills would create a program that allows projects to deliver broadband service using any technology that meets the required broadband buildout speeds. H.R. 7567 would use a tiered approach to the buildout speed, requiring projects with longer terms to deliver higher broadband speeds to the proposed service areas. S. 5526 would provide one broadband buildout speed (i.e., 100/20 Mbps [megabits per second]). Both bills would authorize the program to issue grants, loans, and loan guarantees. S. 5526 differs in that its program would allow the constructed broadband network to be owned and operated by an entity other than the awardee.

Water and Waste Disposal Infrastructure

The Circuit Rider Program provides technical assistance to rural water systems that are experiencing issues with their day-to-day operations.[55] Under H.R. 7567, the Circuit Rider Program would be expanded to provide rural water and wastewater systems with disaster recovery assistance. The bill would adjust which rural systems could receive assistance. For technical assistance with day-to-day operations, rural systems would have to be located in areas with 10,000 or fewer people. For disaster recovery assistance, rural systems would have to be located in areas with 50,000 or fewer people. The bill also would allow the program to continue during a lapse in appropriations by using unobligated funds from the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program account.

S. 5526 would also authorize the program to continue during a lapse of appropriations. The bill would authorize appropriations of $30 million annually through FY2031. S. 5526 would not expand the Circuit Rider Program to include support for disaster recovery. S. 5526 would create a new program called the Cybersecurity Circuit Rider Program. The program would provide technical assistance to operators of rural water systems to help them prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats to their systems. H.R. 7567 does not include a program similar to the Cybersecurity Circuit Rider Program.

The Rural Decentralized Water Systems Grant Program provides grants to nonprofit organizations so that they can provide loans and subgrants to eligible individuals to construct, refurbish, and service household water well systems and septic systems.[56] Currently, an eligible household must

[55] 7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(22).

[56] 7 U.S.C. §1926e.

have a combined income for all of its members of no more than 60% of the median nonmetropolitan household income of the state or territory where they live. H.R. 7567 would increase this threshold to 80% of the median nonmetropolitan household income. Currently, the maximum award per household is $15,000. The bill would increase the maximum award per household to $20,000.

S. 5526 would increase the maximum award per household to $25,000. It would also allow up to 10% of grants made to nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribes to be used to deliver technical assistance to homeowners eligible to receive a subgrant or loan. In addition, S. 5526 would allow the subgrants to homeowners to be used to purchase performance warranties. Similar to H.R. 7567, S. 5526 would increase the income threshold for subgrants to eligible individuals to 80% of the median nonmetropolitan household income. For loans, S. 5526 would increase the income threshold to 100% of the median nonmetropolitan household income.

Rural Child Care

H.R. 7567 would establish a new Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative. Through FY2029, the initiative would prioritize funding for projects that address rural child care. The prioritization would apply to the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program, Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program, Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and Intermediary Relending Program.

S. 5526 would prioritize funding for rural child care facilities through the Community Facilities Program, Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program, Rural Business Development Grant Program, Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program, and the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program. The bill would require USDA to set aside 10% of funding appropriated each fiscal year for the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program for projects to support rural child care programs. The bill would prioritize funding for child care projects through FY2031.

Table 9. Title VI, Rural Development

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Combating substance use disorder in rural America; prioritizations. Prioritizes funding for substance use disorder projects for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program, Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program, and certain rural health and safety education programs through FY2025. **(P.L. 115-334, §6101(a))**	**Prioritizations for distance learning and telemedicine and community facilities program.** Expands prioritization beyond substance use disorder projects to include projects that address mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health services. Extends prioritization through FY2027. **(§6101)**	**Improving the rural care economy; prioritizations.** Prioritizes funding for substance use disorder, mental health, and behavioral health projects for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program and Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program. Requires USDA to set aside 10% of funding appropriated each fiscal year for the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program for health care and child care programs. Prioritizations are to be through FY2031. Sunsets prioritization provision in §6101(a) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334). §6301's provisions regarding rural child care are discussed alongside §6305 in the House-passed bill column of this table. **(§6301)**
Telemedicine and distance learning in rural areas. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to expand distance learning and telemedicine in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of $82 million annually through FY2026. Regulations require matching funds totaling 15% of the requested grant amount. **(7 U.S.C. §§950aaa et seq.; 7 C.F.R. §1734.22(a); P.L. 119-37)**	**Distance learning and telemedicine loans and grants.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Makes those appropriations available for two fiscal years after the fiscal year when funding is appropriated. **(§6102)**	**Distance learning and telemedicine.** Like the House provision, the bill reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Allows grants to be used for the operation of facilities and systems that provide telemedicine and distance services in rural areas. Limits the use of funds for operating expenses at 15% of the financial award. Removes any USDA-established matching fund requirement for federally recognized Tribes and applicants with demonstrated need or that would be substantially burdened by the matching fund requirements. **(§6311)**
Access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas. Authorizes USDA to provide loans, loan guarantees, and loan-grant combinations through the Rural Broadband Program. Allows projects to deliver broadband through any type of technology that meets the minimum broadband buildout speed. Authorizes appropriations of $350 million annually through FY2026. Terminates authority for the	**Rural broadband program loans and grants.** Amends the authority for the Rural Broadband Program and renames it the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. Terminates the ReConnect Program and transfers the unobligated funds to the ReConnect Rural Broadband Program. The proposed program combines elements of the ReConnect Program and the Rural Broadband Program. For example,	**Streamlining broadband authorities.** Amends the authority for the Rural Broadband Program and renames it the ReConnect Program. Prioritizes funding for applicants that demonstrate experience with constructing and operating broadband networks and that can ensure the funded projects use technology that can scale speeds to meet future bandwidth needs.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
program on September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §950bb; P.L. 119-37)** Authorizes USDA, through appropriations, to establish a broadband pilot program (later called the ReConnect Program) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 and provided initial funding through P.L. 115-141. The program issues grants, loans, and loan-grant combinations and requires projects to deliver broadband through fixed terrestrial broadband technology. Subsequent funding and authority for the program was provided through annual appropriations acts. **(P.L. 115-141, §779; 89 *Federal Register* 13035, February 21, 2024)**	the new program is authorized to issue grants, loans, loan guarantees, and loan-grant combinations (i.e., combining the types of awards issued through both programs). The new program allows projects to deliver broadband service using any technology that meets the minimum required broadband speeds. Reauthorizes appropriations of $350 million annually for the renamed program through FY2031. Extends termination of the authority for the program to September 30, 2031. **(§6201)**	Requires that USDA establish a simplified application process. Provides alternative ways for applicants to show their financial ability to carry out their projects. Like the House provision, the program allows projects to deliver broadband service using any technology that meets the minimum required broadband speeds and authorizes the program to issue grants, loans, and loan guarantees. Allows the constructed broadband network to be owned and operated by an entity other than the awardee. Requires an annual report evaluating the program to be submitted to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction;[a] Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Authorizes appropriations of $100 million annually through FY2031. **(§6101(a))**
Expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas. Authorizes USDA to make grants, loans, and loan guarantees for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §950bb-1(g); P.L. 119-37)**	**Expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6202)**	**Expansion of middle mile infrastructure into rural areas.** Identical to the House provision. **(§6102)**
Innovative Broadband Enhancement Program. Authorizes USDA to establish the Innovative Broadband Enhancement Program to make grants, loans, and loan-grant combinations for projects that decrease the cost of broadband deployment and increase broadband speeds in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §950bb-2; P.L. 119-37)**	**Innovative broadband advancement program.** Establishes program guidelines for terrestrial and satellite projects. Authorizes grants and loans for terrestrial broadband projects that decrease the cost of broadband deployment and increase broadband speeds in rural areas. Authorizes grants for satellite broadband projects that reduce or eliminate costs associated with the purchase or installation of satellite broadband service equipment for consumers in remote areas. Requires an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] to include a program. Reauthorizes	No comparable provision.

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	appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6203)**	
Community Connect Grant Program. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to help deploy broadband to economically distressed communities. Sets *eligible service areas* to where 100% of the households are without broadband service at speeds of at least 10/1 megabits per second (Mbps). Requires USDA to set the required broadband speed for projects to provide to proposed service areas. Requires that hat speed to be no less than the minimum broadband speed established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for "advanced telecommunications capability" (currently set at 100/20 Mbps). Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §950bb-3; P.L. 119-37)**	**Community connect grants.** Amends eligible service areas to be areas where households do not have broadband at speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. Removes the requirement that the broadband buildout speed be at least at the minimum broadband speed established by the FCC for "advanced telecommunications capability." Instead, the buildout speed is set for at least five times the minimum broadband speed set for §601(e)(4)(B)(ii) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (i.e., 250/125 Mbps). Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6204)**	**Community Connect Grant Program.** Like the House provision, the bill amends the definition of eligible service areas and reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Sets the buildout speed at 100/20 Mbps. **(§6103)**
No comparable provision.	**Rate regulation.** Prohibits USDA from regulating rates charged for broadband service. **(§6205)**	**Streamlining broadband authorities.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6101(d))**
Public notice, assessment, and reporting requirements. Requires USDA to make publicly available a database of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) applications submitted for projects currently receiving funding through or seeking funding from USDA broadband programs. Requires USDA to take certain steps to confirm the proposed service areas in USDA broadband program applications are eligible to receive funding. Steps include giving existing service providers the opportunity to voluntarily submit information on the locations they are currently serving with broadband. Requires USDA to consult with FCC and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and obtain data from those agencies on the level of broadband service available for those areas. **(7 U.S.C. §950cc)**	**Public notice, assessments, technical assistance, and reporting requirements.** Adds "technical assistance" to the section title. Expands the requirements for USDA to confirm the eligibility of proposed service areas by also requiring USDA to validate the information submitted by service providers on the locations they are serving with broadband. Removes the requirement that USDA consult with, and obtain data from, the FCC and NTIA. Requires USDA to consult the FCC National Broadband Map to confirm eligibility of proposed service areas. Requires a shapefile map of proposed service areas to be included in RUS broadband program applications. Establishes the Broadband Technical Assistance Program to make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of delivering technical assistance and training to rural communities to improve access to USDA broadband programs. Authorizes	**Streamlining broadband authorities.** Like the House provision, the bill requires a shapefile map of proposed service areas to be included in RUS broadband program applications and requires USDA to use the FCC National Broadband Map to confirm eligible service areas. Requires USDA to establish a challenge process for proposed service areas that are determined to be ineligible by USDA. When RUS broadband program applications are denied, USDA must provide a written notice of the denial with an explanation of the reasons for the denial. USDA must provide a publicly available, searchable map of eligible service areas prior to RUS broadband program application periods. Requires USDA to consult with, and obtain data from, the FCC and NTIA to avoid overbuilding. Requires USDA to consult with

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	USDA to make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of collecting broadband service data. USDA is to use these data in a variety of ways, including to establish the availability of broadband in rural areas, determine eligible service areas for USDA broadband programs, and collect data to submit a challenge to the FCC National Broadband Map. **(§6206)**	state broadband offices to confirm the eligibility of RUS broadband program applications. **(§6101(e))**
No comparable provision.	**Limitation on overbuilding.** Prohibits USDA from funding applications for USDA broadband programs if an applicant has received federal or state funding to provide broadband service to the proposed service area within the last five years at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps. **(§6207)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Last mile broadband deployment.** Establishes the Last Acre Program to advance connectivity needed to carry out precision agriculture and extend broadband deployment to the rural areas used for agricultural production. Authorizes USDA to issue grants and loans to eligible entities to provide 100/20 Mbps broadband service to agricultural lands without that broadband speed. Allows USDA to award up to 10% of funding provided for the program in a fiscal year to certain agricultural research centers. Allows the program to cover up to 80% of the project costs, unless that farmland is owned by a limited resource farmer or rancher, and then the program can cover up to 90% of project costs. Requires USDA to create an online portal to allow farmers and ranchers to register to be considered eligible service areas for the program. Requires USDA to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction with an overview of the applications process and awards issued. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually from FY2027 through FY2031. Requires the

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		USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service to collect data from farmers and ranchers on broadband access on their farms. **(§6104)**
Rural Energy Savings Program. Authorizes USDA to provide loans to rural utilities and other entities who then provide loans to qualified homeowners and small businesses to implement *energy efficiency measures*. Eligible entities are public power districts, public utility districts, electric cooperatives, and entities primarily owned or controlled by one of those types of entities that meet certain conditions. These entities must have borrowed and repaid, prepaid, or are currently paying an electric loan made or guaranteed by the RUS. Other RUS borrowers are also eligible. Authorizes appropriations of $75 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8107a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural energy savings program (RESP).** In addition to the other eligibility requirements for participating in RESP, H.R. 7567 requires public power districts, public utility districts, and electric cooperatives to continue serving rural areas. Eligible entities are expanded to include federally recognized Tribes and public, quasi-public, and nonprofit entities. Defines the types of energy efficiency measures authorized through the program. Eligible activities include structural improvements and replacement of a manufactured home or large appliance. Prioritizes loans for eligible entities with service areas where at least 80% of their customers reside in rural areas. Authorizes USDA to issue grants, in addition to loans, through the program. Authorizes USDA to make grants to eligible entities for a portion of the costs to make repairs to properties for energy efficiency measures or to provide technical assistance, outreach, and training. Sets the maximum grant to be 5% of the amount of the loan issued to the eligible entity. Allows for a maximum grant to be 10% of the amount of the loan issued to the eligible entity if the rural community being served is a persistent poverty county. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6301)**	**Rural Energy Savings Program.** Like the House provision in that it adds federally recognized Tribes as eligible entities, defines energy efficiency measures, limits the federal share of additional grants to 5% of loan amount, provides an exception on the federal share amount for persistent poverty counties, and allows grants to be used for technical assistance and training. Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Allows grants to be used for eligible entities to apply for loans, issue sub-loans to consumers, and carry out duties needed for the project. Allows grants to be in the form of contracts for project evaluation activities. **(§6313)**
No comparable provision.	**Promoting precision agriculture.** Requires USDA to develop "voluntary, consensus-based, private sector-led interconnectivity standards, guidelines, and best practices" for precision agriculture in consultation with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the FCC. Defines *precision agriculture* as	**Promoting precision agriculture.** Similar to the House provision except it defines precision agriculture and *precision agriculture equipment.* Precision agriculture is defined as "managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs, including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, time, and such inputs as the

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	the meaning of the term in §1201 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. §3801). 16 U.S.C. §3801 does not include a definition of precision agriculture. Requires a Government Accountability Office report to certain authorizing committees that assesses the standards one year after their development and every two years thereafter. **(§6302)**	Secretary determines to be appropriate, at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality." Precision agriculture equipment is defined as "any equipment or technology that directly contributes to a reduction in, or improved efficiency of, inputs used in crop or livestock production." The definition of precision agriculture equipment also offers a list of equipment and technology that is to be included. §2201 of S. 5526 also defines precision agriculture. The definition in §2201 differs in that it does not allow the Secretary to determine inputs to be appropriate and refers to biological targeting, which is not included in the §12510 definition. **(§12613, Title XII—Miscellaneous)**
No comparable provision.	**Food supply chain guaranteed loans.** Authorizes a new USDA program to make guaranteed loans for startup or expansion projects that increase the capacity of the U.S. food supply chain to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs. Caps the maximum loan at $40 million. Requires USDA to submit quarterly reports to Congress that evaluate the outcomes of the assistance and include a description of any debt recovery made with respect to the loan guarantees issued through the program and recommendations regarding program implementation. **(§6303)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**New, mobile, and expanded meat processing and rendering grants.** Authorizes USDA to make grants to enhance meat processing and rendering capacities. Sets the maximum grant amount at $500,000 for a term of up to three years. Grants of $100,000 or less can cover 90% of the project costs. Grants of more than $100,000 can cover 75% of the project costs. Prioritizes grants for *small establishments* (10-500 employees)	**New, mobile, and expanded meat and poultry processing rendering grants.** Similar to the House provision in that it defines eligible entity, small establishment, and very small establishment; sets the maximum grant amount; describes permissible uses of funds; and sets the federal share of project costs. Requires USDA to ensure that small and very small establishments

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	or *very small establishments* (fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than $2.5 million). Definitions for these terms come from the final rule for the Pathogen Reduction; Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems (61 *Federal Register* 38806, July 25, 1996). These definitions would be subject to any revisions of the rule. Requires USDA to submit quarterly reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that evaluate the outcomes of the assistance and whether recipients had adequate financial capacity to carry out the activities and that provide recommendations for the future. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2031. **(§6304)**	that have been in operation less than two years have the financial viability and managerial capacity necessary to carry out the grant project activities. Requires USDA to ensure that eligible entities demonstrate the experience necessary to carry out the grant projects activities. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2031. **(§6315)**
No comparable provision.	**Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative.** Establishes the "Expanding Childcare in Rural America Initiative." The initiative prioritizes funding for rural child care projects through FY2029 for the following programs: the Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program, Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program, Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program, and Intermediary Relending Program. Head Start, an early childhood education program of the Department of Health and Human Services, is an eligible applicant for the program. Requires a USDA report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that evaluates the effectiveness of the initiative within four years of the date of enactment. **(§6305)**	**Improving the rural care economy; prioritizations.** Prioritizes funding for rural child care facilities through the Community Facilities Program and certain rural business programs. Requires USDA to set aside 10% of funding appropriated each fiscal year for the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program for child care programs and health care. Prioritizations are to be from FY2027 through FY2031. Requires within two years of the date of enactment a USDA report that evaluates the effectiveness of the initiative. Does not require the report to be submitted to certain committees. The provisions of §6301 regarding rural child care are discussed alongside §6101 in the House-passed bill column of this table. **(§6301)**
No comparable provision.	**Technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas.** Requires USDA, directly or through a cooperative agreement, to provide technical assistance to help local partners in geographically underserved and distressed areas gain better access to USDA Rural Development (RD) programs. Local partners include local governments,	No comparable provision.

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	cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions (such as public libraries, health care facilities, and secondary schools). Requires an annual USDA report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and a public evaluation of how the technical assistance has helped the targeted areas. **(§6306)**	
No comparable provision.	**Establishment of the Rural Development Innovation Center.** Establishes the center to review the processes for administering USDA RD programs and identifying redundancies and inefficiencies. Directs the center to develop a modernization plan that provides strategies to increase the efficiency and transparency of and access to RD programs. Requires an annual USDA report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the impact of the center. **(§6307)**	**Rural Development Innovation Center.** Similar to the House provision in establishing the center to review the processes for administering USDA RD programs and identifying redundancies and inefficiencies. Does not require a modernization plan or report on the impact of the center. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2031. **(§6235)**
Rural Health Liaison. Establishes the position of Rural Health Liaison at USDA and requires the position to coordinate rural health-related activities across USDA agencies and to liaise with other federal agencies on rural health issues. **(7 U.S.C. §6946)**	**Rural Health Liaison report.** Expands the duties of the Rural Health Liaison to coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to implement the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Requires an annual USDA report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the activities completed by the liaison. **(§6308)**	No comparable provision.
Water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to eligible entities for the development, storage, treatment, purification, or distribution of drinking water in rural areas. Also authorizes USDA to provide grants for the disposal of waste in rural areas. Grants can cover up to 75% of the project costs. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to eligible entities to set up revolving loan funds to fund predevelopment costs and small capital projects. The maximum grant award is $500,000. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2026. Limits the amount of aggregate funds USDA may disperse in grants to certain	**Water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6401)**	**Water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants.** Allows RUS Water and Waste Disposal Program grants to cover up to 100% of the projects costs in the case of demonstrated need as determined by USDA. Increases the maximum grant award for the Revolving Loan Fund to $500,000. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million annually through FY2031. Amends the amount of aggregate funds USDA may disperse in grants to certain public bodies and related agencies to $100 million. **(§6201)**

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public bodies and related agencies to $30 million. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(2)(A); 7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(2)(B); 7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(6); P.L. 119-37)**		
Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program. Authorizes USDA to establish a national program to provide technical assistance to water and waste disposal systems in rural areas. Authorizes USDA to conduct activities through the national program that are consistent with activities the program conducted before February 7, 2014 (as determined by USDA). Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(22); P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.** Authorizes USDA to continue a national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program that is consistent with the activities and results that occurred before the enactment date of the law. Expands USDA's authority to also provide disaster and recovery assistance through the program. USDA is to provide grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to qualified nonprofit organizations to deliver technical assistance to water and wastewater utilities. Technical assistance can include board training, regulatory compliance, and implementation of cybersecurity plans, procedures, and technologies. Eligible service areas for technical assistance are areas with 10,000 or fewer people. Eligible service areas for disaster and recovery assistance are areas with 50,000 or fewer people. Allows up to 5% of each award to be used to purchase or reimburse the rental costs of emergency equipment. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Authorizes the program to continue during a lapse of appropriations by using unobligated funds in the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program account. **(§6402)**	**Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.** Like the House provision, the bill authorizes the program to continue during a lapse of appropriations. Increases the authorization of appropriations to $30 million annually through FY2031. **(§6205)**
No comparable provision.	**Zero and low interest loans for distressed water systems.** Authorizes USDA to modify or waive some of the requirements for certain USDA water and waste disposal programs for applicants serving distressed communities. Allows USDA to make 0% or 1% interest loans, forgive the principal or interest or modify terms of new or existing loans, or waive any required fees for eligible rural communities.	**Additional assistance for rural water systems.** Like the House provision in that it authorizes USDA to make 0% or 1% interest loans, forgive the principal or interest or modify terms of new or existing loans, or waive any required fees for eligible entities. Eligible entities are the entities eligible for certain USDA water and waste disposal programs. These entities do not need to be serving distressed communities. Authorizes USDA to provide loan forgiveness

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	Eligible entities must be experiencing financial hardship (as defined by USDA) or located in a certain type of area. The types of areas include socially disadvantaged communities, persistent poverty counties, colonia, and distressed tribal areas. *Colonia* are certain communities along the U.S. southern border. USDA is to define each of the preceding types of areas. An eligible entity may designate a water and wastewater utility provider to apply for a loan on behalf of the eligible entity. **(§6403)**	or loan refinancing for certain reasons, such as ensuring the eligible entity has the necessary resources to construct or improve public utilities and addressing financial hardship of the eligible entity. Requires USDA to establish the criteria for financial hardship using a residential indicator of affordable water service in each state or area as well as factors relating to disadvantaged or economically distressed areas. Authorizes USDA to issue grants of up to 75% of the project costs to eligible entities. **(§6214)**
Tribal college and university essential community facilities. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to tribal colleges and universities for community facility projects. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(25)(C); P.L. 119-37)**	**Tribal college and university essential community facilities.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6404)**	**Tribal college and university essential community facilities.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6207)**
Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to help rural and small communities ensure they have adequate, safe drinking water. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1926a(i)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Emergency and imminent community water assistance grant program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6405)**	**Emergency and imminent community water assistance grant program.** Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Expands allowable uses of grants to include facilities for potable water, wastewater, storm drainage, and solid waste. **(§6213)**
Water systems for rural and Native villages in Alaska. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to the State of Alaska, Native villages, and a consortium meeting certain qualifications for Native village water projects. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1926d(d)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Water systems for rural and native villages in Alaska.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6406)**	**Water systems for rural and native villages in Alaska.** Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Includes community-based systems as allowable grant expenses. Requires USDA to consult with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in addition to the State of Alaska on a method of prioritizing the allocation of grants according to the needs of each village. **(§6215)**

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Rural decentralized water systems. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to nonprofit organizations so that they can provide loans and subgrants to eligible homeowners to construct, refurbish, and service household water well systems and septic systems. Requires eligible homeowners for loans and subgrants to be a member of a household with a combined income that is no more than 60% of the nonmetropolitan median household income of the state or territory where the individual lives. Sets the maximum award at $15,000 per household. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1926e; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural decentralized water systems.** Increases the income requirement for eligible homeowners applying for loans and subgrants. Those homeowners can have a combined household income of no more than 80% of the nonmetropolitan median household income. Allows funding to be used for water quality testing for individual water wells and technical assistance to help eligible individuals install or replace household water systems, interpret water test results, and address groundwater contamination. Increases maximum award to $20,000 per household. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6407)**	**Rural decentralized water systems.** Like the House provision, it increases the requirement for eligible homeowners applying for subgrants to have a household income of no more than 80% of the nonmetropolitan median household income. Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Increases the requirement for eligible homeowners applying for loans to have a household income of no more than 100% of the nonmetropolitan median household income. Up to 10% of grants made can be used by nonprofit organizations and federally recognized Tribes to deliver technical assistance to homeowners eligible to receive a subgrant or loan. Subgrants to homeowners can be used to purchase performance warranties. **(§6216)**
Loans to private business enterprises. Authorizes USDA to make loans, insure loans, and guarantee loans for projects that support rural businesses and communities, including projects that improve the economic and environmental climate, aquaculture projects, and projects that develop renewable energy systems. USDA carries out these authorities through various loan and loan guarantee programs. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(a))**	**Assistance to rural entities.** Expands USDA's authority to make loans, insure loans, and guarantee loans for projects that expand the adoption of precision agriculture practices in addition to projects that support rural businesses and communities. **(§6408)**	No comparable provision.
Solid waste management grants. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local governments, regional governments, and related agencies to help reduce or eliminate water pollution and manage solid waste disposal facilities. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Solid waste management grants.** Adds "Indian [T]ribes" as one of the entities to which nonprofit organizations can provide technical assistance. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6409)**	**Solid waste management grants.** Like the House provision, it adds "Indian [T]ribes" as eligible entities for technical assistance. Increases authorization of appropriations to $20 million annually through FY2031. **(§6218)**

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Rural business development grants. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to eligible entities for business opportunity projects, including establishment of new businesses and planning and coordination of economic development efforts. Authorizes appropriations of $65 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(c)(4)(A); P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural business development grants.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6410)**	**Rural business development grants.** Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Amends the program to provide grants for projects that support outdoor recreation. Authorizes multiyear grants for projects that last 1-5 years. **(§6219)**
Rural cooperative development grants. Authorizes USDA to provide one-year grants to eligible nonprofit organizations to establish centers for rural cooperative development. Allows USDA to award grants of up to three years if the applicant has successfully met the requirements of the program. Prioritizes funding for applicants that commit to providing technical assistance to underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas. Establishes an interagency working group to foster cooperative development. Authorizes appropriations of $40 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural cooperative development grants.** Replaces the priority for "underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas of the United States" with "socially vulnerable, underserved, or distressed communities." Prioritizes funding for applicants that provide at least a 25% match. Allows award renewals for qualified nonprofit institutions. Requires the interagency working group to submit an annual report to Congress that describes its completed activities. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6411)**	**Rural cooperative development grants.** Like the House provision in that it prioritizes funding for applicants with matching funds and requires the interagency working group to submit an annual report, but the Senate provision requires the report to be submitted to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6220)**
Special conditions and limitations on loans. Provides financial requirements for loans made or insured under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (P.L. 87-128), which include certain farm loans and rural development loans. **(7 U.S.C. §1983)**	**Lender fees in guaranteed loan programs.** Sets the maximum amount of the initial guarantee fee to 3% of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan, and sets the maximum amount of the periodic retention fee to 0.75% of the outstanding principal of the guaranteed loan. Requires USDA to publicly disclose 30 days in advance the factors used to determine the new fee rates. **(§6412)**	**Lender fees in guaranteed loan programs; rural water refinancing improvements.** Like the House provision, it sets the maximum initial guarantee fee to 3% and the periodic retention fee to 0.75%. Also like the House provision's the public disclosure requirement. Waives the credit elsewhere requirement, refinancing review, and private lender comparison requirement for communities with 3,300 or fewer people. **(§6225)**
Reservation of funds for locally or regionally produced agriculture products. Requires USDA to reserve at least 5% of the funds appropriated for the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program in a fiscal year to be used to support locally or regionally produced agricultural food	**Locally or regionally produced agricultural food products.** Extends the reservation of 5% of the funds for the Business and Industry Loan Guarantee Program through FY2031. **(§6413)**	**Locally or regionally produced agricultural products.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6221)**

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products. The reservation is to be applied until FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I); P.L. 119-37)**		
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program. Authorizes USDA to provide a cooperative agreement or grant to an eligible entity to establish the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program. The program is to assist agricultural producers seeking information on reducing input costs, conserving energy resources, diversifying operations, and expanding their markets. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(i); P.L. 119-37)**	**Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.** Expands the purpose of the program to include training of veterans who are, or are actively trying to become, agricultural producers, which is to be known as the Armed to Farm Initiative. Reserves $1.5 million of the $5.0 million authorized to be appropriated to the training of veterans. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6414)**	**Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6222)**
Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones. Authorizes USDA to carry out Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones, as guided by memoranda of agreement, through September 30, 2026. USDA RD helps areas designated as Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones to access RD programs. **(7 U.S.C. §1932(j); P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural economic area partnership zones.** Extends authority through September 30, 2031. **(§6415)**	**Rural economic area partnership zones.** Identical to the House provision. **(§6223)**
Intermediary Relending Program. Authorizes USDA to provide loans to eligible entities so the entities can relend to qualified borrowers for projects that promote community development, establish new businesses, and other activities in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1936b(i); P.L. 119-37)**	**Intermediary relending program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6416)**	**Intermediary relending program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6224)**
Refinancing of certain rural hospital debt. Authorizes rural hospitals to use funds from loans and loan guarantees issued through certain USDA RD programs to refinance debt. The aim of the debt refinancing is to keep the health services in a rural community available, improve the economic viability of the hospital, or meet financial and security requirements of USDA RD programs. **(7 U.S.C. §1990a)**	**Rural health care facility assistance.** Specifies and expands the types of rural health care facilities that are authorized to refinance debt. Eligible facilities include psychiatric hospitals, critical access care hospitals, religious nonmedical health care institutions, and community health centers. Requires USDA to assist the facility to ensure its long-term sustainability and financial viability. Requires applicants to receive financial planning assistance and	**Rural health care facility assistance.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6303)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	prepare a long-term financial plan. Establishes the Rural Health Care Facility Technical Assistance Program to provide technical assistance and training to eligible health care facilities to help improve their long-term financial positions and prevent closures. Requires an annual USDA report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the progress and results of the program. For the program, authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2031. **(§6417)**	
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Rural hospital revitalization.** Authorizes USDA to issue loans with an initial interest rate of 0% to eligible rural hospitals through the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program for the construction of replacement facilities or the renovation and improvement of existing facilities. Identifies numerous funding priorities, including rural hospitals that serve areas with low populations. For the first five years, the loans would have an interest rate of 0%. After the five-year term, requires USDA to assess the financial stability of the rural hospital to determine whether the loan can be refinanced at the prevailing market rate. Directs that if the rural hospital is determined to be financially stable, then its loan is to be refinanced. If not, the rural hospital can renew its loan for another five years with a 0% interest rate. Provides that the rural hospitals receiving 0% interest rate loans are eligible to receive technical assistance through the Targeted Technical Assistance for Rural Hospitals Program of the Health Resources and Services Administration and the Rural Hospital Technical Assistance Program carried out by the USDA Rural Development mission area, in cooperation with the National Rural Health Association. **(§6302)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Prohibition on use of loans for certain purposes. Prohibits many of the USDA farm loans and RD loans from being made for certain activities involving wetlands, including projects that "drain, dredge, fill, level, or otherwise manipulate a wetland" or engage in actions that result in "impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water." **(7 U.S.C. §2006e)**	**Prohibition on use of loan or grant for certain purposes.** Amends the prohibition to include grants, in addition to loans. Excludes from the prohibition (1) loans and loan guarantees for utility line projects and (2) certain loans and loan guarantees for a project in which the applicant has obtained or is required to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for activities relating to the waters of the United States. **(§6418)**	**Streamlining review.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6227)**
Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs technical assistance and training. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to eligible entities to provide or obtain technical assistance and training to support submitting of applications for Rural Business-Cooperative programs. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008c(d)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs technical assistance and training.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Extends termination date to September 30, 2031. **(§6419)**	**Rural Business-Cooperative Service programs technical assistance and training.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6228)**
National Rural Development Partnership. Authorizes USDA to establish the National Rural Development Partnership to empower and build the capacity of the states and rural communities to design responses to their own rural development needs. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. Terminates the partnership on September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008m; P.L. 119-37)**	**National Rural Development Partnership.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Extends the partnership through September 30, 2031. **(§6420)**	**National Rural Development Partnership.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6229)**
Grants for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio transmitters. Authorizes USDA RUS to provide grants to eligible entities for the federal share of the cost to acquire radio transmitters to increase coverage for the NOAA all hazards weather radio broadcast system in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008p(d); P.L. 119-37)**	**Grants for NOAA weather radio transmitters.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6421)**	**Grants for NOAA weather radio transmitters.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6230)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program. Authorizes USDA to provide loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations that help microenterprises get started and grow. Sets the maximum microloan to $50,000 for each rural microenterprise. Allows federal funds to pay for up to 75% of the total project costs. Requires Microenterprise Development Organizations receiving grants to match at least 15% of the total amount of the grant in the form of matching funds, indirect costs, or in-kind goods or services. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008s; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural microentrepreneur assistance program.** Increases the maximum microloan to $75,000. Increases the amount of federal funds allowed for a project to be up to 100% of the total project costs. Limits the amount of loan funds that can be used for renovation, construction, or other real estate improvements. Reduces the required match to 5% for Microenterprise Development Organizations (MDOs) serving persistent poverty counties. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6422)**	**Rural microentrepreneur assistance program.** Like the House provision, it increases the maximum microloan to $75,000, allowing loans for up to 100% of project costs, and limits the amount of funds to be used for certain real estate improvements to 50% of the loan amount. Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Does not include the House provision that would reduce the match requirements for MDOs. **(§6231)**
Health care services. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to projects that address certain unmet health needs in the Delta Region through the development of health care services, educational programs, job training programs, and facilities. The Delta Region includes 255 counties and parishes in parts of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008u(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Health care services.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6423)**	**Health care services.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6232)**
Strategic economic and community development. Requires USDA to reserve 15% of funding for certain USDA RD programs for applicants with rural projects who have completed strategic community investment plans. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008v(d)(4); P.L. 119-37)**	**Strategic economic and community development.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6424)**	**Strategic community investment plans.** Authorizes USDA to issue grants to eligible entities to provide technical assistance to rural communities to help them develop strategic community investment plans and complete applications for USDA programs. Prioritizes funding for entities that serve certain communities, including poor rural communities, persistent poverty counties (as defined by USDA), and Indian Tribes with support from tribal councils. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2031. **(§6233)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to eligible entities to establish job accelerators, high-wage jobs, and other economic development projects in rural areas. Eligible applicants are rural job accelerator partnerships with a lead applicant that is a district organization, Indian Tribe, a state or political subdivision of the state, institution of higher education, or nonprofit organization. Requires USDA to provide grants to projects in at least 25 states to the extent possible. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2008w; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural innovation stronger economy grant program.** Expands the types of institutions of higher education that are eligible for the program to include career and technical education schools. Authorizes USDA to issue grants for career pathway training programs and industry or sector partnerships. Amends the regional requirement for grant distribution to instead require USDA to ensure regional diversity among the recipients of the grants or the participants. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6425)**	**Rural innovation stronger economy grant program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6234)**
Financial institution investments. Authorizes qualified banks, associations, and institutions to establish and invest in USDA-certified Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs). The entities must have deposits insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Act or be Farm Credit System institutions. Prohibits RBICs from investing in companies that are not eligible to receive Farm Credit institution loans if one or more Farm Credit institutions holds more than 50% of the shares of the RBIC. **(7 U.S.C. §2009cc-9(c))**	**Limitation on rural business investment companies controlled by Farm Credit System institutions.** Raises the prohibition threshold to 75% of the shares of an RBIC. **(§6426)**	**Limitation on rural business investment companies.** Identical to the House provision. **(§5105, Title V—Credit)**
Rural Business Investment Program. Authorizes certain qualified banks, associations, and institutions to enter into participation agreements with RBICs, guarantee debentures to the RBICs, and make grants to these RBICs. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §§2009cc et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural business investment program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6427)**	**Rural business investment program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6236)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Rural and rural area definitions. Defines *rural* and *rural areas* for the purposes of determining eligible rural areas for selected USDA RD programs. The definition of rural includes the term "urbanized," as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Defines rural and rural area for water and waste disposal direct loans and grants as areas with 10,000 or fewer people. **(7 U.S.C. §1991(a)(13); 7 U.S.C. §2009cc-8(c)(4)(C))**	**Technical corrections.** Replaces "urbanized" with "urban," as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, in the rural definitions used across selected USDA RD programs. **(§6428)**	**Definition of rural and rural area.** Amends the *rural area* definition used for USDA water and waste disposal program direct loans to be areas of 25,000 or fewer people. **(§6226)**
Rural water and wastewater technical assistance and training programs. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations that provide technical assistance to rural communities to address water and waste disposal issues. Authorizes USDA to use at least 3% and up to 5% of annual appropriations for USDA water and waste disposal programs for technical assistance. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(14))**	**Rural water and wastewater technical assistance and training programs.** Authorizes USDA to also provide grants for disaster and recovery assistance. **(§6429)**	**Rural water and wastewater technical assistance and training programs.** Authorizes USDA to use at least 3% and up to 10% of annual appropriations for USDA water and waste disposal programs for technical assistance. **(§6204)**
Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for electrification or telephone purposes. Authorizes USDA to guarantee payments on certain bonds or notes issued by qualified cooperative or other nonprofit lenders. The note proceeds are used to finance utilities infrastructure projects. Terminates authority on September 30, 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §940c-1(f); P.L. 119-37)**	**Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for utility infrastructure purposes.** Extends authority through September 30, 2031 (i.e., FY2031). **(§6501)**	**Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for utility infrastructure purposes.** Identical to the House provision. **(§6111)**
Rural development loans and grants. Authorizes USDA to provide loans and grants to support job creation or job retention projects in rural areas. Authorizes appropriations of not more than $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §940c-2; P.L. 119-37)**	**Extension of the rural economic development loan and grant program.** Prohibits USDA from requiring a letter of credit or similar guarantee from loan borrowers if the borrower assigns USDA a security interest in the collateral used to secure the loan. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6502)**	**Rural development loans and grants.** Allows USDA to accept various forms of collateral for 0% interest loans. Requires USDA to consider past financial and project performances when considering what to accept as collateral. Requires USDA to ensure that the type of collateral accepted does not impact the loan subsidy rate for direct loans or loan guarantees. Like the House provision, it reauthorizes appropriations through FY2031. **(§6112)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Expansion of 911 access. Authorizes USDA to make loans using any funds made available for telephone loans issued through the Telecommunications Infrastructure Program through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §940e(d); P.L. 119-37)**	**Expansion of 911 access.** Extends authority through FY2031. **(§6503)**	**Expansion of 911 access.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§6113)**
Cushion of credit payments program. Establishes a program that allows rural utility borrowers to voluntarily make deposits into "cushion of credit" accounts established within the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund and sets the interest rate for those accounts. Terminates the ability to make such deposits on December 20, 2018. Sets the rate of interest accrual for cushion of credit accounts to 5% annually. **(7 U.S.C. §940c)**	No comparable provision.	**Rural Utilities Service Electric Programs.** Allows USDA to permit deposits of funds into and withdrawals of funds from cushion of credit accounts for the purpose of providing security for loans or grant awards for USDA assistance with rural electric cooperatives (7 U.S.C. §8103(j)) and certain other purposes such as security or infrastructure construction. Prevents changes of jurisdiction of federal and state agencies over accounts as a result of deposits of funds into or withdrawals of funds from accounts. Sets the rate of interest accrual for deposits at the cushion of credit rate. **(§6114(a))**
Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Authorizes USDA to make grants, loans, and loan guarantees for purposes of furnishing and improving electric and telephone service in rural areas, among other purposes. **(7 U.S.C. §§901 et seq.)**	No comparable provision.	**Rural Utilities Service Electric Programs.** Allows current and former borrowers to be eligible to participate in electric loan and grant programs under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 for purposes of continued investment in rural electric infrastructure and replacement of aging infrastructure. When payment of prevailing wages is required by statute or regulation, allows RUS to accept awardee certifications as evidence of compliance. **(§§6114(b) and (e))**
Electric Loans for Renewable Energy. Sets the interest rate of a loan for renewable energy equal to the average tax-exempt municipal bond rate of similar maturities. **(7 U.S.C. §940g(c))**	No comparable provision.	**Rural Utilities Service Electric Programs.** Eliminates the specification of loan interest rates. **(§6114(c))**
Authorities of USDA for Rural Electric Programs. Specifies the general authorities of the Secretary of Agriculture with respect to rural electric programs and loans for electrical plants and transmission lines. **(7 U.S.C. §902(a) and §904(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Rural Utilities Service Electric Programs.** Amends the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to include distributing grants through rural electric programs. **(§6114(d))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) Program. Authorizes the SEARCH Program to issue predevelopment planning grants to economically distressed rural communities. Allows USDA to issue grants for up to 100% of the project costs. Current law does not specify the type of allowable matching funds (i.e., cash or in-kind contribution). **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(2)(C)(ii))**	No comparable provision.	**SEARCH grants.** Allows matching funds to be paid through an in-kind contribution. **(§6202)**
Water and waste facility loans and grants. Prioritizes funding for rural communities with 5,000 or fewer people that USDA has determined need immediate action due to unanticipated drops in water quality or quantity, or unanticipated issues with the waste disposal system that makes it inadequate for the community. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(13))**	No comparable provision.	**Rural water, wastewater, and waste disposal facility direct loans.** Amends the provision to also prioritize low population rural communities and low-income communities. Makes a technical correction to replace "Soil Conservation Service" with "Natural Resources Conservation Service." **(§6203)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Rural water and wastewater cybersecurity circuit rider program.** Establishes a new program modeled after the Rural Water Circuit Rider Program that provides technical assistance for cybersecurity issues. The program provides technical assistance to operators of rural water systems to help them prepare for and respond to cybersecurity threats to their systems. Requires those entities receiving funding through the program to submit annual reports to USDA describing the water systems they supported through the program and the activities they carried out. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2031. Authorizes the program to continue during a lapse of appropriations by using unobligated funds in the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program account. **(§6206)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Essential Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training. Authorizes USDA to issue grants to eligible entities to provide technical assistance and training concerning the development of community facilities in rural areas. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(26))**	No comparable provision.	**Essential community facilities technical assistance and training.** Authorizes USDA to issue grants for national or multistate projects. Requires that USDA use at least 2% of the annual appropriated funding for the program for multistate or national projects. **(§6208)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery technical assistance program.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a new program to issue grants to eligible entities to support rural communities preparing for or responding to natural disasters that may impact the drinking water or wastewater systems. Eligible entities must demonstrate expertise in providing emergency technical assistance and have the capacity to deploy qualified personnel. Allows grants to be used for salaries, supplies, and expenses relating to carrying out program activities. Allows up to 25% of the grants funds to be used to purchase or rent emergency equipment. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2031. Authorizes the program to continue during a lapse of appropriations by using unobligated funds in the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program account. **(§6209)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Assistance to provide water and wastewater services in financially distressed rural areas.** Authorizes USDA to provide financial assistance through RUS water and waste disposal programs to eligible entities to help them consolidate drinking water and wastewater systems of distressed rural communities with larger systems. Authorizes USDA to issue grants to qualified nonprofit organizations to help distressed communities evaluate whether to consolidate their systems with other systems. **(§6210)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Water and waste facility loans and grants. Authorizes USDA to issue loans and loan guarantees for essential community facility projects. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Community facilities direct and guaranteed loans for health care services.** Authorizes USDA to issue community facility loans and loan guarantees for facilities that provide health care services. At least 50% of the people using the facilities must be located in an area with a Frontier and Remote Area Code of 3 or 4 in the USDA Economic Research Service's most recent Frontier and Remote Area Codes. Waives requirement that the community facilities must be located in rural areas. **(§6211)**
Water and waste facility loans and grants. Authorizes USDA to issue loans and loan guarantees for essential community facility projects. **(7 U.S.C. §1926(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Community Facilities Relending Program.** Directs USDA to establish a community facilities relending program for eligible essential community facilities in 7 U.S.C. §1926(a). Authorizes USDA to provide loans to eligible intermediaries (26 U.S.C. §501) with experience in lending, financing, or developing community facilities projects to capitalize revolving loan funds for financing community facilities projects. Requires that applications contain a description of the states and communities the projects will be financed in. Requires that USDA accept applications annually. Sets the interest rate for loans under the program at the lesser of (i) a rate that is 2 percentage points lower than the interest rate for community facilities direct loans for low-income communities in 7 U.S.C. §1926(a)(1) or (ii) 2.5% annually. Requires that loans be fully amortized over a term of 40 years and be eligible for a moratorium on principal and investment payments of not less than 3 years. Limits the principal amount of loans provided to an individual intermediary to $5 million in a given fiscal year. Allows loans to be used by intermediaries to establish and capitalize revolving loan funds to provide financing for eligible community facilities projects.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		Allows principal and interest collected on loans to be used for purposes such as administering the revolving loan fund and issuing new loans. Requires intermediaries to submit an annual report to USDA on the loans dispersed and projects funded. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to set aside at least $50 million of the annual appropriation for community facilities direct loans for the program. **(§6212)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Healthy drinking water affordability assistance program.** Establishes the Healthy Drinking Water Affordability Assistance Program, or Healthy H2O Program, to provide grants to eligible entities to help improve drinking water quality for *eligible end users*. Eligible end users include homeowners, renters, property owners of certain multiunit rental properties, and licensed child care facilities. Eligible end users must have a combined household income of no more than 80% of the nonmetropolitan median household income. Allows grants to be used in various ways, including for the purchase of drinking water improvement products, replacement of certified filter components, installation of eligible water quality improvement products, and conducting of water quality tests and analysis of the results. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a USDA employee or officer to administer the program. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to Congress evaluating the program. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2031. **(§6217)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program. Establishes the program to provide grants and technical assistance to producers who are developing agricultural-based businesses based on value-added production. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1632b; P.L. 119-37)**	**Agriculture innovation center demonstration program.** Allows USDA to waive certain Agriculture Innovation Center board of director requirements. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7602, Title VII—Research, Extension, and Related Matters)**	**Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§6312)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Interagency task force on outdoor recreation coordination.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate an interagency task force to examine existing federal programs that support hospitality, tourism, agritourism, and outdoor recreation in rural communities. Requires the task force to better align federal investment in outdoor recreation in and around federal lands. Lists the required members of the task force. Requires the task force to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the coordination of federal programs relating to the topics of interest and to recommend strategies for improved coordination. **(§6314)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Annual efficiency report.** Requires USDA to submit a report on federal economic development programs within 180 days of enactment and every year thereafter to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] Details the items to be included in the report, including a catalog of federal programs and authorities in statute devoted to economic development and the associated funding levels. Requires the report to include suggestions for reforming USDA RD mission area authorities. **(§6316)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee chairman.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Matters[57]

USDA is authorized under four principal statutes to conduct agricultural research and to support cooperative research, extension, and postsecondary agricultural education through formula funding and competitive grants to land-grant institutions and other eligible entities. Both H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would reauthorize most USDA research, extension, education, veterinary, and land-grant authorities through FY2031 (**Table 10**). The bills would generally continue existing programs and make different changes to program authorities, funding levels, eligibility, administrative requirements, and research priorities.

H.R. 7567 would make additional administrative and programmatic changes to existing research, extension, education, and related authorities. These changes would include increasing funding formulas for 1890 land-grant institutions; expanding international agricultural research authorities; modifying aquaculture and biosecurity programs; changing eligibility and allowable uses for certain grants; and modifying the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA). H.R. 7567 would repeal several existing authorities and establish new research and extension programs and requirements, including a Transition to Organic Research program, a competitive grant program supporting agricultural education and training for veterans, and the Agricultural Innovation Corps to support commercialization of USDA-funded research. Other new provisions would address technical assistance for agricultural land and asset transfers, modernization of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), national grape production surveys, research coordination, and transparency. The bill also would expand the responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) to coordinate interagency research partnerships.

S. 5526 would generally retain more existing authorities and make targeted administrative and programmatic changes. In several cases, it would authorize higher funding levels for programs, including agricultural and food policy research centers, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions, 1890 scholarships, aquaculture, veterinary-related research, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), and Centers of Excellence. S. 5526 also would expand the membership or responsibilities of advisory committees. Unlike H.R. 7567, S. 5526 would retain several existing authorities that the House-passed bill would repeal, including those for the Rangeland Research Program, National Agricultural Weather Information System, and Natural Products Research Program. It would also reauthorize several agricultural biosecurity authorities for which the House-passed bill has no comparable provision. Both bills would modify USDA's high-priority research initiatives and priorities for programs including AFRI, urban agriculture, specialty crop research, Centers of Excellence, and AGARDA, but the changes would differ in scope and subject matter. H.R. 7567 would revise several research priorities and add priorities addressing emerging agricultural, environmental, and production issues. S. 5526 would retain high-priority research initiatives, modify selected initiatives, and add new priorities in areas such as emerging agricultural threats; artificial intelligence; aquaculture; and other crop, livestock, and environmental issues. Both bills would establish specialty crop mechanization and automation grant programs, although S. 5526 would provide broader authority for waiving matching requirements and add priorities relating to farmworker safety and training.

The bills would address animal-related research activities in different ways. The House-passed bill would establish restrictions on certain USDA research, education, and extension activities involving dogs and cats, including restrictions concerning the use of dogs and cats subjected to

[57] This section was prepared by Eleni G. Bickell, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

unalleviated pain or distress, subject to specified exceptions and waiver authority. Both bills would restrict certain USDA research activities involving vertebrate animals conducted in or in collaboration with countries of concern, subject to specified exceptions and waiver authorities.

Both bills would establish new programs, studies, reporting requirements, or other authorities. For example, H.R. 7567 would establish the National Commission on NASS Modernization, expand the responsibilities of the Under Secretary for REE to coordinate interagency research partnerships, and create reporting requirements relating to agricultural research coordination and transparency. S. 5526 would require a Government Accountability Office study on extension service needs in tribal lands and for tribal populations and would establish the Enhanced Use Lease Authority Program; it would also expand the Agricultural and Food Law Research authorities and the Critical Agricultural Materials Act.

Table 10. Title VII, Research, Extension, and Related Matters

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
National advisory board. Establishes the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board. The termination date is September 30, 2023**. (7 U.S.C. §3123)**	**National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.** Amends the membership of the board by adding one more member and by including one member representing industry, consumer, or rural interests of insular areas. Extends the termination date to September 30, 2031. **(§7101)**	**National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.** Amends the membership of the board by reducing its size from seven to three members. Increases the cap on annual advisory board expenses from $500,000 to $750,000. Extends the termination date to September 30, 2031. **(§7101)**
Specialty crop committee. The Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-465) establishes a specialty crop committee to inform the advisory board on research needs. The termination date is September 30, 2023. **(7 U.S.C. §3123a)**	**Specialty crop committee.** Changes the termination date from September 30, 2023, to September 30, 2031, among other administrative changes. **(§7102)**	**Specialty Crops Committee.** Amends the committee composition by increasing membership from 11 to 12 members and adding one nonvoting member representing all minor production states. Extends the termination date to September 30, 2031. Revises appointment and service provisions by specifying that members are appointed by the Secretary and serve at the Secretary's discretion. Adds a requirement that the committee review grant applications and submit a summary of comments, including relevance to annual priorities, to the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) prior to award decisions. Makes conforming amendments to require incorporation of this review and summary process into competitive grant awards. Provides an effective date of October 1 of the first fiscal year after enactment and preserves the terms of existing citrus disease

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		subcommittee members through the transition period. **(§7102)**
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment. The National Veterinary Medical Services Act (P.L. 108-61) establishes the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program to provide competitive grants to help veterinarians repay educational loans in exchange for serving in areas with shortages of veterinarians. **(7 U.S.C. §3151a)**	**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment.** Authorizes USDA to identify veterinarian shortages by geographic area, practice type, and state-identified need; requires USDA to develop and share quantitative models to predict short- and long-term veterinarian shortages; prohibits disqualification solely based on participation in other federal, state, or local programs; and requires establishment of a streamlined application process within one year of enactment. **(§7103)**	**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7103)**
Veterinary Services Grant Program. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) establishes the Veterinary Services Grant Program to provide competitive grants to help veterinarians, students, and technicians gain specialized skills and resources to address U.S. veterinary service shortages. **(7 U.S.C. §3151b)**	**Veterinary Services Grant Program.** Adds the existing statutory definition of *rural area* (7 U.S.C. §1991(a)); expands grants to attract, retain, and expand veterinary practices in rural areas; allows funding for relocation, startup equipment, and housing or living stipends for veterinary and veterinary technician trainees. Requires USDA to implement a streamlined application process within one year of enactment. **(§7104)**	**Veterinary Services Grant Program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7104)**
Grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education. Authorizes USDA to provide grants and fellowships to strengthen higher education in food and agricultural sciences. Authorizes appropriations of $40 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3152(m)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7105)**	**Grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences.** Expands the section on continuing education programs to include workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities relating to food and agricultural sciences. Authorizes appropriations of $60 million annually through FY2031. **(§7105)**
Agricultural and food policy research centers. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants and cooperative agreements for policy research centers to conduct research and education programs that are objective, operationally independent, and external to the federal government and that concern the effect of public policies and trade agreements on agriculture. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million	**Agricultural and food policy research centers.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7106)**	**Agricultural and food policy research centers.** Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2031. **(§7106)**

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annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3155(e); P.L. 119-37)**		
Education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian serving institutions for the purpose of promoting and strengthening their ability to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3156; P.L. 119-37)**	**Education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Extends allowable grant terms to up to five years. **(§7107)**	**Education grants to Alaska Native serving institutions and Native Hawaiian serving institutions.** Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2031. **(§7107)**
Nutrition Education Program. Authorizes USDA to establish a national education program to disseminate results of food and human nutrition research funded by USDA. Authorizes appropriations of $90 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3175; P.L. 119-37)**	**Nutrition Education Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7108)**	**Nutrition Education Program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7108)**
Continuing animal health and disease research programs. Requires deans of accredited veterinary colleges and state agricultural experiment stations to develop a comprehensive state animal health and disease research program based on the animal health research capacity of each eligible institution in the state, to be submitted to USDA for approval and be used to allocate funds available to the state. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3195; P.L. 119-37)**	**Continuing animal health and disease research programs.** Adds carryover provisions for unexpended funds. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7109)**	**Continuing animal health and disease research programs.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7109)**
Extension and agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University. Requires minimum appropriations for extension activities at 1890 land-grant institutions of 20% of the total amount appropriated for extension activities at other land-grant institutions. Requires minimum appropriations for research activities at 1890 land-grant institutions of 30% of the total amount appropriated for research	**Extension and agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Increases the minimum appropriations for extension services at 1890 land-grant institutions to 40% of the total amount appropriated for extension activities at other land-grant institutions. Increases the minimum appropriations for research activities at 1890 land-grant institutions to 40% of the total amount appropriated for research	**Extension at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Beginning with FY2027, increases the minimum appropriations for extension services at 1890 land-grant institutions to 40% of the total amount appropriated for extension activities at other land-grant institutions. **(§7110)** **Agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Beginning with FY2027, increases the

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activities at other land-grant institutions. **(7 U.S.C. §§3221-3222; P.L. 119-37)**	activities at other land-grant institutions. **(§7110)**	minimum appropriations for agricultural research at 1890 land-grant institutions to 40% of the total amount appropriated for agricultural research at other land-grant institutions. Adds technical changes. **(§7111)**
Scholarships for students at 1890 institutions. Establishes a scholarship grant program at 1890 land-grant institutions for accepted students who intend to pursue a career in agribusiness, energy and renewable fuels, or financial management. Provides mandatory Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding of $40 million in FY2020 and $10 million in FY2023, to remain available until expended. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually for FY2020-FY2026. (**7 U.S.C. §3222a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Scholarships for students at 1890 Institutions.** Renames the program as the "David A. Scott Scholarship Program for Students at 1890 Institutions." Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Does not provide additional mandatory funding beyond the existing CCC funding authority. **(§7111)**	**David A. Scott Scholarship Program for students at 1890 Institutions.** Like the House provision, renames the program as the "David A. Scott Scholarship Program for Students at 1890 Institutions" and reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Provides mandatory CCC funds for FY2027 and each fiscal year thereafter of $15 million annually to remain available until expended. **(§7112)**
Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University. Authorizes grants for acquisition and improvement of agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment, including libraries for 1890 land-grant universities and Tuskegee University. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3222b(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7112)**	**Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Identical to the House provision. **(§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. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment and support tropical and subtropical agricultural research at insular area land-grant institutions. Authorizes grants for acquisition and improvement of agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment, including libraries for insular area land-grant institutions. Authorizes appropriations of $8 million annually through FY2026. **(7**	**Grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment and support tropical and subtropical agricultural research at insular land-grant colleges and universities.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7113)**	**Grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area land-grant institutions.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7114)**

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U.S.C. §3222b-2(d); P.L. 119-37)		
Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at eligible institutions. Requires recipients of certain formula grants to provide funds, in-kind contributions, or a combination of both from nonfederal sources in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of the formula grant. **(7 U.S.C. §3222d)**	**Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at eligible institutions.** Requires grant recipients to submit annual reports to USDA about matching funds "beginning on September 30, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter" and submitted no later than September 30 of each fiscal year. **(§7114)**	No comparable provision.
New Beginning for Tribal Students. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334) authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants to land-grant institutions to provide support targeted at tribal students. Limits the total amount of these grants to $500,000 per year per state. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3222e; P.L. 119-37)**	**New beginning for Tribal students.** Modifies the matching-fund requirement to exclude 1994 institutions and removes the cap on the total annual per-state limit on grants. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7115)**	**New beginning for Tribal students.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7115)**
Education grants programs for Hispanic-serving institutions. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants to promote and strengthen Hispanic-serving institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. Authorizes appropriations of $40 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3241(c); P.L. 119-37)**	**Education grants programs for Hispanic-serving institutions.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7116)**	**Hispanic-serving institutions.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7116)**
Binational agricultural research and development (BARD). Establishes the BARD-cooperative agricultural research program between the United States and the government of Israel that supports collaborative research of mutual interest in authorized research centers in both countries. **(7 U.S.C. §3291(e))**	**Binational agricultural research and development.** Expands BARD activities to include other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration. Establishes a BARD Fund accelerator program to support mid-stage agricultural research, technical assistance, and cooperative research projects. **(§7117)**	**Binational agricultural research and development.** Establishes a BARD Fund accelerator program to support mid-stage agricultural research and cooperative research projects between the United States and Israel. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2031. Unlike the House provision, does not expand activities to other Abraham Accords signatories. **(§7117)**

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Partnerships to build capacity in international agricultural research, extension, and teaching. Authorizes USDA to promote cooperation and coordination between defined *covered institutions* and *international partner institutions* through improving extension, agricultural research, agricultural teaching and education, and other activities. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3292; P.L. 119-37)**	**Grants and partnership for international agricultural research, extension, and education.** Renames the program. Amends the definitions of *developing country*, *eligible institution*, and *international partner institution.* Expands eligible institutions. Authorizes competitive grants and partnerships to support international agricultural research, extension, education, internships, and fellowships. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7118)**	**International Agricultural Partnerships and Grants Program.** Renames the program and retains the existing program authorities. Adds a new authority for competitive grants to colleges and universities for international agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2031. Unlike the House provision, does not expand eligibility, establish partnership authorities, or create internship and fellowship programs. **(§7118)**
Research equipment grants. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants for research equipment. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3310a(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Research equipment grants.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7119)**	**Research equipment grants.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7119)**
Research appropriations. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary for formula funds for agricultural research at land-grant institutions through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3311; P.L. 119-37)**	**University research.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7120)**	**University research.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7120)**
Extension appropriations. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary for formula funds for agricultural extension at land-grant institutions through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3312; P.L. 119-37)**	**Extension service.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7121)**	**Cooperative extension service.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7121)**
Supplemental and alternative crops. Requires USDA to provide competitive grants and other agreements to develop supplemental and alternative crops. Authorizes annual appropriations of $2 million through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3319d; P.L. 119-37)**	**Supplemental and alternative crops.** Expands the scope for grants and partnerships to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-planted canola seed and winter-planted canola crops). Reauthorizes annual appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7122)**	**Supplemental and alternative crops.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7122)**
New Era Rural Technology Program. Authorizes USDA to establish the New Era Rural Technology Program to make grants available for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable	**Grants for community college agriculture and natural resources programs.** Renames the section. Amends definitions to include *eligible entities* and *work-based learning*. Requires USDA to prioritize applicants partnering with local industry operators. Defines	**New Era Rural Technology Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7123)**

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energy workforce. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3319e; P.L. 119-37)**	allowable uses of grants. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7123)**	
Capacity building grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) institutions. Authorizes competitive grant programs for NLGCA institutions. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3319i(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Capacity building grants for NLGCA institutions.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7124)**	**Capacity building grants for NLGCA institutions.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7124)**
Agriculture advanced research and development authority (AGARDA). The 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) establishes pilot AGARDA to develop technologies, research tools, and products through advanced research on long-term and high-risk challenges for food and agriculture. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026, to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. §3319k; P.L. 119-37)**	**Agriculture advanced research and development authority.** Amends the definition of *agricultural technology* to explicitly include *precision agriculture* (defined as "managing, tracking, or reducing crop or livestock production inputs [including seed, feed, fertilizer, chemicals, water, and time] at a heightened level of spatial and temporal granularity to improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and maintain environmental quality") and broadens the scope of qualified products and projects, including those determined by USDA. Amends goals and duties to emphasize overcoming long-term and high-risk technological barriers in agricultural technologies, research tools, and qualified products and projects that enhance export competitiveness, environmental sustainability, water conservation, and resilience to extreme weather, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests. Requires USDA to use the 2022 AGARDA strategic plan in program administration. Extends the duration of the pilot program from 5 to 13 years. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7125)**	**Agriculture advanced research and development authority.** Expands the program's research priorities to include water conservation technologies and innovation; soil and water conservation; and resilience to drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests. Adds economic cost to the factors considered in identifying areas of technological or financial uncertainty. Like the House provision, the bill requires USDA to use the 2022 AGARDA strategic plan in program administration. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Authorizes USDA to use other unobligated funds for the program, establishes personnel provisions for AGARDA, and removes the program sunset by eliminating the pilot-period provision. **(§7125)**
Aquaculture assistance programs. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants to support aquaculture research and assistance. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7**	**Aquaculture assistance programs.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, within 180 days of enactment, to conduct a study identifying locations in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam suitable for the development of aquaculture small businesses, including	**Aquaculture assistance programs.** Establishes an indirect cost limitation—which limits reimbursement of overhead expenses to an institution's negotiated indirect cost rate rather than a fixed cap. Amends the authorization of appropriations for

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U.S.C. §3324(a)(2); P.L. 118-22)	assessments of water quality, coastal access, infrastructure needs, and applicable environmental and regulatory requirements. Requires consultation with the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources and the Guam Department of Agriculture. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7126)**	aquaculture programs by extending the current authorization through FY2025 and authorizing appropriations of $15 million annually for FY2027 through FY2031. **(§7127)**
Special authorization for biosecurity planning and response. Authorizes research, education, and extension activities for biosecurity planning and response. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3351(a)(3); P.L. 119-37)**	**Special authorization for biosecurity planning and response.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7127)**	**Special authorization for biosecurity planning and response.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7129)**
Agriculture Research Facility Expansion and Security Upgrades Program. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants to support security of agriculture and threats posed by bioterrorism. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3352; P.L. 119-37)**	**Agriculture and food protection grant program.** Renames the Agriculture Research Facility Expansion and Security Upgrades Program to the "Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program." Expands the program scope to include activities aimed at protecting the food and agricultural system from chemical, biological, cybersecurity, or bioterrorism attacks. Amends grant requirements to allow additional activities and entities to receive grants. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7128)**	No comparable provision.
Distance education grants for insular areas. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to insular area institutions for distance education projects. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3362(f)(2); P.L. 119-37)** **Resident instruction grants for insular areas.** Authorizes USDA to provide grants to insular area institutions for resident instruction. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3363(c)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Distance education grants for insular areas.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7129)** **Resident instruction grants for insular areas.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7130)**	**Distance education and resident instruction grants program for insular area institutions of higher education.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels for distance education grants for insular areas and resident instruction grants for insular area institutions of higher education through FY2031. **(§7130)**

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Annual reporting. Requires an annual report to agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and the President on USDA activities related to research, extension, and teaching. **(7 U.S.C. §3125)**	**Repeals.** Repeals provision. **(§7131(a))**	No comparable provision.
Next Generation Technology Challenge. Establishes a competition to incentivize development of mobile technology to assist market entry for beginning farmers and ranchers. **(7 U.S.C. §3158)**	**Repeals.** Repeals provision. **(§7131(b))**	No comparable provision.
Grants to upgrade facilities. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities at the District of Columbia land-grant institution. **(7 U.S.C. §3222b-1)**	**Repeals.** Repeals provision. **(§7131(c))**	No comparable provision.
Rangeland research. Authorizes USDA to establish a cooperative rangeland research program and provide grants to support such program. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2026 **(7 U.S.C. §§3331 et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**Repeals.** Repeals provision. **(§7131(d))**	**Rangeland Research Programs.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7128)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Capacity Building grants for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources programs.** Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program to support junior/community colleges and consortia of 2-year public colleges of agriculture and related disciplines. Prioritizes entities partnering with local agriculture industry operators for experiential student training and allows funds for agricultural job programs, equipment, faculty development, apprenticeships, and work-based learning. Allows eligible entities to be designated as centers of excellence for agriculture advancement. Requires USDA, within three years of enactment, to evaluate activities carried out under the program and submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a]. Defines *junior or community college*. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2031. **(§7126)**

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Sustainable agriculture research and education. Requires USDA to establish the Best Utilization of Biological Applications research and extension program. Authorizes appropriations of $40 million annually through FY2026. Requires establishment of integrated management systems research and education programs for resource and crop management. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. Requires development and publication of sustainable agriculture handbooks and technical guides. Authorizes mandatory CCC funds of $5 million annually through FY2026. Requires the establishment of a National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §§5811 et seq.; 7 U.S.C. §5821(d); 7 U.S.C. §5831; 7 U.S.C. §5832(i); P.L. 119-37)**	**Sustainable agriculture research and education.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels annually through FY2031 for the Best Utilization of Biological Applications research and extension program (7 U.S.C. §§5811 et seq.); integrated management systems research and education programs for resource and crop management (7 U.S.C. §5821); and the development and publication of sustainable agriculture handbooks and technical guides (7 U.S.C. §5831). Provides mandatory appropriations at current levels through FY2031 for the National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture (7 U.S.C. §5832(i)). **(§7201)**	**Best utilization of biological applications.** Reauthorizes appropriations for the Best Utilization of Biological Applications Research and Extension program (7 U.S.C. §5814) at current levels through FY2031. **(§7201)** **Integrated management systems.** Reauthorizes appropriations for the integrated management systems (7 U.S.C. §5821(d)) at current levels through FY2031. **(§7202)** **Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations for the development and availability of handbooks and technical guides (7 U.S.C. §5831) at current levels through FY2031. **(§7203)** **National training program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7204)**
National Genetic Resources Program. Establishes the National Genetic Resources Program to acquire, document, preserve, characterize, and distribute germplasm of agricultural and crop species. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5844(b)(2))**	**National Genetics Resources Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7202)**	**National Genetics Resources Program.** Identical to House provision. **(§7205)**
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative. Establishes the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sector to maximize the return on the investment in genomics of agriculturally important species. Authorizes appropriations of $40 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5924(g))**	**Agricultural genome to phenome initiative.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7203)**	**Agricultural genome to phenome initiative.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7207)**

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High-priority research and extension initiatives. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive grants for "high-priority research and extension" areas and initiatives and other programs. **(7 U.S.C. §5925; P.L. 119-37)**	**High-priority research and extension initiatives.** Revises the high-priority research and extension initiatives by eliminating several existing initiatives, including the agricultural development in the American-Pacific region initiative; tropical and subtropical agricultural research, coffee plant health initiative; macadamia tree health initiative; and corn, soybean meal, cereal grains, and grain byproducts research and extension. Consolidates the fertilizer management and nutrient management initiatives into a new fertilizer and nutrient management initiative. Modifies the cattle fever tick and algae research initiatives. Adds new initiatives addressing tropical plant health, biochar, wildfire smoke exposure, invasive species, microplastics and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) on farmland, agricultural byproducts, soil health, white oak, alternative growing media, rangeland research, specialty crop mechanization and automation, and biological pest control. Requires USDA, beginning in 2028, to submit biennial reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] detailing activities and funding allocations for high-priority research and extension initiatives. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7204)**	**High-priority research and extension initiatives.** Revises the high-priority research and extension initiatives by adding new initiatives, including PFAS agricultural effects, peanut aflatoxin, biochar, spotted wing drosophila, spotted lanternfly, wheat resiliency, invasive species, agricultural applications in artificial intelligence, aquaculture, white oak, sunflower breeding, equine health, grazing for wildfire mitigation, and emerging tick-borne livestock diseases. Unlike the House-passed bill, does not eliminate or consolidate existing high-priority research and extension initiatives or require USDA reporting on funding allocations for these initiatives. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7208)**
Organic research and extension. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 farm bill; P.L. 110-246) establishes the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative to provide grants to facilitate the development of organic agriculture production and processing. Provides permanent mandatory CCC funding of $50 million annually. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through 2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5925b; P.L. 119-37)**	**Organic agriculture research and extension initiative.** Extends USDA's authority to provide competitive grants through FY2031. Makes other administrative changes and removes dated provisions no longer active. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7205)**	**Organic agriculture research and extension initiative.** Makes technical corrections and cross-references to statutory reference language. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7209)**

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Farm business management. Authorizes USDA to provide competitive research and extension grants for improving agricultural producers' farm management knowledge and skills and for establishing and maintaining a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5925f(d)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Farm business management.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7206)**	**Farm business management.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7210)**
Urban, indoor, and innovative research. The 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) authorizes USDA to provide grants to facilitate the development of urban and indoor agricultural production, harvesting, packaging, and distribution systems and new markets. Provides mandatory CCC funds of $10 million for FY2019 and $2 million for FY2026, to remain available until expended. Authorizes additional appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5925g; P.L. 119-37)**	**Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative.** Modifies the definition. Adds "managing waste streams" and providing career and technical education by land-grant institutions and minority-serving institutions as eligible grant activities. Makes other technical changes. **(§7207)**	**Urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production research, education, and extension initiative.** Like the House provision, modifies the definition of *emerging agricultural production* but focuses on "waste streams of production practices" and adds geographic scope specification for "rural, suburban, and urban areas." Authorizes appropriations of $18 million annually through FY2031. **(§7211)**
Centers of excellence. Authorizes USDA to prioritize centers of excellence (COEs) focused on specified areas relating to food and agriculture for competitive research and extension program funding. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5926; P.L. 119-37)**	**Centers of excellence.** Expands eligible host institutions to include 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions, non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges or universities, and accredited veterinary schools. Requires geographic diversity and limits institutions to the hosting of one center at a time. Requires partnerships with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), other federal and state entities, higher education institutions, and industry to enhance coordination, workforce development, rapid response capacity, and technology transfer. Expands focus areas to aquaculture, beginning farmers, biosecurity and cybersecurity, biotechnology, crop protection, digital agriculture, food quality, foreign animal disease, forestry, invasive species, livestock and poultry, veterinary medicine, and water quality. Sets five-year award terms (renewable once).	**Centers of excellence.** Renames the program to "Centers of Excellence at 1890 Institutions." Increases the number of possible awards from 3 to 10 centers. Expands focus areas to climate resiliency; forestry resilience and conservation; food safety, bioprocessing, and value-added agriculture; and food and agricultural sciences and the social sciences. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2031. **(§7212)**

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	Prohibits use of funds for construction, requires annual congressional reporting, and increases the minimum number of additional centers from three to at least eight. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7208)**	
Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities. Establishes a grant program to provide on-the-farm agricultural education and assistance directed at accommodating individuals with disabilities in farm operations. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5933; P.L. 119-37)**	**Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities.** Expands eligible activities to include education and support for young adults with disabilities who are interested in farming and farm-related occupations. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7209)**	**Assistive technology program for farmers with disabilities.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7213)**
Farming opportunities training and outreach. The 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) merged two USDA grant programs for beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged producers. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $50 million annually. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2279; P.L. 119-37)**	**Farming opportunities training and outreach.** Authorizes the NIFA director to expand technical assistance to providers (financial planning, business viability training) to strengthen the long-term economic viability of beginning farmers and ranchers. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7210)**	**Farming opportunities training and outreach.** Reauthorizes program authority for the portion of the program serving socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers through FY2031. **(§12511, Title XII—Miscellaneous)**
National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse. Establishes the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse to provide information about rural assistance programs and services provided by federal, state, and local agencies and private nonprofit organizations. Authorizes appropriations of $500,000 annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3125b(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7211)**	**National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7214)**
National Agricultural Weather Information System. The National Agricultural Weather Information System Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-624) established the Agriculture and Agricultural Weather Office to meet the weather forecasting and climate information needs of agricultural producers. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2026 **(7 U.S.C. §§5851 et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**Repeal.** Repeals the program. **(§7212)**	**National Agricultural Weather Information System.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7206)**

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No comparable provision.	**Researching the transition to organic.** Establishes a new competitive grant program to support research, education, and extension on transitioning to organic production. Authorizes appropriations of $7.5 million annually beginning in FY2026. **(§7213)**	No comparable provision.
National food safety training. The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (P.L. 111-353) establishes a competitive grant program to support training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance projects to increase the adoption of established food safety standards, guidance, and protocols. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7625; P.L. 119-37)**	**National food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program.** Removes certain program coordination requirements involving the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7301)**	**National food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7301)**
Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program. Authorizes USDA to establish an integrated research, education, and extension competitive program to provide grants for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities. Authorizes annual appropriations of such sums as necessary through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7626(f); P.L. 119-37)**	**Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7302)**	**Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7302)**
Support for research regarding selected crop diseases. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to research and combat diseases affecting wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* and related fungi. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7628(e)(3); P.L. 119-37)**	**Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica*.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7303)**	**Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica*.** Authorizes appropriations of $20 million through FY2031. **(§7303)**
Grants for youth organizations. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to the Girl Scouts, the Boy Scouts, the National 4-H Council, and the National Future Farmers of America Organization to establish pilot projects to expand their programs in rural areas and small towns. Authorizes appropriations of	**Grants for youth organizations.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7304)**	**Grants for youth organizations.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7304)**

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$3 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7630(d)(2); P.L. 119-37)**		
Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-246) established the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. Provides mandatory CCC funds of $80 million annually, of which at least $25 million annually is reserved for the Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program through FY2026. Authorizes appropriations of $100 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7632; P.L. 119-37)**	**Specialty crop research initiative.** Specifies criteria under which USDA may waive matching requirements. Establishes a new competitive grant program within the Specialty Crop Research Initiative to support research and extension activities that advance mechanization and automation for specialty crops, including technology development, adoption, workforce training, prototype testing, and commercialization. Reserves not less than $30 million annually from the Specialty Crop Research Initiative's mandatory funds for the new program through FY2031. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7305)**	**Specialty crop research initiative.** Establishes a specialty crop mechanization and automation grant program, reserves $30 million annually through FY2031, and extends the underlying initiative through FY2031. Broadly authorizes the Secretary to waive matching requirements rather than limiting waivers to specified circumstances. Adds grant priorities for projects that train or retrain farm workers to use and maintain new technologies and that include mechanisms to communicate project results to producers and the public. Includes improving farmworker safety and health among eligible project activities. **(§7305)**
No comparable provision.	**Agriculture grants for veteran education and training services.** Authorizes USDA to establish a new competitive grant program to support veterans pursuing farming and ranching through business and management training, curriculum development, workshops and field experiences, and other activities identified by the Secretary of Agriculture. Requires one-to-one nonfederal matching funds. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2031. **(§7306)**	**Agriculture grants for veteran education and training services.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7308)**
Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program. Establishes a database to provide livestock producers, extension specialists, scientists, and veterinarians with information to prevent drug, pesticide, and environmental contaminant residues in food animal products. Authorizes appropriations of $2.5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7642(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7307)**	**Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program.** Authorizes appropriations of $5 million through FY2031. **(§7306)**
Office of Pest Management Policy. Establishes the office to coordinate USDA's policies and activities related to pesticides and pest management tools. Authorizes	**Office of Pest Management Policy.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7308)**	**Office of Pest Management Policy.** Authorizes appropriations of $8 million through FY2031. **(§10208, Title X—Horticulture)**

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appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7653(f)(2); P.L. 119-37)**		
Forestry products advanced utilization research. Authorizes USDA to establish a forestry and forestry products research and extension grant program to develop and disseminate science-based tools that address the needs of the forestry sector and their respective regions**.** Authorizes appropriations of $7 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §7655b(f)(1); P.L. 119-37)**	**Forestry products advanced utilization research.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7309)**	**Forestry products advanced utilization research.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7307)**
Biobased products. Authorizes USDA to establish a cooperative agreement program to coordinate research, commercialize, and promote the use of biobased products. **(7 U.S.C. §7624)**	**Repeals.** Repeals the program. **(§7310)**	**National Biochar Research Network.** Retains the existing statutory provision authorizing USDA activities concerning biobased products. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, subject to the availability of funds, to establish a National Biochar Research Network administered by the ARS administrator. The network would coordinate research on biochar across agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and other uses. Research would include cross-site and mechanistic experiments at up to 20 research sites or facilities; assessments of farm and forestry systems; and pilot-scale biochar production and application systems. Research topics would include biochar effects on soil properties, plant growth, soil emissions, soil carbon, ecosystem and soil health, water quality, resilience, and economic outcomes; lifecycle GHG emissions; mechanistic models; standardized testing methods; feedstocks and production technologies; and biochar and bioenergy coproduction. The network would disseminate research findings to farmers, ranchers, foresters, horticulturalists, extension personnel, and technical assistance providers. Eligible research entities would include state agricultural and forestry experiment stations; ARS, Forest Service, and other appropriate USDA research facilities; and research facilities of the Departments of Energy,

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		Commerce, and the Interior. **(§7309)**
Agricultural biotechnology research and development for developing countries. Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program to develop agricultural biotechnology for developing countries. **(7 U.S.C. §7631)**	**Repeals.** Repeals the program. **(§7310)**	No comparable provision.
Grazinglands Research Laboratory. The 2008 farm bill (P.L. 110-246) prohibits the Secretary from declaring the laboratory as excess or surplus federal property for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the 2008 farm bill. Subsequent farm bills extended this to 15 years. **(P.L. 110-264; 112 Stat. 2019)**	**Grazinglands research laboratory.** Amends the restriction on the Grazinglands Research Laboratory by removing the fixed end date for prohibiting its declaration as excess or surplus federal property. The prohibition applies indefinitely, beginning on the date of enactment. **(§7401)**	**Grazinglands research laboratory.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§7411)**
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network. Establishes the network to provide stress assistance programs for those engaged in agriculture-related occupations. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5936; P.L. 119-37)**	**Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.** Expands farm telephone helplines to explicitly include crisis hotlines; broadens support services; and authorizes referral relationships with certified community behavioral health clinics, health centers, rural health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and critical access hospitals. Requires USDA to submit a report to Congress within two years of enactment to evaluate the availability and use of mental health and tele-mental health services for agricultural professionals and recommend ways to improve access in rural areas. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7402)**	**Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.** Like the House provision, adds crisis lines and authorizes referral relationships with behavioral health providers. Unlike the House provision, does not require a USDA evaluation and report on farmer mental health and tele-mental health services. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million for FY2027 through FY2031. **(§7412)**
Sun grant program. Establishes six Sun Grant Centers to coordinate regional research and partnerships on bioenergy and authorizes competitive grants to enhance national energy security. Authorizes appropriations of $75 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8114; P.L. 119-37)**	**Sun grant program.** Amends "product" to "bioproduct" throughout 7 U.S.C. §8114. Increases the allowable funds for administrative expenses for a Sun Grant Center or subcenter from 4% to 30%. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7403)**	**Sun grant program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7414)**

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Research and education grants for the study of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program for the study of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. **(7 U.S.C. §3202)**	**Repeals.** Repeals the program. **(§7404)**	No comparable provision.
Natural products research program. Authorizes USDA to establish a natural products research program to improve human health and agricultural productivity through the discovery, development, and commercialization of products and agrichemicals from bioactive natural products. Authorizes appropriations of $7 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5937; P.L. 119-37)**	**Repeals.** Repeals the program. **(§7404)**	**Natural products research program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7413)**
Agricultural biosecurity communication center. Authorizes USDA to establish a communication center to (1) collect and disseminate information and prepare for an agricultural disease emergency, agroterrorist act, or other threat to agricultural biosecurity; and (2) coordinate activities described in paragraph (1) among agencies and offices within USDA. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8912; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Agricultural biosecurity communication center.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7401)**
Assistance to build local capacity in agricultural biosecurity planning, preparation, and response. Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program to support the development and expansion of advanced training programs in agricultural biosecurity planning and response for food science professionals and veterinarians. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8913; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Assistance to build local capacity in agricultural biosecurity planning, preparation, and response.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7402)**

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Research and development of agricultural countermeasures. Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program to encourage basic and applied research and the development of qualified agricultural countermeasures. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8921; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Research and development of agricultural countermeasures.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7403)**
Agricultural biosecurity grant program. Authorizes USDA to establish a competitive grant program to promote the development of teaching programs in agriculture, veterinary medicine, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agriculture system to increase the number of trained individuals with an expertise in agricultural biosecurity. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8922; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Agricultural biosecurity grant program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7404)**
Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994. Establishes land-grant assistance to colleges. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §301 note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.** Amends language about the amount of public land that is apportioned to each state government from "equal to" to "that is not less than" 30,000 acres. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7501)**	**Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.** Also extends the authorizations through FY2031. Requires annual appropriations for the Tribal Institutions Endowment Program to be not less than the prior year's amount, expands allowable uses of research grants to include research equipment, and removes the scholarship reservation. Amends statutory appropriations for the endowment program from FY1996 to FY2031. **(§7503)**
Research Facilities Act. Defines and authorizes funding for agricultural research facilities. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §390d; P.L. 119-37)**	**Research Facilities Act.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7502)**	**Federal Agriculture Research Facilities.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§7513)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Report on the extension service needs of tribal lands and populations.** Requires within 18 months of enactment that the Comptroller General study the extension service needs of tribal lands and tribal populations, evaluate whether the Cooperative Extension Program and the

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		Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program are meeting those needs, and submit a report to Congress with recommendations, if warranted, to improve equitable and effective delivery of extension services. **(§7504)**
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. Authorizes competitive grant programs for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education in food and agricultural sciences. Authorizes appropriations of $700 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3157(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.** Expands Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) research priority areas to include regionally adapted plant breeding; breeding for environmental resilience; methods to increase the survival rate and adaptability of shellfish, hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other controlled-environment agriculture production technologies; supply chain coordination and capacity building relating to overseas markets; workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing and precision agriculture; and food loss and food waste reduction. Adds area career and technical education schools as eligible entities for AFRI grants. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7503)**	**Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.** Expands AFRI research priority areas to include regionally adapted cultivar and breed development; shellfish as part of the aquaculture research priority; biochar; precision agriculture technologies; hydroponics, aquaponics, aeroponics, and other controlled-environment agriculture production technologies; and research, development, and implementation of artificial intelligence to enhance precision agriculture, farm management, crop production, resource management, cybersecurity, and weather monitoring. Adds tools for farm business, marketing, and financial management; workforce training and development, including meat and poultry processing (including rendering) and precision agriculture; and food loss and food waste reduction as AFRI research priority areas. Makes consortia of junior and community colleges that may partner with land-grant colleges and universities eligible entities for workforce training education, research, and outreach activities. Like the House provision, reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7508)**
Extension design and demonstration initiative. Establishes a research initiative to design adaptive prototype systems that enhance education and extension. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3157(d)(6); P.L. 119-37)**	**Extension design and demonstration initiative.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7504)**	**Extension design and demonstration initiative.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7509)**

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Biomass research and development. Establishes a research initiative between USDA and the Department of Energy to coordinate research and development programs and activities related to biofuels and biobased products that are carried out by their respective departments. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8108(h)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Biomass research and development.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7505)**	**Biomass research and development.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7510)**
Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million annually through FY2026 for forestry-related extension activities. Sets termination date as September 30, 2023. **(16 U.S.C. §1675 and §1671 note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031 and extends termination date to September 30, 2031. **(§7506)**	**Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§7511)**
National Aquaculture Act of 1980. Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior to develop and implement the National Aquaculture Development Plan. Requires the plan to be reviewed "periodical[ly]." Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually each for USDA, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Interior through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §§2801 et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**National Aquaculture Act of 1980.** Requires the aquaculture plan to be reviewed at least once every three years and to include catalogs of capital constraints and federal or state regulatory barriers affecting U.S. aquaculture. Establishes a 14-member Aquaculture Advisory Committee (comprised of nonfederal members) to advise USDA on best practices, technical assistance (including for shellfish, algae, and land-based systems), barriers to industry growth, and implementation of the act; sets staggered three-year terms; requires at least three meetings annually; and terminates the committee after five years unless renewed. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretaries of Commerce and of the Interior, to submit an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the status of U.S. aquaculture, including implementation of the plan, federal expenditures, agency roles, and advisory committee activities. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7507)**	**National Aquaculture Act of 1980.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7512)**

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Reports on disbursement of funds for selected 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that details the allocations to and matching funds received by 1890 institutions and 1862 institutions for agricultural research, extension, education, and related programs. **(7 U.S.C. §2207d)**	**Reports on disbursement of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.** Requires state governors to annually attest to USDA their ability to meet their state's matching funds requirements. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to Congress that details these attestations, which is to be made publicly available on USDA's website. **(§7508)**	No comparable provision.
Authorization for appropriations for federal agricultural research facilities. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually to plan, construct, acquire, alter, and repair buildings and other public improvements for ARS. **(P.L. 99-198, §1431; 99 Stat. 1556)**	**Repeal.** Repeals the provision. **(§7509)**	**Federal Agriculture Research Facilities.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7513)**
Smith-Lever Act. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually for extension activities at 1994 land-grant institutions. **(7 U.S.C. §343(b)(3); P.L. 119-37)**	**Amendment to Smith-Lever Act.** Expands eligible uses of funds to allow 1994 land-grant institutions to acquire, alter, repair, maintain, and operate equipment necessary to strengthen capacity to carry out extension activities under the act. **(§7510)**	**Amendment to Smith-Lever Act.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7507)**
National Agricultural Library. Authorizes appropriations of such sums as necessary annually to serve as the primary agricultural information resource of the United States **(7 U.S.C. §3125a note**; **P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Enhanced Use Lease Authority Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7514)**
Agricultural and food law research, legal tools, and information. Authorizes USDA through the National Agricultural Library to enter into cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education to support the dissemination of objective, scholarly, and authoritative agricultural and food law research, legal tools, and information. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §3125a-1; P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Agricultural and food law research.** Expands eligibility for USDA cooperative agreements supporting agricultural and food law research by allowing the National Agricultural Library to enter into agreements with land-grant colleges and universities, in addition to other eligible institutions of higher education. Allows eligible institutions to retain and use any program income generated from activities funded under the program until expended for the same authorized purposes. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2031. **(§7501)**

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Administration and funding. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2026 to research and grow plants that can make rubber and other important materials within the United States. **(7 U.S.C. §178n(a)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	No comparable provision.	**Critical Agricultural Materials Act.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels. **(§7502)**
Foundation for food and agriculture research. Establishes a nonprofit corporation to advance the research mission of USDA by supporting agricultural research activities through private-public partnerships. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $200 million to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. 5939; P.L. 119-37)**	**Foundation for food and agriculture research.** Adds clauses, including membership requirements for the board of directors. Requires annual reports to include additional information and be provided to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(§7601)**	**Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research**. Provides an additional $200 million from the CCC, to remain available until expended. The transfer would be required within 30 days after enactment. (**§7516**)
No comparable provision.	**Agriculture innovation center demonstration program.** For more information, see §6312 in the Senate committee-reported bill. **(§7602)**	**Agriculture innovation center demonstration program.** For more information, see §6312 in the Senate committee-reported bill. **(§6312, Title VI—Rural Development)**
Livestock insects laboratory. Names the ARS Livestock Insects Laboratory the "Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory." **(P.L. 100-208; 101 Stat. 1439)**	**Livestock insects laboratory.** Changes laboratory name to "Knipling-Bushland Research Center." **(§7603)**	No comparable provision.
Hatch Act of 1887. Authorizes payment of allotments to state agricultural experiment stations. **(7 U.S.C. §361e)**	**U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center.** Designates USDA's U.S. National Poultry Research Center located in Athens, GA, as the "U.S. Abit Massey National Poultry Research Center." **(§7604)**	No comparable provision.
Hatch Act of 1887. Authorizes payment of allotments to state agricultural experiment stations. **(7 U.S.C. §361e)**	**Hatch Act of 1887.** Makes technical corrections, including replacing "director" with "experiment station director" and "the authorized receiving officer" in the fourth sentence with "the experiment station director." **(§7605)**	**Amendments to the Hatch Act.** Makes substantively similar updates to terminology relating to state agricultural experiment station directors as the House provision. Additionally authorizes Hatch Act matching funds to be used for graduate student tuition and fees. **(§7506)**
No comparable provision.	**Commission on national agricultural statistics service modernization.** Establishes the Commission on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Modernization to study how NASS can modernize and streamline data collection, improve survey quality and response rates,	No comparable provision.

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	incorporate new technologies, and enhance transparency and specialty crop reporting. The 11-member commission includes USDA leadership, representatives from the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Commission members are to serve for the life of the commission and conduct hearings, stakeholder engagement, and federal data collection as needed. Requires a report with findings and recommendations within three years of enactment, terminates the commission in FY2031, and provides mandatory CCC funding of $1 million for FY2026, available until expended. **(§7606)**	
No comparable provision.	**Restoration of 4-H name and emblem authority.** Defines *4-H club*, *4-H emblem or name*, *4-H Program*, and *land-grant college or university*, including authorized agents. Authorizes USDA to use and grant permissions for the 4-H emblem or name, with or without fees. Requires collected fees be deposited into a special account for the 4-H Program. Prohibits unauthorized use of the 4-H emblem. **(§7607)**	**Restoration of 4-H name and emblem authority.** Identical to the House provision. **(§7505)**
Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics. Authorizes USDA to establish the position of Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), appointed by the President with Senate confirmation, responsible for coordination of research, education, and extension activities of the department. **(7 U.S.C. §6971)**	**Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.** Expands the responsibilities of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE) to coordinate USDA research activities with other federal agencies. Requires USDA to establish interagency research partnerships through memoranda of understanding with the Departments of Energy, Defense (which is using a secondary Department of War designation under Executive Order 14347 dated September 5, 2025), and Health and Human Services; the National Science Foundation; and other federal agencies. Additionally, authorizes collaborative research and reimbursable agreements; shortens the review period for certain advisory board recommendations from three years	No comparable provision.

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	to one year; and requires a report to Congress on interagency coordination activities. **(§7608)**	
No comparable provision.	**Agricultural Innovation Corps.** Establishes the Agricultural Innovation Corps (Ag I-Corps) to promote technology transfer and commercialization of federally funded agricultural research. Authorizes competitive grants using Small Business Innovation Research Program funds (SBIR) for prototype and proof-of-concept development and related entrepreneurial infrastructure, limited to early-stage innovations not eligible for SBIR or Small Business Technology Transfer programs. Authorizes the Secretary to enter into partnerships with federal, state, local, and nonprofit entities to support program activities. Requires the Secretary to submit a biennial report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a]—beginning September 30, 2027, and based on program data—on the effectiveness of Ag I-Corps, including participation and commercialization outcomes. **(§7609)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Study on technical assistance with respect to transfer of agricultural land and assets.** Directs USDA to conduct a study and report to Congress by September 30, 2026, on the expansion of opportunities for 1890 land-grant institutions to provide education and technical assistance on agricultural land and asset transfers, including heirs' property, to support succession planning and improve land tenure security for farmers and ranchers. **(§7610)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Sense of Congress relating to the importance of community colleges to the United States agriculture industry**. Expresses the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education offering two-year degree programs, such as junior or community colleges, play a key role in agricultural workforce development, particularly in conservation, and that increased	No comparable provision.

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	investment in these programs is important to support agricultural productivity, sustainability, and the broader U.S. agricultural economy. **(§7611)**	
No comparable provision.	**Limitation on certain research involving dogs and cats.** Prohibits USDA REE-funded or conducted research, education, or extension activities from involving domestic dogs or cats subjected to pain or distress not alleviated through appropriate sedation, analgesia, or anesthesia, consistent with Animal Welfare Act standards. Exempts research relating to detector dog training and use for safeguarding agricultural and natural resources from pests and diseases, including activities under the Beagle Brigade Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-191). Authorizes the USDA Under Secretary for REE to waive the restriction on a case-by-case basis if necessary for national security, animal or crop health, or public health, safety, or welfare and if no reasonable alternatives exist. Requires congressional notification at least 30 days prior to any waiver, including justification, research scope, costs, lack of alternatives, and duration. **(§7612)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Report on national grape production.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the NASS Administrator, to conduct a nationwide survey on grape production within one year of enactment, including total acreage and production, utilization, and acreage by type, variety, county, and year planted, and to publish the results and underlying data on the NASS website. Requires follow-up surveys in each of the five highest grape-producing states within two years of enactment and annually thereafter for three years, with results made publicly available. **(§7613)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Limitation on certain research in countries of concern.** Prohibits research, education, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals under the jurisdiction of USDA's REE mission area from being conducted in or in collaboration with China, Russia, or other designated foreign countries of concern (as defined in §10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 [42 U.S.C. §19237(2)]). Allows the Under Secretary for REE to grant case-by-case waivers if necessary for national security, animal or crop health, or public health and safety. Requires 30-day advance notification to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] before the granting of any waiver. Requires such notification to include justification, scope of research, collaborators, cost, and the expected duration of the waiver. **(§7614)**	**Limitation on certain research in countries of concern.** Like the House provision, prohibits research, education, or extension activities involving vertebrate animals under the jurisdiction of USDA's REE mission area from being conducted in or in collaboration with China, Russia, or other designated foreign countries of concern (as defined in §10638(2) of the CHIPS Act of 2022 [42 U.S.C. §19237(2)]) and specifies that the limitation applies only to activities carried out or funded under the jurisdiction of USDA's REE mission area. Requires the justification for a waiver to expressly include animal and crop health and public health, safety, or welfare, in addition to national security, and retains the 30-day advance congressional notification requirement and the requirements to provide information on the research, collaborators, animals involved, projected cost, and duration of the waiver. Unlike the House provision, vests waiver authority in the Secretary of Agriculture, who may delegate the authority to the Under Secretary of REE. Requires the Secretary, rather than the Under Secretary, to provide advance congressional notification of waivers. **(§7131)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title VIII, Forestry[58]

The respective forestry titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would address forestry and land management broadly, including federal forest management, nonfederal forest assistance, forest research, and wildfire (**Table 11**). The forestry title of both bills includes provisions relating to forestry research and would establish or modify several programs to provide financial and technical assistance to nonfederal forest landowners (**Table 11**). Both bills also include provisions that would address USDA Forest Service (FS) management of the National Forest System (NFS) lands and the lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Both bills would address compliance with a variety of environmental statutes.

Both bills would address a variety of nonfederal forest assistance topics. Both bills would reauthorize and amend forestry assistance programs, though not all the same programs, that expired at the end of FY2026 but not in identical ways. For example, both bills address the Wood Innovations grant program, the Landscape Scale Restoration program, and the Community Wood grant program, whereas only S. 5526 addresses the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Program. H.R. 7567 would establish programs relating to areas such as biochar (§8434) and nurseries and seed orchards (§8305), whereas S. 5526 has no comparable biochar provision and addresses nurseries through a national strategy (§8504). Both bills would modify some existing assistance and research programs, such as by addressing the authorization for agroforestry centers and amending forest planning, inventory, and analysis programs, though the provisions differ between bills.

Both bills would address issues relating to risks from wildfire, insects, and disease. Both bills would amend, expand, and/or reauthorize authorities for collaborative, cross-boundary land management, such as the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program and Good Neighbor Authority, though in different ways; in addition, only the House-passed bill addresses the stewardship contracting authority. Both bills would address the authority of Tribes to partner with federal agencies to perform specified forest management activities, though not in the same way. Both bills would reauthorize appropriations for hazardous fuels reduction projects and insect and disease assessments through FY2031. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 include a provision to establish a wildland firefighter casualty assistance program for the U.S. Department of the Interior. S. 5526 also addresses exposure standards and personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements for wildland firefighters exposed to wildfire smoke.

Both bills would address compliance with a variety of environmental statutes in the context of specified forestry and land management actions. For example, the titles in both bills would create or expand *categorical exclusions*, which may limit an agency's responsibility to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).[59] Both bills would expand the scope of existing categorical exclusions authorized by the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (relating to hazardous fuels reduction, management of insect and disease infestations, and restoration of sage-grouse and mule deer

[58] This section was prepared by Anne A. Riddle, CRS Specialist in Natural Resources Policy, RSI; Alicyn R. Gitlin, CRS Analyst in Natural Resources Policy, RSI; Kristen Hite, CRS Legislative Attorney, American Law Division (ALD); Heather McPherron, CRS Analyst in Environmental Policy, RSI; and Erin H. Ward, CRS Coordinator of Research Planning, ALD.

[59] National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190; 42 U.S.C. §§4321-4347). A categorical exclusion refers to a category of actions that a federal agency determines normally does not significantly affect quality of the human environment (42 U.S.C. §4336e(1)). An agency is not required to prepare an environmental document—such as an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment—if the proposed agency action is excluded pursuant to a categorical exclusion (42 U.S.C. §4336(a)(2)).

habitat) and by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (relating to fuel breaks).[60] Both bills would establish categorical exclusions for vegetation management within electrical utility line rights-of-way and for addressing high-priority hazard trees. Both bills include identical provisions to address consultation requirements under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for specified FS and BLM land use plans and similar provisions to exempt certain communications special uses on NFS lands from the provisions of several environmental compliance statutes, including NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).[61]

Both bills would address specific tree species and specific areas of the NFS in different ways. Both bills would address restoration of white oak through a variety of means, including nonfederal forest assistance, management of federal forests, and research. Additional provisions in H.R. 7567, including authorities pertinent to DOI, are not included in S.5526. In addition, Subtitle G of H.R. 7567 would address protection of giant sequoias, primarily on federal lands (e.g., specifying a process for identifying projects to protect giant sequoias and providing authorities for expediting such projects). Subtitle G of H.R. 7567 also would specify a framework for federal-nonfederal collaboration and address funding for sequoia conservation. No comparable provisions are in S.5526. Subtitle D of S.5526 includes multiple provisions for conveyances, exchanges, wilderness designations, and other provisions concerning disposal, land designations, and reversionary interest for specific lands. One of these provisions, concerning reversionary interests on former federal lands in Wisconsin, is included in H.R. 7567.

Both bills would address topics relating to management of the NFS and other federal lands. For example, H.R. 7567 would address certain timber harvesting issues, such as raising the sales value threshold for advertising timber sales and authorization of timber harvests in electricity transmission and distribution rights-of-way. H.R. 7567 would direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and of the Interior to develop a strategy for utilizing grazing to reduce hazardous fuels and specify a suppression policy for certain wildfires in high-risk areas. S.5526 does not contain these provisions. S.5526 would authorize and specify management terms for "Civilian Conservation Centers" on NFS lands, including provisions for wildland firefighter training and education. Both bills would continue certain authorities to convey and lease NFS lands, such as for administrative sites. Both bills would reauthorize and expand two watershed protection programs on NFS lands, though not in identical ways. Other differing provisions in both bills relate to hiring authorities, volunteers, advisory committees, and reporting requirements for the FS.

[60] Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA; P.L. 108-148). Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58). Both HFRA and IIJA are codified at 16 U.S.C. Ch. 84, §§6501-6592.

[61] Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §§1531-1544; National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. §§300101 et seq.

Table 11. Title VIII, Forestry

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Statewide assessments and strategies for forest resources. Allows USDA to support development of statewide forest resource assessments and strategies. Authorizes appropriations up to $10 million annually through FY2026. Authorizes use of any other funds made available for planning under this chapter to carry out this section. Limits total funding to $10 million annually. **(16 U.S.C. §2101a(f); P.L. 119-37)**	**Support for State assessments and strategies for forest resources.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Authorizes use of any other funds made available under this bill to develop and implement statewide forest resource assessments and strategies. Limits total combined funding to $10 million annually. **(§8101)**	**Support for State assessments and strategies for forest resources.** Reauthorizes appropriations of up to $40 million each fiscal year through FY2031. Authorizes use of any other funds made available under this bill to develop and implement statewide forest resource assessments and strategies, not to exceed total combined funding of $40 million in any fiscal year. **(§8231)**
Forest Legacy Program. Authorizes a program to provide financial assistance to protect environmentally important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. Allows USDA to convey lands or interests in lands acquired under the program in Vermont to the state without consideration. **(16 U.S.C. §2103c)**	**Forest legacy program technical correction.** Amends the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. **§** 2103c)to specify that USDA may convey lands or interests in lands acquired under the program in any state to that state without consideration. **(§8102)**	**Technical corrections**. Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8609)**
State and private forest landscape scale restoration program. Authorizes a program to provide financial assistance for landscape scale restoration projects that cross landownership boundaries (e.g., federal, state, tribal, and/or private forest lands). Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026 to remain available until expended. **(16 U.S.C. §2109a; P.L. 119-37)**	**State and private forest landscape-scale restoration program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8103)**	**State and private forest landscape-scale restoration program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8232)**
Rural fire prevention and control. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with and provide financial, technical, and related assistance to state foresters or state officials for the prevention, control, suppression, and prescribed use of fires on rural and nonfederal lands; to organize, train, and equip local firefighting forces, including those of Indian Tribes; and to provide assistance through state officials to other agencies, including rural volunteer fire departments. Defines *rural volunteer fire department* as "any organized, not for profit, fire protection organization" that primarily serves	**Rural fire prevention and control.** Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to waive cost-sharing requirements for rural volunteer fire departments. Changes the definition of *rural volunteer fire department* to (1) include "any fire protection organization that is organized as a not for profit organization or by the authority of a local government," (2) increase the maximum population of the primary service area from 10,000 to 15,000, and (3) reduce the required percentage of volunteers for a rural volunteer fire department from 80% to 70%. **(§8104)**	**Rural fire prevention and control.** Contains minor grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8609)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
an area with a population of 10,000 or fewer or a rural area, with firefighter personnel that is at least 80% volunteer, and that is recognized as a fire department under state law. Authorizes appropriations and sets requirements for a nonfederal cost share of at least 50% for activities carried out using such funds. **(16 U.S.C. §2106)**		
Forest inventory and analysis. Requires USDA to establish a program to inventory and analyze private and public forests and their resources in the United States, known as the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. **(16 U.S.C. §1642(e))**	No comparable provision.	**Forest inventory and analysis program blue ribbon panel.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the National Association of State Foresters, to convene a blue-ribbon panel within 90 days of enactment to review the FIA program. Specifies composition and structure of the panel, including selection of a chair and vice chair, and specifies members shall serve without compensation. Requires the panel to conduct a review of the FIA program with respect to national monitoring of forest carbon, climate change, forest health, and sustainable wood products, including modernization and public-private-academic partnerships. Requires the panel to report to the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress concerning the review. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide administrative support to the panel. Exempts the panel from 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10, commonly referred to as the Federal Advisory Committee Act. **(§8102)**
Promoting cross-boundary wildfire mitigation. Authorizes the U.S. Forest Service (FS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to make grants to state foresters for projects that reduce hazardous fuels across ownership boundaries on federal and nonfederal lands. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §6513(e); P.L. 119-37)**	**Promoting cross-boundary wildfire mitigation.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8201)**	**Promoting cross-boundary wildfire mitigation.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8233)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Authorization of appropriations. Authorizes appropriations of $660 million annually through FY2026 to carry out the purposes of Title I of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) and other hazardous fuels reduction activities of the FS and BLM, including making grants to states, local governments, Indian Tribes, and other recipients. **(16 U.S.C. §6518; P.L. 119-37)**	**Authorization of appropriations for hazardous fuel reduction on Federal land.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8202)**	**Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land.** Contains wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8211)**
Water Source Protection Program. Authorizes FS to establish a water source protection program on National Forest System (NFS) land. Allows the FS to enter into water source investment partnership agreements with end water users to protect and restore the condition of NFS watersheds that provide water to the end water users. Requires a 100% funding match from nonfederal partners. Allows use of cash or in-kind donations from specified nonfederal partners for the matching requirement. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §6542, P.L. 119-37)**	**Water source protection program.** Defines *adjacent lands* where watershed protection and restoration projects may occur and lists additional eligible end water users. Specifies requirements and selection priorities for such projects under the program and specifies conditions to carry out projects on adjacent lands. Requires the FS to cooperate with nonfederal partners to carry out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation. Allows water source investment partnership agreements to include agreements under the good neighbor authority (16 U.S.C. §2113a). Requires at least 50% match and allows the matching fund requirement to be waived. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Limits support of partner planning and technical assistance to 10% of appropriations. **(§8203)**	**Water source protection program.** Like the House version, defines adjacent lands where watershed protection and restoration projects may occur and lists additional eligible end water users. Like the House version, it specifies requirements and selection priorities for such projects under the program and specifies conditions to carry out projects on adjacent lands. Like the House version, it requires the FS to cooperate with nonfederal partners to carry out assessments, planning, project design, and project implementation. Unlike the House-passed bill, it requires prioritization of projects with partners that have demonstrated capacity in ecological restoration, wildfire risk reduction, or with a likelihood of success in such projects in "communities that have historically lacked access to adequate resources" and that can exceed the required nonfederal match. Allows the FS to enter into water source investment partnership agreements with end water users to protect and restore the condition of NFS watersheds and adjacent lands that provide water to the end water users or other water users. Allows water source investment partnership agreements to include agreements under the good neighbor authority (16 U.S.C. §2113a) and agreements or contracts under the Tribal Forest Protection Act (P.L. 108–278; 25 U.S.C. §§3115a et seq.). Requires at least 20% funding match. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million through FY2031. Requires support of partner

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		planning and technical assistance of at least 10% of appropriations. Authorizes the value of forest and watershed restoration work as in-kind contributions for calculating a partner match. **(§8235)**
Watershed Condition Framework. Allows FS to establish a Watershed Condition Framework for NFS lands. Requires FS to identify up to five priority watersheds in each national forest and develop and implement a watershed protection and restoration action plan. **(16 U.S.C. §6543)**	**Watershed condition framework technical corrections.** Removes the term *protection* from provisions relating to the development and implementation of watershed restoration action plans. **(§8204)**	**Watershed condition framework improvements.** Removes the term *protection* from provisions relating to the development and implementation of watershed restoration action plans. Specifies that the watershed condition framework is to ensure that management activities do not cause long-term degradation of NFS watersheds. Authorizes appropriations of $30 million through FY2031. **(§8236)**
Insect infestations and related diseases. Requires FS, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, to establish a program to gather and distribute information on forest-damaging insects, associated diseases, and effective treatments and strategies to counter them. Terminates the program on October 1, 2026. **(16 U.S.C. §§6551 et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**Authorization of appropriations to combat insect infestations and related diseases**. Extends the program through October 1, 2031. **(§8205)**	**Insect infestations and related diseases**. Identical to the House provision. **(§8212)**
Designation of treatment areas. Authorizes FS and BLM, on request from a state, to designate landscape-scale *insect and disease treatment areas* in areas that meet certain requirements. Allows FS or BLM to carry out priority projects to address insect or disease infestations or reduce hazardous fuels on designated federal land. Projects for which a public notice to initiate scoping is issued on or before September 30, 2026, may be carried out under specified conditions for administrative and judicial review and environmental analysis. **(16 U.S.C. §6591a(d)(2); P.L. 119-37)**	**Insect and disease infestation.** Extends the date that a public notice to initiate scoping must be issued on or before in order to carry out a project under this section to September 30, 2031. **(§8206)**	**Insect and disease infestation.** Identical to House provision. **(§8213)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Stewardship end result contracting projects. Allows FS and BLM to enter into stewardship contracts or agreements—generally of 10 years or less, though up to 20 years in some circumstances—to achieve specified land management goals, such as hazardous fuels reduction and watershed restoration, that meet local and rural community needs. Allows agencies to combine restoration services and forest product harvesting into a single project. **(16 U.S.C. §6591c)**	**Stewardship end result contracting projects.** Adds "retaining and expanding existing forest products infrastructure necessary to carry out an agreement or contract" to the purposes of stewardship contracting projects. Generally authorizes stewardship contract terms of up to 20 years. Defines *multiyear contract* to mean a stewardship contract that has a term of at least 5 years, entered into on or after the date of enactment. Provides that, in the case of cancellation or termination of a multiyear contract by the chief of the FS or the director of BLM shall provide a cancellation or termination payment of 10% of the multiyear contract or the unrecovered costs that would have been recouped through amortization over the full term of the contract, including the canceled term, whichever is less. **(§8207)**	**Extension of stewardship contracting maximum term limits.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8234)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Definitions.** Defines terms for Title VIII, Subtitle B, including *NFS*, *public lands*, and *Secretary concerned*. (**§8201**)
Semiarid Agroforestry Research, Development, and Demonstration Center. Establishes a center and cooperative research program on semiarid agroforestry in Lincoln, NE. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §1642 note; P.L. 119-37)**	**National and regional agroforestry centers.** Renames the section. Renames the research center "National Agroforestry Research, Development and Demonstration Center." Defines *agroforestry* and describes applicable practices. Requires USDA to establish one or more regional agroforestry centers to be administered under the national center. Specifies the research to be conducted at the national and regional centers. Requires USDA to conduct a National Agroforestry Producers Survey within five years and every five years thereafter. Authorizes appropriations of $7 million annually through FY2031. **(§8301)**	**Semiarid agroforestry research center.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8301)**

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National Forest Foundation. Establishes the National Forest Foundation (NFF) as a charitable and nonprofit corporation to administer private financial and property gifts to benefit FS. Allows USDA to provide matching funds to NFF for administrative expenses through FY2024. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026 to provide matching funds for NFF. **(16 U.S.C. §§583j et seq.; P.L. 119-37)**	**National Forest Foundation Act.** Authorizes the use of NFF funds for activities relating to white oak forests, such as reestablishment, management improvements, and improvement of nursery stock and seedlings. Specifies that NFF may accept "gifts, devises, or bequests" for these purposes. Requires NFF to report to Congress on activities relating to white oak forests, including funding. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels and extends USDA authority to provide matching funds through FY2031. **(§8302)**	**National Forest Foundation Act.** Substantively similar to the House provision, except that it authorizes appropriations of up to $5 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. **(§8601)**
Forest Service facility realignment and enhancement. Establishes a program to authorize the conveyance of administrative sites of up to 10 undeveloped parcels of up to 40 acres each of NFS land per fiscal year. Authorization to initiate new conveyances expires on FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §580d note; P.L. 119-74)**	**Conveyances and leases of forest service administrative sites.** Extends the part of the FS Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act that authorizes the conveyance of FS administrative sites through September 30, 2031. **(§8303(a))**	**Authorization for lease of Forest Service sites.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8237(a))**
Authorization for lease of Forest Service sites. Authorizes USDA to lease FS administrative sites on up to 10 isolated, undeveloped parcels of up to 40 acres each per fiscal year through October 1, 2028. **(16 U.S.C. §580d note; P.L. 115-334; P.L. 118-234)**	**Conveyances and leases of forest service administrative sites.** Directs that the authority is amended by replacing "2023" with "2031." (§8623(i) of P.L. 115-334 was amended by P.L. 118-234 to refer to "2028" throughout and no longer includes a reference to "2023"). **(§8303(b))**	**Authorization for lease of Forest Service sites.** Substantively similar to the House provision except it refers to "2028" rather than "2023." **(§8237(b))**
Forest inventory and analysis. Requires USDA to establish a program to inventory and analyze private and public forests and their resources in the United States, known as the Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program. Requires USDA to annually publish all data collected for such inventories for each state. Requires USDA to publish a nationwide report analyzing forest health conditions and trends over the previous two decades no more than every five years. Requires USDA to publish national standards and definitions used for the FIA program. Requires USDA to prepare a strategic plan for the FIA program. Although not specified in	**Forest inventory and analysis.** Specifies that forest resources to be inventoried include forest carbon. Requires USDA to collect information to include a timber products output survey and a national woodland owner survey. Requires USDA to include a clear description of the definition of *forest* used for reporting FIA program data. Requires the FIA strategic plan to include procedures for inventorying changes in land cover and use and for evaluating carbon-related data, national consistent data collection protocols, forest carbon, collaboration, transparency, and expanded data collection. Requires USDA to update the FIA strategic	**Forest inventory and analysis strategic plan.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that it does not include requirements for the FS to establish a program for complex FIA data requests or authorize fees for such requests. Requires different contents in the FIA strategic plan update. Includes technical amendments. **(§8101(a))**

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law, the FIA program collects, analyzes, and makes available to the public data related to woodland owners and timber products output. **(16 U.S.C. §1642(e))**	plan with specific content and submit it to Congress no later than 180 days after enactment. Requires USDA to update the plan every five years. Requires USDA to ensure that FIA data are easily accessible but that certain data are kept confidential. Requires USDA to publish a biennial compilation of national forest inventory and analysis of forest statistics, accompanied by relevant geospatial products. Requires USDA to establish an office, data platform, or team to process and respond to complex FIA data requests submitted by external organizations. Allows USDA to collect fees for such requests. **(§8304(a))**	
Remote sensing technologies. Requires FS to "find efficiencies" in the operations of the FIA program through the use and integration of advanced remote sensing technologies. **(16 U.S.C. §1642 note)**	**Forest inventory and analysis.** Specifies that "advanced remote sensing technologies" include microwave, LiDAR, hyperspectral, and high-resolution remote sensing data and "advanced computing technologies for improved modeling." **(§8304(b))**	**Forest inventory and analysis strategic plan.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that advanced computing technologies are specified to include machine learning and other advanced approaches. **(§8101(b))**
No comparable provision.	**Reforestation, nursery, and seed orchard support.** Requires the FS to engage in a variety of activities relating to nursery and tree establishment programs, including those to provide training, technical assistance, and research in partnership with federal and state agencies, Indian Tribes, private nurseries, and other relevant entities. Requires USDA to establish a grant program to support nurseries and seed orchards to states, counties, local governments, Indian Tribes, private nurseries, or institutions of higher education. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million for each of FY2027-FY2031. **(§8305)**	No comparable provision.
Categorical Exclusions. Agencies maintain lists of categories of actions that normally do not significantly affect the quality of the human environment (*categorical exclusion*, CE). Congress also may legislatively establish CEs. An agency typically does not prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment	**Categorical exclusion for high priority hazard trees.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a CE "as defined at 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 or successor regulations" that includes application of "extraordinary circumstances procedures under 36 C.F.R. §220.6" for high-priority hazard tree activities for up to	**Categorical exclusion for high-priority hazard trees.** Like the House provision, it establishes a CE for high-priority hazard tree activities for projects up to 6,000 acres. Unlike the House provision, it establishes a CE in statute rather than one developed by USDA. S. 5526 is silent on whether application of the CE would require

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(EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. §§4321 et seq.) if it applies one of its own or another agency's CE (42 U.S.C. §4336). Unless excepted by statute, before applying a CE to a specific action, USDA considers any *extraordinary circumstances* (7 C.F.R. §1b.3, a successor regulation to FS NEPA regulations previously codified in 36 C.F.R. §220.6 and rescinded on July 3, 2025) that could potentially result in significant impacts and, as such, would necessitate preparation of an EA or EIS. Historically, the FS followed government-wide NEPA implementation guidance in 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508. Those regulations were rescinded effective April 11, 2025.	6,000 acres. Defines *high-priority hazard tree* as one that the Secretary determines is presenting a visible hazard to people or property and meets other specified criteria, including being likely to cause injury to people or damage to federal property, and being located (1) within 300 feet of certain NFS roads, (2) along NFS trails, or (3) in certain developed recreation sites. Defines *high-priority hazard tree activity* as a forest management activity, "including pruning, felling, and disposal," that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees, and specifies that high-priority hazard tree activities do not include activities in certain locations (e.g., wilderness, inventoried roadless areas) or for certain activities (e.g., construction of a permanent road or trail). **(§8401)**	consideration of extraordinary circumstances. Unlike the House provision, defines a high-priority hazard tree as one determined by "the responsible official"—as opposed to the Secretary—and increases the list of identified locations in the House provision from "along" NFS trails, and "in" certain developed recreation sites to "within 300 feet" of both, and adds activities within 300 feet of "a project work site." Like the House provision, defines high-priority hazard tree activity as a forest management activity that mitigates the risks associated with high-priority hazard trees and includes "pruning, felling,… and disposal." Unlike the House provision, it expands the list of activities to include "blasting, cabling, bracing." Both bills specify that the CE shall not apply in wilderness or areas of the NFS where vegetation removal is restricted or prohibited. **(§8218)**
Administrative review. Allows FS to carry out forest restoration treatment projects of up to 3,000 acres on federal land in certain areas within designated *insect and disease treatment areas* to reduce hazardous fuels or reduce the risk or extent of, or increase resilience to, insect and disease infestation. Establishes a CE for such projects, among other provisions. **(16 U.S.C. §6591a-b)**	**Collaborative restoration projects.** Increases the maximum size of eligible projects from up to 3,000 to up to 10,000 acres. **(§8402)**	**Collaborative restoration projects.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8214)**
Wildfire resilience projects. Allows FS to carry out authorized hazardous fuels reduction projects of fewer than 3,000 acres. Establishes a CE for such projects pursuant to extraordinary circumstances, among other provisions. **(16 U.S.C. §6591d(c)(1))**	**Wildfire resilience project size.** Increases the maximum size of eligible hazardous fuels reduction projects from up to 3,000 to up to 10,000 acres. **(§8403)**	**Wildfire resilience project size.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8215)**

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Establishment of fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation. Establishes a CE for FS and BLM to establish and maintain linear fuel breaks for eligible projects up to 3,000 acres pursuant to extraordinary circumstances, among other provisions. **(16 U.S.@C. §6592b(d)(1))**	**Fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation.** Increases the maximum size of eligible projects from up to 3,000 to up to 10,000 acres**. (§8404)**	**Fuel breaks in forests and other wildland vegetation.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8217)**
CE for greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat. Directs FS and BLM to develop a CE for covered vegetation management activities to protect, restore, or improve sage-grouse or mule deer habitat in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Specifies that, with respect to the public lands, such activities must meet the objectives of Secretarial Order 3336 dated January 5, 2015. Limits such projects to 4,500 acres in size. Requires activity to protect, restore, or improve habitat concurrently for greater sage-grouse and mule deer if the CE is used to implement a covered vegetative management activity in an area within the range of both species. **(16 U.S.C. §6591e)**	**Greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat.** Removes the requirements that such activities meet the objectives of Secretarial Order 3336 for public lands; that such activities take place in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem; and that the activities implemented under the CE within the range of both greater sage-grouse and mule deer must concurrently protect, restore, or improve habitat for both species. Allows projects up to 4,500 acres in forested ecosystems or 7,500 acres in rangeland ecosystems. **(§8405)**	**Greater sage-grouse and mule deer habitat.** Removes the requirement that the activities implemented under the CE within the range of both greater sage-grouse and mule deer must concurrently protect, restore, or improve habitat for both species. Allows projects up to 7,500 acres without specification of the type of ecosystem. **(§8216)**
Vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights of way. Through a variety of authorities, USDA may authorize nonfederal groups to occupy and use NFS lands. Special provisions regarding vegetation management, among other topics, apply to electric transmission and distribution facilities approved under §512 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. **(43 U.S.C. §1772)**	**Categorical exclusion for electric utility line rights-of-way.** Establishes a CE for forest management activities relating to electric transmission and distribution facility rights-of-way. Forest management activities categorically excluded include "the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan" submitted under 43 U.S.C. §1772(c)(1) and the implementation of routine forest management activities under such plan. Specifies that the CE shall not apply in wilderness or areas of the NFS where vegetation removal is restricted or prohibited. Prohibits the establishment of permanent roads under such plans and allows maintenance and repair of existing permanent roads. Requires decommissioning of temporary roads constructed for carrying out activities under the CE. Exempts	**Categorical exclusion for electric utility lines rights-of-way.** Substantively similar to the House provision, except that it exempts activities carried out under the CE from compliance with "section 3061088 of title 54, United States Code" rather than "Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act." Contains other minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8219)**

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	activities conducted under the CE from §7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; P.L. 93-205; 16 U.S.C. §1536) or "section §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act." **(§8406)**	
No directly comparable provision. The NFS (16 U.S.C. §1609(a)) is managed by the FS to provide a variety of uses and values without impairing the productivity of the land (16 U.S.C. §§528-531). Management of NFS units is conducted in accordance with comprehensive land and resource management plans (*forest plans*), which describe the desired resource conditions for the plan area and set a framework for associated land management projects (16 U.S.C. §1406). While preparing forest plans and projects, FS must comply with laws of general applicability that govern federal agency actions, including NEPA. Multiple authorities allow the FS to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with nonfederal entities for a variety of purposes (see collected authorities at FS Manual 1580, FS Handbook 6309.11).	**Forest management activities on National Forest System lands.** Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct *forest management activities,* defined as a project or activity carried out on NFS land that is consistent with the applicable forest plan, in coordination with *impacted parties* (state, local, and tribal governments; local fire departments; and "other relevant volunteer groups"). Specifies that the Secretary shall conduct forest management activities on NFS land to attain multiple ecosystem benefits relating to hazardous fuels reduction, plant and animal diversity, soils, and water. Directs the Secretary to establish criteria for ground conditions following a forest management activity that results in ground disturbances and monitor such ground conditions to determine whether desired outcomes or conditions are achieved. Establishes a new CE under NEPA for a forest management activity with the purpose to reduce forest fuels. Application of the CE is limited to activities that are • fewer than 10,000 acres with no more than 3,000 acres of mechanical thinning; and • developed in coordination with impacted parties—specifically including representatives of local governments—and in consultation with other relevant entities (as determined by the Secretary). Authorizes the Secretary to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements with an impacted party to provide for specified management activities on federal and nonfederal lands. **(§8407)**	No comparable provision.

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Protection of national forests; rules and regulations. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to protect the national forests from wildfire. **(16 U.S.C. §551)**	**Suppression of wildfires.** Specifies requirements regarding wildland fire management in times or locations with high wildfire risk. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the FS, to take certain actions on NFS lands at National Wildland Fire Preparedness Level 5, those that contain U.S. Drought Monitor rated areas from D2 to D4, or those in a "fireshed" ranked in the top 10% of wildfire exposure per the "most recent published models of fireshed risk exposure published by the FS"; fireshed is not defined. In such areas, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the FS, is required to (1) suppress wildfires detected on NFS lands with the purpose of containment within 24 hours using available resources and in a manner consistent with interagency agreements and firefighter safety standards; (2) not inhibit the efforts of state or local agencies authorized to respond to wildfire on such lands; (3) use fire only for resource management if the fire is a prescribed fire and using all available resources, including infrared technologies, for containment; (4) initiate a backfire or burnout during a wildfire only if ordered by the incident commander, in consultation with the FS line officer, or if necessary to protect firefighter health and safety, and using all available resources for containment. Directs the Secretary, "to the extent practicable," to employ fuels management and develop technologies to more effectively suppress and contain the applicable wildfires within 24 hours. Requires the FS to update its prescribed fire policies to reflect findings and recommendations in the *National Prescribed Fire Program Review* published by the FS in September 2022. **(§8408)**	No comparable provision.

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Emergency Acquisition Flexibilities. In acquiring goods or services, federal contracting officers must comply with applicable procurement statutes and regulations (notably the Federal Acquisition Regulation, or FAR). Certain acquisition flexibilities are available to agencies only when the President declares a major disaster or emergency pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121 et seq.) and Subpart 18.2 of the FAR.	**Kaibab National Forest restoration.** Authorizes the Secretary to utilize the emergency acquisition flexibilities in Subpart 18.2 of the FAR that are otherwise unavailable due to the lack of presidential disaster or emergency declaration pursuant to the Stafford Act for Kaibab National Forest (KNF) areas impacted by the White Sage fire. Specifies that this authority applies only to specified forest management, infrastructure restoration, and recovery services within areas of the KNF impacted by the White Sage fire. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress within 180 days after beginning to use the authorization and every 180 days thereafter until expiration. This report must contain specified elements relating to project costs and expenditures, contractor information, and timing. Allows the Secretary to request a 12-month extension of this authority if a new wildfire ignites within the area affected by, and impacts recovery efforts relating to, the White Sage fire. Expires 5 years after enactment or on completion of recovery efforts. **(§8409)**	No comparable provision.
The ESA (16 U.S.C. §1536(a)(2)) generally requires federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when their discretionary actions may affect species listed under the ESA or the designated critical habitat for those species. FWS and NMFS implementing regulations require federal agencies to *reinitiate* this consultation process when any of four specified triggering events take place that may change the services' conclusions about the effects of the action. Federal courts have reached different conclusions on reinitiating consultation in the context of approved land and resource management plans prepared, amended, or revised under the FS and BLM land and resource planning	**No additional consultation required.** Specifies that the FS and BLM shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under §7(a)(2) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. §1536(a)(2)) or 50 C.F.R. §402.16 or a successor regulation on an approved land and resource management plan if a species is listed as threatened or endangered, critical habitat is designated, or new information concerning a threatened or endangered species or critical habitat becomes available. **(§8411)**	**No additional consultation required.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8220)**

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laws (FS, 16 U.S.C. §1604(d)(2); BLM, 43 U.S.C. §1712A). FS and BLM generally need not reinitiate consultation for previously adopted land and resource management plans when new species are listed or critical habitat is designated under the ESA, subject to certain limitations. There are circumstances in which FS and BLM must reinitiate consultation; when such circumstances occur, the agencies remain subject to different rules established by different circuit courts, based on geographic location. **(16 U.S.C. §1604; 43 U.S.C. §2606; 50 C.F.R. §402.16(b))**		
Good neighbor authority. Allows the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to enter into contracts or agreements with states, counties, and Indian Tribes (as defined at 25 U.S.C. §5304) to conduct authorized restoration services on specified federal land. Excludes specified work on roads except reconstruction, repair, or restoration of NFS, BLM, National Park Service (NPS), or "National Wildlife Refuge" managed roads necessary to carry out authorized restoration services under a good neighbor agreement or, in the case of specified NFS roads, if the road is is decommissioned under specified conditions. Allows states, counties, and Tribes to use funds received through the sale of timber under such a project for additional authorized restoration projects and authorized recreation services through FY2028. Specifies that any payment made by a county to the Secretaries of Agriculture or the Interior under such a project would not be considered to be monies received from NFS, BLM, National Park System, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land, as applicable. **(16 U.S.C. §2113a)**	**Good neighbor authority.** Specifies that special districts may retain revenue from timber sales under a good neighbor project. Defines the term *special district* to mean a political subdivision of a state that has significant budgetary autonomy, was created pursuant to state law to perform a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function, and is distinct from any other local government unit in the state. Adds the following to the existing uses of retained funds: (1) construction of new permanent roads on federal lands that are necessary to implement authorized restoration activities and are approved by a federal agency through "environmental analysis or categorical exclusion decision"; (2) new permanent road construction to replace and decommission existing permanent roads causing specified environmental impacts; and (3) the administration of a good neighbor authority program by a state, Tribe, special district, or county. Reauthorizes the authority to retain revenue through 2030. Specifies that any payment made by a county to the Secretary of Agriculture or the Interior under such a project would be considered monies received from the applicable system of listed federal land. Specifies that the amendments made by this section apply to all	**Modification of good neighbor authority.** Substantively similar to the House provision, except that it defines the term special district to mean a political subdivision of a state that has significant budgetary autonomy; was created pursuant to state law to perform a limited and specific governmental or proprietary function primarily related to forest watershed, or rangeland management or water supply; and is distinct from any other local government unit in the state. Unlike the House provision, it reauthorizes the authority to retain revenue through 2031. Makes technical amendments not included in the House provision. **(§8238)**

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	good neighbor projects initiated after December 18, 2018. **(§8412)**	
Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. Allows FS to select and fund the implementation of collaboratively developed restoration proposals for priority forest landscapes according to specified criteria. Limits the total number of awards to 10 per fiscal year and not more than 2 awards in any 1 NFS region per fiscal year. Authorizes appropriations of $80 million annually through FY2024, to remain available until expended. Establishes within the Treasury of the United States the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund, to be used to pay up to 50% of the cost of carrying out and monitoring ecological restoration treatments on NFS land for selected proposals. Limits expenditures on any one selected proposal in excess of $4 million per fiscal year. **(16 U.S.C. §7303; P.L. 119-37)**	**Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.** Requires eligible project proposals to include plans to prevent, remediate, or control invasions of exotic pathogens and to address "standardized monitoring questions and indicators." Allows USDA to give special consideration to proposals that meet specified criteria. Repeals the 10 awards per fiscal year limit. Allows 4 awards in any 1 NFS region per fiscal year. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8413)**	**Collaborative forest landscape restoration program.** Like the House provision, it requires eligible project proposals to include plans to prevent, remediate, or control invasions of exotic pathogens and to address "standardized monitoring questions and indicators," and it allows USDA to give special consideration to proposals that meet specified criteria. Requires the appropriate regional forester to provide documentation of a federal staffing plan to support collaboratives established under the program. Allows 20 awards per fiscal year. Like the House provision, it allows 4 awards in any 1 NFS region per fiscal year, and it reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Allows expenditures of up to $8 million per fiscal year on any one selected proposal from the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund**. (§8239)**
No directly comparable provision. The FS is authorized to generally engage in scientific investigations relating to forest and rangeland resources, including demonstrations and tests. From time to time, Congress has authorized research programs on specific forest and rangeland topics. **(16 U.S.C. §1642; see statutory notes for examples of specific programs)**	**Public-private wildfire technology deployment and testbed partnership.** Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, in coordination with the heads of specified federal agencies, to establish a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies within one year after enactment. Directs the Secretaries to incorporate the pilot program into an existing interagency wildfire coordinating group and to consult with heads of specified federal agencies to identify technology priority areas with respect to technology deployment. Requires the Secretaries to partner with specified types of nonfederal entities, including private entities, nonprofit organizations, or *institutions of higher education* (as defined at 20 U.S.C. §1001) to coordinate real-time, on-the-ground testing. Specifies that covered entities apply to the Secretaries to	No comparable provision.

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	be eligible to participate and includes prioritization criteria for participation. Directs the Secretaries to coordinate with heads of specified federal agencies to conduct outreach regarding the program and to invite applicants. Requires the Secretaries to report about the program to the House Committees on Agriculture; Natural Resources; and Science, Space, and Technology and the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Energy and Natural Resources; and Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Terminates the authority on September 30, 2031. **(§8414)**	
Forest Service participation in the Agriculture Conservation Experienced Services (ACES) Program. Allows FS to use funds derived from conservation-related programs to use the ACES Program to provide technical services for conservation-related USDA programs and authorities on NFS land. Terminates authority on January 30, 2026. **(16 U.S.C. §3851a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Forest service participation in experienced services program.** Renames the section "Forest Service participation in Experienced Services." Provides conforming amendments. Repeals the termination date. **(§8415)**	**Forest service participation in ACES program.** Contains minor grammatical and organizational differences from the House provision. **(§8221)**
Timber sales on NFS lands. Requires USDA to advertise all NFS timber sales unless it is determined that extraordinary conditions exist or that the appraised value of the sale is less than $10,000. **(16 U.S.C. §472a)**	**Timber sales on National Forest System land.** Increases the appraisal threshold above which USDA must advertise NFS timber sales to $55,000. Allows USDA to dispose of portions of trees or forest products by timber sale or other means, without appraisal, in the event of "extreme risks" to NFS lands. **(§8416)**	**Timber sales on National Forest System land.** Increases the appraisal threshold above which USDA must advertise NFS timber sales to $55,000. **(§8222)**
Through a variety of authorities, USDA may authorize nonfederal groups to occupy and use NFS lands (36 C.F.R. Part 251, Subpart B). Special provisions regarding vegetation management, among other topics, apply to electric transmission and distribution facilities approved under the authority of §512 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. **(43 U.S.C. §1772)**	**Permits and agreements with electrical utilities.** Allows USDA, on any special use permit or easement on NFS lands provided to an electric utility company (as defined in 42 U.S.C. §16451), to provide permission to cut and remove vegetation near distribution lines or transmission lines without requiring a separate timber sale, if consistent with the applicable land management plan. If the electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed, the utility must remit the proceeds of the sale to USDA, minus transportation costs.	**Permits and agreements with electrical utilities.** Contains minor grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8606)**

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	Does not require the sale of any removed materials. **(§8417)**	
Grazing. The FS and BLM may authorize grazing and livestock use of the NFS and the public lands, respectively. **(FS, 16 U.S.C. §528; BLM, 43 U.S.C. §1702)**	**Utilizing grazing for wildfire risk reduction.** Directs the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to develop and implement a strategy to use livestock grazing as a wildfire risk reduction tool on lands under their jurisdictions. Specifies that this strategy is to include • completion of reviews required under NEPA (42 U.S.C. §§4321 et seq.) to allow a grazing permittee to use "vacant grazing allotments" during natural disasters that disrupt grazing on allotments already permitted; • "the use of targeted grazing to reduce hazardous fuels"; • an increased use of temporary permits "to promote targeted fuels reduction" and invasive annual grass reduction; • an increased use of livestock grazing to "eradicate invasive annual grasses" and as a "post-fire" restoration strategy; • use of "advanced technologies to dynamically adjust livestock placement"; • an increased use of any "authorities applicable to livestock grazing, including modifications to grazing permits or leases to allow variances"; and • "use of grazing on Federal land" that avoids conflict with other land uses and is "consistent with applicable land management plans." Specifies that nothing in this section affects any livestock grazing program carried out by the applicable Secretary as of the date of enactment or any statutory authority for any program described above. **(§8418)**	No comparable provision.

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Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program. Establishes the program, jointly administered by FS and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes across NFS lands and specified nonfederal land. Specifies that eligible activities include reducing the risk of wildfire, protecting water quality and supply, and improving wildlife habitat for at-risk species. Specifies proposal evaluation criteria. Requires reports to Congress in FY2022 and FY2023. Authorizes appropriations of $90 million for each of FY2022 and FY2023. **(16 U.S.C. §6592d)**	**Joint chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.** Requires a report to Congress at least every two fiscal years after FY2023. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8419)**	**Joint chiefs landscape restoration partnership program.** Adds wildfire recovery and activities to enhance soil, water, and related natural resources to eligible activities. Adds reducing post-wildfire impacts and conformance with specified forest and resource management plans to evaluation criteria. Requires, at least every two fiscal years after FY2023, a report to the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Energy and Natural Resources; Appropriations; and Indian Affairs and the House Committees on Agriculture; Natural Resources; and Appropriations. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8240)**
Tribal forest management demonstration project. Under the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (TFPA; 25 U.S.C. §§3115a et seq.), an *Indian Tribe* (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §5304) may propose a project on FS or BLM lands that border, or are adjacent to, forested tribal lands. These projects are designed to protect tribal forest lands and resources from wildfire, disease, and other threats coming from federal lands. Section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, (25 U.S.C. §3115b) established a "Tribal Forest Management Demonstration Project," which allows FS and BLM to carry out demonstration projects by which Indian Tribes and *tribal organizations* (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §5304) may perform administrative, management, and other functions of programs under TFPA using contracts entered into under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA, P.L. 93-638; 25 U.S.C. §§5304 et seq.).	**Tribal forest management program technical correction.** Makes the Tribal Forest Management Demonstration Project (25 U.S.C. §3115b) permanent by removing the phrase "demonstration project" and inserting "program." **(§8420)**	No comparable provision.

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Tribal forest assets protection. Allows USDA and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to carry out projects by which federally recognized Indian Tribes (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §5304) may request to enter an agreement or contract for projects to protect Indian forest and rangeland, including a project to protect or restore FS or BLM land adjacent to Indian forest or rangeland. The FS or BLM land adjacent to the Indian forest or rangeland must pose a fire, disease, or other threat to the Indian forest or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the requesting Tribe. **(25 U.S.C. §§3115a et seq.)**	No comparable provision.	**Tribal forest protection management.** For purposes of TFPA projects, expands the definition of *Indian forest or rangeland* to include certain lands held by Alaska Native Corporations (43 U.S.C. §§1601 et seq.). Adds "tribal organization" (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §5304) as an entity eligible to enter TFPA agreements or contracts. Authorizes "activities and projects to protect or restore Indian forest land or rangeland or federal land." Strikes the adjacency requirement and authorizes projects on federal land with a special geographic, historical, or cultural significance to the Indian Tribe or tribal organization. Authorizes projects on land posing threats to any Indian forest or rangeland, including lands not under the jurisdiction of the requesting Tribe. Authorizes projects on land in need of watershed restoration activities. Requires a report to Congress concerning the program four years after the date of enactment. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million per fiscal year through FY2031. **(§8604)**
No comparable provision.	**Timber production expansion guaranteed loan program.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior, to review and identify units of federal land, including Indian forest and rangeland, within their respective jurisdictions that are high or very high priority for ecological restoration involving vegetation removal. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide loan guarantees to eligible entities seeking to open, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve a wood processing facility within a 250-mile radius of an eligible unit of federal land, if the presence of the facility would substantially decrease the costs of doing such projects. Defines *eligible entities* as an individual or entity that owns or operates a sawmill or other wood-processing facility located in a rural	No comparable provision.

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	area of the United States (7 U.S.C. §1991(a)). Allows the Secretary to determine any necessary conditions for the provision of such loan guarantees. Authorizes the Secretary to provide no more than $220 million total in loan guarantees under the program. **(§8421)**	
Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program. Establishes a program to provide competitive cost-share grants to install community wood energy systems or build innovative wood product facilities. Limits grants to $1 million, or $1.5 million under specified circumstances, and limits grants to cover not more than 35% of the capital cost of installing a community wood energy system or innovative wood product facility, or up to 50% in special circumstances. Specifies selection criteria and priorities. Limits community wood energy systems to a nameplate capacity of five megawatts of thermal and electric energy. Limits 25% of funds provided as grants per fiscal year for innovative wood product facilities. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8113; P.L. 119-37)**	**Community wood facilities program.** Renames the section the Community Wood Facilities Program. Provides conforming amendments throughout. Specifies that community wood energy systems use primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals. Increases grant limits from $1 million, or $1.5 million under specified circumstances, to $5 million, and amends selection criteria. Increases nameplate capacity of community wood energy facilities to 15 megawatts of thermal and electric energy. Increases the limits for innovative wood product facilities grants from 25% to not more than 50% of total grants per fiscal year. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8431)**	**Community wood facilities grant program.** Renames the section the Community Wood Facilities Grant Program. Provides conforming amendments throughout. Allows grants to cover up to 50% of capital costs and strikes consideration of special circumstances. Increases the grant limit to $5 million. Adds market effectiveness to selection criteria and sawmill construction to prioritization criteria. Limits community wood energy systems to a nameplate capacity of 40 megawatts of thermal, combined thermal and electric, or electric energy. Limits 50% of funds provided as grants per fiscal year for innovative wood product facilities. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million per fiscal year through FY2031. **(§8252)**
Wood Innovation Grant Program. Establishes a program to provide competitive cost-share grants to stimulate or expand wood energy and wood products markets. Requires FS to give priority to proposals that include the use of or retrofitting of (or both) existing sawmill facilities located in counties with average annual unemployment rates exceeding the national average by more than 1% in the prior calendar year. Specifies a 100% matching requirement for grant recipients. **(7 U.S.C. §7655d)**	**Wood innovation grant program.** Adds construction of new facilities and material hauling as allowable activities. Allows FS to prioritize proposals that recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design and interior wood products or to include an analysis of community benefits of forest management under the proposal. Decreases matching requirement from 100% to 50%. **(§8432)**	**Wood innovations grant program.** Renames the program the Wood Innovations Grant Program. Authorizes noncompetitive cost-share grants in addition to competitive cost-share grants. Allows FS to prioritize proposals that retrofit or use existing sawmill facilities in specified counties experiencing high unemployment, recognize or enhance carbon reduction strategies in building design and interior wood products, or include an analysis of community benefits of forest management under the proposal. Decreases the matching requirement from 100% to 50%. **(§8251)**

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Under the FIA program, the FS inventories and analyzes private and public forests and their resources in the United States, including measurements of carbon storage and flux. **(16 U.S.C. §1642(e))**	**Forest and wood products data tracker.** Requires the FS, working with NRCS, federally recognized Indian Tribes, state foresters, and the private sector, to establish a publicly available data platform regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products. Specifies data sources and program priorities. **(§8433)**	**Forest and wood products data tracker.** Identical to House provision. **(§8254)**
No comparable provision.	**Biochar application demonstration project.** Establishes two assistance and research programs relating to biochar research, development, and commercialization. (1) Directs the Chief of the FS, the Director of BLM, and the Director of the Office of Science in the Department of Energy to partner with eligible entities to carry out demonstration projects to support the development and commercialization of biochar, including the building, establishment, or expansion of biochar or biostimulant facilities using sawmill derived residuals. Specifies eligible entities and limits on funding provided for such demonstration projects. Specifies priorities for project selection, including maximization of forest health benefits, creation of jobs, contribution to local economies, and the potential to demonstrate biochar's innovative uses, market viability, and forest health benefits. (2) Directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish or expand an existing applied biochar research and development competitive grant program for specified eligible academic institutions. Specifies eligible applied research uses of funding, including ecological effects of biochar, best management practices for biochar production and use, innovative uses of biochar, and economic expansion of biochar and biostimulants. Specifies requirements for reporting to Congress on the demonstration projects and the research and development grant program.	No comparable provision.

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	Sunsets the program seven years after enactment. **(§8434)**	
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Report on use of mass timber in construction of Department of Agriculture facilities and other federal structures.** Requires the Secretary to report within 180 days of enactment to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry describing USDA facilities constructed with mass timber, the factors considered when determining whether to use mass timber, and opportunities for mass timber use in new USDA and federal structures. **(§8253)**
Forestry rural revitalization. Requires USDA to establish a program to educate and provide forestry-related technical assistance to businesses, industries, and policymakers to promote rural economic health. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §6601; P.L. 119-37)**	**Rural revitalization technologies**. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§8501)**	**Rural revitalization technologies**. Identical to the House provision. **(§8602)**
Resource advisory committees (RACs). As part of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS; P.L. 106-393, as amended), establishes RACs to review and propose projects for funding under Title II of SRS. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture or the Interior, as applicable, to appoint RAC members. Specifies composition of RACs in terms of member background and numbers and allows for such composition requirements to be modified in certain circumstances. Terminates authority to modify RAC composition requirements on October 1, 2026. Establishes several pilot programs related to RAC composition and appointments. **(7 U.S.C. §7125)**	**Resource advisory committees.** Allows the Secretaries to act through the applicable regional forester to make RAC appointments, provided the regional forester conducts the appropriate review of candidates. Extends the authority to modify RAC composition requirements through October 1, 2031. Repeals all pilot programs authorized under the section. **(§8502)**	**Resource advisory committees.** Identical to the House provision. **(§8603)**

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Congress has enacted various reporting requirements regarding federal land management with respect to hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire risk. Some have raised concerns about how agencies report accomplishments relating to hazardous fuels (see examples and discussion in CRS Report R43872, *National Forest System Management: Overview and Issues for Congress*).	**Accurate hazardous fuels reduction reports.** Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and of the Interior to include the acreage of hazardous fuels reduction activities conducted in the preceding fiscal year on lands under their jurisdictions in their annual budget request materials. Specifies that this report is to be conducted according to certain requirements and the methodology of the Secretary concerned in effect on the day before enactment. Requirements include reporting of acres once, even if multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out in the reporting period; location with respect to the wildland-urban interface and region or system unit; hazard potential and effectiveness of activities; type of activity; and cost per acre. Specifies that reports shall be made publicly available on applicable department websites. Requires the Secretary concerned to implement standardized procedures for tracking hazardous fuels reduction activities within 90 days and specifies elements that must be included in the procedures. Requires each Secretary to report and make recommendations to Congress regarding these procedures. Requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on implementation of this section within two years. Specifies that no additional funds are authorized for this section, and authorized activities are subject to availability of appropriations made in advance for these purposes. **(§8503)**	No comparable provision.
Special uses. FS may authorize the occupancy and use of NFS lands for a variety of purposes (*special use authorizations*). FS charges land use fees and cost recovery fees to the holders of these special use authorizations. FS may waive all or part of the programmatic administrative fee and any fees relating to a special use authorization for specified users engaged in specified activities, such	**Special use authorization rental fee waiver.** Codifies the authority to waive programmatic administrative fees and fees relating to special use authorizations. **(§8504)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
as state and local governments and specified nonprofit organizations. **(36 C.F.R. Part 251, Subpart B)**		
Pilot program of charges and fees for harvest of forest botanical products. Requires USDA to establish a program to collect and retain fees for forest botanical products harvested from NFS based on their fair market value and the costs associated with administering forest botanical product harvest authorizations. Requires FS to determine sustainable harvest levels for forest botanical products on NFS lands, establish procedures for monitoring and revising harvest levels, and prohibit harvest in excess of sustainable harvest levels. Authorizes collection of fees through FY2026. **(16 U.S.C. §528 note; P.L. 119-74)**	**Charges and fees for harvest of forest botanical products**. Permanently authorizes the pilot program. Requires USDA to produce a report to Congress after the end of each fiscal year that summarizes the activities under the program. **(§8505)**	No comparable provision.
FS Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program. Requires USDA to establish the program to remediate NFS roads, trails, and bridges, such as by restoring fish passage, decommissioning specified roads and trails, converting roads to trails, and carrying out projects to improve roads and trails' resilience to weather hazards. Requires USDA to establish a process for annually selecting projects that, among other criteria, consider regional public input. Requires USDA to publish online the selection process and a list including a description and the proposed outcome of each project funded under the program in each fiscal year. **(16 U.S.C. §538a)**	**Forest Service legacy road and trail remediation program transparency.** Specifies that, in selecting projects, USDA shall solicit and consider public input on a list of regional projects considered for funding. Requires USDA to publish the selection process online annually for each region and include additional information on proposed projects, including public comments and each project's regional ranking. Specifies that "region" refers to an FS region. **(§8506)**	**Forest service legacy road and trail remediation program transparency.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8302)**
No comparable provision.	**Direct hire authority.** Beginning in FY2026 and each fiscal year thereafter, authorizes USDA to appoint a qualified Job Corps graduate to a position in the competitive service in FS without regard to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Subchapter I (except sections concerning congressional recommendations and Selective Service registration). **(§8507)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Emergency Forest Restoration Program. Establishes the program to provide cost-share assistance to private forestland owners to repair and rehabilitate damage caused by a natural disaster, such as wildfires, hurricanes or excessive winds, drought, ice storms or blizzards, or floods, on nonindustrial private forestlands. **(16 U.S.C. §2206)**	**Improving the emergency forest restoration program.** Requires USDA to offer an advance payment to the owner of nonindustrial private forestland of up to 75% of the cost of the emergency measures to address covered damage and restore forest health and resources. Requires USDA to determine costs on the basis of the fair market value of the emergency measures using specified methods established by NRCS. Requires funds not expended within 180 days of receipt to be returned to USDA. **(§8508)**	No comparable provision.
Communications special uses. Directs FS to issue regulations to streamline the consideration of applications for communications uses of NFS. **(43 U.S.C. §1761a)**	**Exemption for previously analyzed areas of National Forest System Lands.** Exempts applications for communications uses of NFS from NEPA and from "division A of subtitle 54, United States Code" if the equipment is located on existing infrastructure or previously analyzed areas of NFS land, defined as NFS land where the Secretary of Agriculture has granted, issued, and executed a communications use authorization and conducted "sufficient environmental or historical reviews." The FS is not required to "reinitiate consultation under NEPA" or "division A of subtitle 54, United States Code" on previously analyzed areas of NFS land if new information becomes available. It is not specified what portion of the *U.S. Code* "division A of subtitle 54, United States Code" refers to. It may refer to Title 54, Subtitle III, Division A, of the *U.S. Code*, concerning historic preservation. **(§8509)**	**Exemption for previously analyzed areas of National Forest System Lands.** Substantively similar to the House provision, except that it identifies the specific portion of the *U.S. Code* concerning historic preservation as exempted as "division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code." **(§8607)**
Powers of the Secretary of Agriculture. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell, exchange, lease, or dispose of lands acquired under the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (50 Stat. 525) on the condition that such properties be used for public purposes. (**7 U.S.C. §1011**)	**Release of reversionary interest in Black River State Forest.** Provides for the release of federal reversionary interest in specified state-owned land in the Black River State Forest in Wisconsin. The land was originally acquired by the United States pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and subsequently conveyed to the State of Wisconsin. **(§8510)**	**Release of reversionary interest, Black River State Forest, Wisconsin.** Contains wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8406)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Secure rural schools and community self-determination. Authorizes a program to provide payments to counties containing NFS land or certain BLM land for specified public purposes. **(16 U.S.C. Ch. 90)**	**Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act.** Renames the act the "Doug LaMalfa Secure Rural Schools Act." **(§8511)**	No comparable provision.
Grazing. The FS may authorize grazing and livestock use of the NFS, generally by issuing a grazing permit to authorize livestock use to a permittee. The chief of the FS and individuals, organizations, and agencies other than the FS may install and maintain range improvements on NFS land. Improvements must be authorized by a cooperative agreement or memorandum of understanding, the provisions of which become a part of the grazing permit. **(36 C.F.R. Ch. II, Part 222)**	**Minor range improvements under Forest Service grazing permits.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to issue regulations allowing a permittee to carry out a *minor range improvement* on the lands that the permittee holds a grazing permit if the permittee notifies the applicable FS district ranger at least 30 days prior and the district ranger approves or does not respond. Minor range improvements are defined to include improvements to existing fences and fence lines, wells, water pipelines, and stock tanks. Directs the Secretary, acting through the applicable district ranger, to respond within 30 days to a *covered request,* defined as a request that the Secretary carry out a range improvement. If the response confirms that the Secretary, acting through the district ranger, agrees to the request, the bill directs that the district ranger is to notify the district office serving the area in which the range improvement will occur and expedite the range improvement. **(§8512)**	No comparable provision.
Grazing. The FS may authorize grazing and livestock use of the NFS under several authorities, which govern different areas of the NFS. One of these authorities, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), pertains to the national forests in 16 contiguous western states but not to the remainder of the NFS. **(43 U.S.C. §1752(a))**	**Eligibility of national grasslands for grazing permits and leases.** Amends §402(a) of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. §1752(a)) to extend its applicability to the entire NFS (as defined at16 U.S.C. §1609(a)). Specifies that the amendment does not modify or affect the applicability to national grasslands of any provision of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq.) other than §402 of that act (43 U.S.C. §1752); Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. §§1010 et seq.); or §11 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. §1907). **(§8513)**	No comparable provision.

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Powers of the Secretary of Agriculture. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to sell, exchange, lease, or dispose of lands acquired under the Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act (50 Stat. 525) on the condition that such properties be used for public purposes. **(7 U.S.C. §1011)**	No comparable provision.	**Chester County reversionary and mineral interests release.** Provides for the release of federal reversionary interest in specified state-owned land in the Chickasaw State Forest in Tennessee. The land was originally acquired by the United States pursuant to the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and subsequently conveyed to the State of Tennessee. Requires that the Secretary shall convey to the State of Tennessee the mineral interest in the applicable state forest land notwithstanding any requirement for the conveyance of federal mineral interests under 43 U.S.C. §1719 or related regulations. Requires the state to pay specified administrative costs associated with the conveyance. **(§8401)**
Under the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congress may designate federal lands as parts of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Commercial activities, motorized and mechanized equipment and vehicles, and roads, structures, and facilities are prohibited in wilderness areas. **(P.L. 88-577, 16 U.S.C. Ch. 23)**	No comparable provision.	**Rough Mountain Wilderness and Rich Hole Wilderness designations.** Adds NFS land to the Rough Mountain Wilderness. Designates potential additions to the Rich Hole Wilderness to be formally designated either five years after enactment or when notice is published that specified water quality enhancement activities have ceased, whichever is sooner. Authorizes the use of motorized equipment and mechanized transport in the potential additions to the Rich Hole Wilderness to implement certain activities to improve water quality and aquatic passage, until the wilderness additions are designated. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to minimize impacts to wilderness character and resources in conducting these activities. **(§8402)**

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No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Conveyance of specified Forest Service property to Perry County, Arkansas.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to convey specified FS land to Perry County, AR, if the county submits a written request within 180 days of enactment. Requires the county to pay specified costs associated with the conveyance. Specifies terms and conditions for the conveyance, including environmental compliance, reversion, and that the conveyance shall be made without consideration. **(§8403)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Okhissa Lake rural economic development land conveyance.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to convey specified NFS land to the Scenic Rivers Development Alliance, MS, within 180 days of completion of a required appraisal and written agreement. Requires the alliance to pay specified costs associated with the conveyance. Specifies terms and conditions for the conveyance, including environmental compliance, consideration, federal reservations and access rights, and requirements to maintain the Okhissa Lake Dam. Specifies that proceeds of the conveyance are to remain available until expended for the acquisition of land and interests in land for the NFS. **(§8404)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Lake Winnibigoshish land exchange.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the FS, to exchange specified FS land in Minnesota with specified nonfederal land owned by Big Winnie Land and Timber, LLC (BWLT), within one year of BWLT offering to convey the nonfederal land. Requires BWLT to pay specified costs associated with the exchange. Specifies terms and conditions for the conveyance, including environmental compliance, consideration, federal reservations and access rights, and appraisal standards. **(§8405)**

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No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Shawnee National Forest conservation.** Designates the Camp Hutchins Wilderness, Camp Hutchins Special Management Area, Ripple Hollow Special Management Area, and Burke Branch Special Management Area within the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois. Specifies management provisions for the special management areas concerning use of prescribed fire, motor vehicle use, roads, timber harvesting, hunting and trapping, withdrawals, and others. **(§8407)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Shenandoah Mountain.** Establishes the Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area in the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson National Forests in Virginia. Designates the Skidmore Fork, Lynn Hollow, Little River, and Beech Lick Knob Wildernesses. Adds NFS land to the Ramseys Draft Wilderness. Specifies management provisions for the national scenic area concerning trail and road establishment and use, water impoundments, timber harvesting, vegetation management, wildfire management, withdrawals, and others. **(§8408)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Flatside Wilderness additions.** Adds NFS land to the Flatside Wilderness in Arkansas. Renames the Flatside Wilderness (including the addition) the "Flatside-Bethune Wilderness." **(§8409)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Talladega National Forest boundary modification.** Modifies the proclaimed boundaries of the Talladega National Forest in accordance with the specified map. Specifies terms for acquisition and management of nonfederal land within the proclaimed boundary. **(§8410)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Benton McKaye National Scenic Trail feasibility study.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with interested organizations, to submit to Congress a feasibility study for designating the Benton McKaye Trail as a national scenic trail within two years of enactment. **(§8411)**

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No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Relocation of memorial honoring the 9 Air Force crew members who lost their lives in an airplane crash during a training mission on August 31, 1982.** Allows the Secretary of Agriculture to authorize, by special use authorization, the installation and maintenance of a memorial on the Cherohala Skyway in the Nantahala National Forest, NC, with the consent of the owner of the adjacent private land. Specifies that the entity requesting the installation of the memorial shall be responsible for any associated costs. Requires consent of the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, if the site is located adjacent to a federal-aid highway. **(§8412)**
Payment for additional lands acquired in northern Minnesota. Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to pay an amount equal to 0.75% of the "fair appraised value" of specified national forest lands in Minnesota from national forest receipts every fiscal year, to be distributed to specified Minnesota counties. The fair appraised value shall be determined at 10-year intervals. (**16 U.S.C. §577g)**	No comparable provision.	**Appraisals.** Amends the Thye-Blatnik Act to specify that the payment is to be determined by the highest fair appraised value of the lands, including historical fair appraised values. **(§8413)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Alignment of Farm Service Agency and Forest Service drought response.** Requires the administrator of the FSA and the chief of the FS to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to better align drought response activities between their respective agencies within 60 days of enactment. Specifies the contents of the MOU. **(§8608)**

Job Corps Centers, **Youth Conservation Corps**, and **Public Lands Corps.** Job Corps is a comprehensive and primarily residential federal job training program for youth ages 16 to 24 who are low-income and have a barrier to education and employment. The Secretary of Labor operates *Job Corps centers*, where Job Corps activities occur, under an agreement with a federal or nonfederal agency, school, or private organization. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act authorized the Secretary of Labor to operate under an agreement with the Secretary of Agriculture to administer some Job Corps centers as *Civilian Conservation Centers*, which are located primarily in rural areas and provide career and technical education, workforce preparation, and work experience programs managing public natural resources, recreation, or projects in the public interest, among other offerings.

The two primary federal corps programs related to conserving and restoring public lands and waters are the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and the Public Lands Corps (PLC). The YCC engages young people (aged 15-18) for up to 90 days to work on conservation-related projects on federal lands and waters under the jurisdiction of DOI and the USDA. The PLC is a job training and employment program for young adults (aged 16-30 or up to 35 for military veterans) to engage in projects administered by selected agencies within DOI, USDA, and the Department of Commerce.

Under the PLC, the Secretaries may establish and use *conservation centers* owned and operated by the respective Secretary for PLC activities and other conservation projects. Agencies may administer these centers directly or contract with public or private nonprofit organizations. **(29 U.S.C. §§3191 et seq.; 29 U.S.C. §3197(d), 16 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq., 16 U.S.C. §§1721 et seq., 16 U.S.C. §1724)**

No comparable provision.

Civilian Conservation Centers. Adds a new title to P.L. 91-378 (16 U.S.C. §§1701 et seq.). Defines a *Civilian Conservation Center* as "a residential workforce development or training facility for underserved youth operated by DOI or the USDA." Defines *covered graduate* as an individual who completed a training program and *covered student* as an individual enrolled in a training program at a Civilian Conservation Center. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate with the Secretary of Labor to offer forestry, rangeland management, wildland firefighting, and other training programs at Civilian Conservation Centers. Directs the Secretaries to prioritize offering such training programs at facilities described in 29 U.S.C. §3197(d).

Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Labor, to carry out pilot programs to provide certain education offerings to advance the USDA mission.

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to identify the workforce needs of federal land agencies, certain industries, and rural communities. Specifies governments, agencies, and other entities to consult when identifying workforce needs. Directs the Secretary to develop marketing and other materials and to provide specialized teaching staff to the extent practicable.

Directs the Secretaries to set annual goals for hiring and job placement, including employment in wildland firefighting and forestry or natural resources fields, and authorizes investments to support recruiting, training, hiring, and retaining covered graduates. Authorizes Secretaries to provide a signing bonus for certain purposes such as securing housing for covered graduates. Authorizes the Secretaries to directly hire covered graduates to positions for which they meet qualification standards. Directs Secretaries to develop career pathways for covered graduates of relevant programs. Authorizes Secretaries to employ covered students at regular pay

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		rates for necessary work. Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to use covered students to fulfill relevant obligations under contracts, agreements, and grants at a NFS unit that has a Civilian Conservation Center. Directs the Secretaries to establish a pilot program to employ covered students to improve federally owned housing for wildland firefighters, volunteers, and others. Requires the Secretaries to (1) identify appropriate currently owned federal properties for housing; (2) identify appropriate and sustainable areas for new housing construction; and (3) submit a prioritized list of renovation projects to Congress with a plan for employing covered students to repair, renovate, and remediate identified federal properties. Directs the Secretaries, within a year of enactment, to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] describing underutilized capacity at Civilian Conservation Centers and identifying investments and work necessary to utilize their full potential. **(§8605)**
No comparable provision.	**Short title.** Names the new subtitle the "White Oak Resilience Act." **(§8601)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**White oak restoration initiative coalition.** Establishes the coalition in accordance with the charter titled "White Oak Initiative Coalition Charter" to coordinate restoration of white oak in the United States and make program and policy recommendations. Requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and of the Interior to make personnel available to the coalition for specified purposes. **(§8602)**	**White oak restoration initiative coalition.** Establishes a coalition substantively similar to the House provision. Authorizes the Secretary to make funds available to the coalition to carry out this section from specified accounts established to accept contributions of private funds (16 U.S.C. §3841(f)), subject to the availability of appropriations. **(§8501)**
No comparable provision.	**Forest service pilot program.** Requires the FS to establish and carry out five pilot projects in national forests to restore white oaks. Requires three projects to be on national forests reserved or withdrawn from the public domain.	**Forest service pilot program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§8502)**

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	Allows the FS to enter into cooperative agreements to carry out the pilot projects. Terminates authority seven years from the date of enactment. **(§8603)**	
No comparable provision.	**White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.** Requires FS, within 180 days of enactment, to establish a nonregulatory White Oak and Upland Oak Habitat Regeneration Program to identify, prioritize, and implement restoration and conservation activities for white oaks. Requires FS to establish a voluntary grant and technical assistance program. Requires FS to coordinate with specified agencies and to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to manage and administer the grant program, subject to appropriations. Specifies that funds received by NFWF to carry out the grant program are subject to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (P.L. 98-244; 16 U.S.C. §§3701 et seq.), excluding 16 U.S.C. §3709(a). Terminates authority after seven years. **(§8604)**	**White oak regeneration and upland oak habitat.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that it requires the FS to offer to enter into a cooperative agreement with NFWF to manage and administer the grant program. Contains organizational, grammatical, and wording differences from the House provision. **(§8503)**
No comparable provision.	**Tree nursery shortages.** Requires the FS to develop and implement a national strategy to address the nationwide shortage of tree seedlings in coordination with the national reforestation strategy and regional implementation plans. Specifies elements of the strategy, including its basis on best available science, and requirements to identify regional seedling shortages, reforestation opportunities, opportunities to enhance seedling diversity, and barriers to increased nursery capacity. **(§8605)**	**Tree nursery shortages.** Substantively similar to the House provision, except that the strategy is required to incorporate indigenous knowledge and identify opportunities to improve seedling quality, quantity, genetic resources, and availability. **(§8504)**
No comparable provision.	**Shrubland wildfire mitigation study.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of FS, within one year of enactment, to study the effectiveness of mitigation methods on reducing wildfire risk in specified shrubland ecosystems and damages to communities in and adjacent to them. Specifies required study	No comparable provision.

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	elements, including the effectiveness and longevity of hazardous fuels management and ecosystem health measures; policies and protocols to inhibit ignitions, including electrical ignitions; the influence of geographic conditions; administrative, operational, and budgetary factors; and effectiveness of partnerships. Requires coordination with specified federal entities and encourages consultation with nonfederal entities that have relevant expertise. Requires a publicly available report to the House Committees on Appropriations, on Natural Resources, and on Agriculture and the Senate Committees on Appropriations, on Energy and Natural Resources, and on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, within 90 days of completion of the study. The report is to contain a summary of results, identification of best practices, research needs, comparison of effectiveness of FS policies and protocols, and opportunities to improve coordination with nonfederal entities, among other elements. Defines terms relevant to the provision. **(§8606)**	
No comparable provision.	**Short title; definitions.** Names this subtitle the "Save Our Sequoias Act." Defines relevant terms. **(§8701)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Shared stewardship agreement for giant sequoias.** Not later than 90 days after receiving a request from the governor of California or the Tule River Indian Tribe, the Secretary of the Interior shall enter into or expand a shared stewardship or "similar" agreement that includes the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly carry out management and conservation of giant sequoias. Absent receiving any such request within 90 days after the date of enactment, the Secretary of the Interior shall "enter into the agreement … and jointly implement such agreement" with the Secretary of Agriculture and include the governor and the	No comparable provision.

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	Tribe as parties to the agreement on their request. **(§8702)**	
The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), pursuant to its authority in 29 U.S.C. §655(b) to establish occupational safety and health standards, has established at 29 C.F.R. §1910.1000 permissible exposure limits (PELs) for a variety of air contaminants. OSHA regulations do not explicitly cover wildfire smoke, but wildfire smoke may fall under the category "Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR)". OSHA has established a respiratory protection standard at 29 C.F.R. §1910.134 that includes requirements for the use of respiratory PPE that applies to all workers facing respiratory hazards, including federal wildland firefighters. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) does not establish PELs but rather establishes recommended exposure limits (RELs) for a variety of substances pursuant to its authority to "develop and establish recommended occupational safety and health standards" in 29 U.S.C. §671(c)(1). NIOSH does not currently have a REL for wildfire smoke or PNOR. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a nonprofit organization that publishes and intermittently updates fire-related codes and standards, publishes NFPA Standard No. 1984, *Standard on Respirators for Wildland Fire-Fighting Operations and Wildland Urban Interface Operations*, which provides guidance on designing, testing, and certifying respiratory protection for wildland firefighters.	No comparable provision.	**Safety standards for wildland firefighters.** Defines *covered permissible exposure limits* as the "permissible smoke exposure limit established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)" and the "permissible occupational smoke exposure limit" (OEL) established by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for smoke. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, consulting with NIOSH and OSHA to (1) convene a task force to develop an interim wildland fire smoke exposure standard for wildland firefighters and supporting staff and review and update as necessary other applicable safety standards including those relating to respiratory personal protective equipment (PPE), "with the goal of developing an appropriate permissible exposure limit or occupational exposure limit"; and (2) incorporate the most recent edition NFPA Standard No. 1984 or subsequent editions into the wildfire smoke exposure standard. Subject to these standards, (1) within one year of enactment, requires the Secretary, in coordination with Secretary of the Interior, National Wildfire Coordinating Group, and other federal agencies, to develop a strategy for making appropriate respiratory PPE available to wildland firefighters, including contractors and supporting staff, exposed to smoke surpassing covered permissible exposure limits; and (2) requires the Secretary to consult with NIOSH and OSHA to determine the appropriate respiratory PPE for wildland firefighters and supporting staff in settings surpassing covered permissible exposure limits. **(§8610)**

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No comparable provision.	**Giant sequoia lands coalition.** Codifies the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition as the entity established under the "Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter" (or successor charter) signed between June 2, 2022, and August 2, 2022. Specifies the duties and members (including federal members NPS, FS, and BLM) of the coalition. Requires the Secretary of the Interior to make DOI personnel available to the coalition for specified purposes. Requires that the coalition provide public observation at one or more meetings annually. Specifies that the coalition may close portions of a public meeting when discussions will involve specified confidential or sensitive information. **(§8703)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Giant sequoia health and resiliency assessment.** Requires the Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition to submit to relevant congressional committees within six months, and each year thereafter, a giant sequoia health and resiliency assessment, the preparation of which shall not be subject to NEPA (42 U.S.C. §§4321 et seq.). *Relevant congressional committees* are defined as the House Committees on Natural Resources, on Agriculture, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and on Appropriations. Specifies that the assessment is to include information on giant sequoia grove health, resiliency, and risks; propose a list of the highest priority forest management projects to be carried out on specified lands; and include policy and program recommendations. Requires the coalition to create, maintain, and update a website with specified information. Specifies requirements for information sources to be utilized in generating the assessment. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into MOUs or agreements with specified federal and nonfederal groups to improve the use and	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	integration of data and technology in the assessment. Requires the coalition to make information from the assessment available to the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California to integrate into specified plans and strategies. **(§8704)**	
Projects to manage federal lands must comply with a variety of administrative and environmental compliance requirements pertaining to their implementation, including but not limited to, NEPA (42 U.S.C. §§4321 et seq.), ESA (16 U.S.C. §§1531-1544), and NHPA (54 U.S.C. §§300101-307108). Regulations to implement NEPA, ESA, and NHPA include mechanisms to address emergency circumstances, which may warrant accelerated compliance processes. Some agency regulations have been updated or rescinded, as in the case of FS NEPA implementing regulations (previously codified in 36 C.F.R. Part 220) and DOI NEPA implementing regulations, which were updated on February 24, 2026. An agency typically does not prepare an EIS or EA under NEPA if it applies one of its own CEs or another agency's CE. Congress also may legislatively establish CEs. Unless excepted by statute, before applying a CE to a specific action, USDA and DOI generally consider any *extraordinary circumstances* (7 C.F.R. §1b.3 and 43 C.F.R. §46.205, respectively) that could potentially result in significant impacts and, as such, would necessitate preparation of an EA or EIS.	**Giant sequoia emergency response.** Establishes an emergency determination with respect to specified (i.e., "covered") NFS and DOI lands that require the implementation of specified forest management projects (Protection Projects) to respond to the threat of wildfires, insects, and drought to giant sequoias. Defines *Protection Projects* to include hazardous fuels management; tree removal for specified purposes; activities to address insect, disease, invasive species, and vegetative encroachment; or a combination thereof. Requires the applicable Secretary to carry out Protection Projects on covered lands in accordance with certain emergency procedures in effect on specified dates: • 36 C.F.R. §220.4(b), as in effect July 21, 2022, (concerning FS NEPA compliance); • 43 C.F.R. §46.150, as in effect October 12, 2022 (concerning DOI NEPA compliance); • 50 C.F.R. §402.05, as in effect July 21, 2022 (concerning FS and DOI ESA compliance); and • 36 C.F.R. §800.12, as in effect July 21, 2022 (concerning FS and DOI NHPA compliance). Specifies that Protection Projects shall be subject to "the rules established under" 16 U.S.C. §§6592c(d-e), such as exempting specified NFS projects from the pre-decisional administrative review process. Specifies that Protection Projects shall be subject to the requirements of 16 U.S.C. §6516, which establishes judicial review provisions for certain hazardous fuels reduction projects.	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	Establishes a CE under NEPA for Protection Projects and certain reforestation and rehabilitation activities carried out by DOI or the FS on lands contiguous or adjacent to giant sequoia groves at risk of experiencing high-severity wildfires that could adversely impact giant sequoia groves or lands where placement of fuel breaks could reduce the risk of wildfire to such giant sequoia groves, subject to extraordinary circumstances procedures under USDA NEPA regulations at 7 C.F.R. §§1b.3(e-g). Requires the FS and DOI to use additional authorities to carry out specified forest management activities, including good neighbor agreements (16 U.S.C. §2113a) and stewardship contracts (16 U.S.C. §6591c). Specifies that nothing in this section shall be construed to add any additional regulatory requirements onto the Tule River Indian Tribe. Requires the applicable Secretary to reduce hazardous fuels in no fewer than three giant sequoia groves each year. Requires the applicable Secretary to maintain a public website that includes public notice of each Protection Project. Terminates the emergency determination after seven years. **(§8705)**	
Renewable Resource Assessment. Among other provisions, establishes a policy that all forested lands in the NFS shall be maintained in forest cover and establishes priorities for reforestation. **(16 U.S.C. §1601)**	**Giant sequoia reforestation and rehabilitation strategy.** Requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a strategy to enhance the reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia groves, that is to contain specified provisions, within six months. Adds reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia groves to the considerations for priority reforestation projects. **(§8706)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Giant sequoia strike teams.** Requires USDA and DOI to each establish a Giant Sequoia Strike Team to assist primarily with implementation of §8705 and secondarily with implementation of §8706. Requires the strike teams to	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	assist in compliance with NEPA, ESA, and NHPA and to implement site preparation and projects. Each strike team includes up to 10 people and may include DOI or FS staff, private contractors, and volunteers. **(§8707)**	
No comparable provision.	**Giant sequoia collaborative restoration grants.** Requires DOI to establish a grant program to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency. Limits uses of awarded funds to specified activities. **(§8708)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Giant sequoia insect monitoring and technology.** Requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop and implement a strategy for monitoring insects in specified giant sequoia groves and seek to enter into public-private partnerships to monitor giant sequoia groves within one year of enactment. Directs the Secretary of the Interior to report to the House Committees on Natural Resources, on Agriculture, and on Appropriations and the Senate Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and on Appropriations within two years of enactment. **(§8709)**	No comparable provision.
Stewardship end result contracting projects. Authorizes FS and BLM to enter into dual service and timber sale contracts or agreements to achieve specified land management goals. **(16 U.S.C. §6591c)**	**Stewardship contracting for giant sequoias.** Authorizes stewardship contracting projects within Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park. Adds the promotion of health and resiliency of giant sequoias as an authorized land management goal. **(§8710)**	No comparable provision.
Donations. Allows NPS to accept certain donations of funds and real property. Establishes the National Park Foundation (NPF) as a private charitable nonprofit organization to accept and administer gifts of funds and real property for the benefit of NPS. (**54 U.S.C. Chapter 1011**)	**Giant sequoia emergency protection program and fund.** Requires NPF, in coordination with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and the Foundation for America's Public Lands (FAPL), to establish a program to promote philanthropic programs to support the management and conservation of giant sequoias on specified federal lands and reforestation of these lands following wildfire. Requires	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	NPF, NFF, and FAPL to jointly establish a Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Fund to consist of donations. Requires that at least 15% of funds are to be used to support tribal management and conservation of giant sequoias. Requires annual reports to Congress. Terminates the authority after seven years. **(§8711)**	
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Prairie dog management.** Directs the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the FS, to amend the applicable prairie dog management plans for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and the Oglalla National Grassland to limit occupied prairie dog habitat to not more than 1.5% of the federal land in any single grazing allotment and to ensure prairie dog control activities are conducted within a one-mile buffer between federal land and adjacent state and private lands. **(§8223)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry chairman.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title IX, Energy[62]

The energy title in the 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) addresses renewable energy, agricultural-related energy, energy efficiency, and biobased products, among other areas.[63] The energy title contains 12 programs and initiatives centered, in part, on education about and production, installation, promotion, and research and development of energy, renewable chemicals, and biobased products stemming from or applicable to agricultural areas.[64] Most energy title programs received a five-year authorization without baseline funding and are set to expire without reauthorization.[65] Certain programs received permanent authority, such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), and are not set to expire with the 2018 farm bill.

The energy title of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, would reauthorize most of the 2018 farm bill energy title programs and modify certain programs (see **Table 12**); in contrast, the energy title of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would reauthorize all of the 2018 farm bill energy title programs and modify certain programs. Proposed modifications in both the House-passed and Senate committee-reported bills are discussed below.

H.R. 7567 would repeal two programs: the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program and the Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program. S. 5526 would not repeal any programs. For the Biobased Markets Program, also known as the BioPreferred Program, H.R. 7567 would require procuring agencies to submit to both USDA and the Office of Federal Procurement Policy an annual report detailing (1) actions the procuring agency has taken to establish and implement a biobased procurement program, (2) the categories of biobased products that are unavailable to meet the procurement needs of the procuring agency, and (3) the desired performance characteristics for said products, among other things. S. 5526 would require the same annual report and that procuring agencies increase the number of biobased-only contracts or the volume purchased under biobased-only contracts from the previous year. S.5526 also would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct outreach about biobased products and to accept nonfederal funds to carry out the outreach. In addition, S.5526 would instruct the Secretary to use the ASTM D-6866 standard to determine the contents of biobased products.[66]

For the Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program, H.R.7567 would allow USDA to waive the demonstration of commercial viability when approving a loan guarantee application. The bill also would require USDA and the project applicant to establish a technical review agreement that outlines certain objectives, outcomes, and conditions. USDA would then use the agreement to determine the project's technical feasibility. S. 5526 would modify the program's purpose to both develop and assist development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, biobased product manufacturing, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), with SAF considered an eligible technology. S.5526 also would add a grant section to the program and cap grants at $10 million.

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[62] This section was prepared by Kelsi Bracmort, CRS Specialist in Natural Resources and Energy Policy, RSI.

[63] 7 U.S.C. Ch. 107.

[64] For more information, see CRS In Focus IF10288, *Overview of the 2018 Farm Bill Energy Title Programs*, by Kelsi Bracmort.

[65] For more information, see CRS Report R45943, *The Farm Bill Energy Title: An Overview and Funding History*, by Kelsi Bracmort.

[66] ASTM D-6866 is a testing standard for determining the percentage of biobased or biogenic carbon content of products, raw materials, chemicals, or other content that are in a liquid, solid, or gas form. For more information, see ASTM International, "Biobased Testing Standard," February 16, 2024, https://www.astm.org/news/biobased-testing-standard-ma24; and USDA, "USDA Certified BioBased Products: Certification," accessed October 13, 2026, https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/biopreferred-program/for-companies/certification.

For REAP, H.R. 7567 would amend the selection criteria to receive a grant to include "the potential of the proposed program to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business" and the award considerations to receive a loan guarantee or a grant to include "the potential improvements to the financial conditions of the agricultural producer or rural small business." S. 5526 would expand the program to include the provision of technical assistance to those applying for financial assistance, addition of an "agricultural producer cooperative" as an eligible entity, requirement for the Secretary to establish a simplified application process for projects requesting less than $50,000, and increase of the percentage of funding the Secretary may issue for grants for lower-cost activities (i.e., activities that cost $50,000 or less). S. 5526 would also establish a rebate pilot project for eligible entities for the purchase of certain energy-efficient equipment.

H.R. 7567 would add two new sections to the energy title pertaining to solar energy. Section 9011 would require USDA to conduct a study on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of certain farmland out of agricultural production. USDA would be required to (1) analyze the economic effects of solar panel installations on certain farmland; (2) investigate the impacts of solar panel installation, operation, and decommissioning on certain farmland; (3) assess the impacts of shared solar energy and agricultural production on certain farmland; and (4) assess the "types of agricultural lands best suited and worst suited for shared solar energy and agricultural production." USDA would be required to consult with the Department of Energy and relevant stakeholders while conducting the study. USDA would be required to submit to the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources a written report on the study findings and recommendations. Section 9012 would prohibit USDA from providing financial assistance for a project that would result in the conversion of certain farmland for solar energy production. Exceptions to this prohibition would include projects converting less than five acres of certain farmland, generally, and projects converting less than 50 acres with the majority of the energy produced used for on-farm use and receiving approval or support from the county and municipality where the project is located. The bill would prohibit USDA from providing financial assistance for projects that procure solar energy components produced, manufactured, or assembled in a foreign country of concern; by an entity domiciled or controlled by a foreign country of concern; or by a foreign entity of concern as defined by 42 U.S.C. §19237. S. 5526 does not include provisions pertaining to solar energy, including new programs.

H.R. 7567 would support the development of SAF.[67] It would modify the definition of *advanced biofuel* (7 U.S.C. §8101(3)(B)) to include SAF. It would require USDA to establish a department-wide strategy to advance the production of SAF that would (1) facilitate collaboration between relevant mission areas to encourage the advancement of the SAF supply chain; (2) identify opportunities to maximize SAF development, deployment, and commercialization; (3) leverage the capabilities of U.S. farmers and others to capture opportunities in the SAF market; (4) support rural economic development through SAF production; and (5) promote public-private partnerships for the development, deployment, and commercialization of SAF. S. 5526 contains identical provisions that would support the development of SAF.

Additionally, H.R. 7567 would raise awareness regarding agricultural irrigation pumping systems. The bill would require USDA to make available to the public information about cost savings and energy savings that can be realized with the use of energy-efficient pumping systems. It also would require USDA to develop an energy efficiency preassessment tool for pumping systems

[67] For more information on SAF, see CRS In Focus IF12757, *Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF): An Overview of Current Laws and Legislation Introduced in the 119th Congress*, by Kelsi Bracmort.

and to educate persons performing energy audits about energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems. S. 5526 contains similar provisions regarding raising awareness about agricultural irrigation pumping systems.

Table 12. Title IX, Energy

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Definitions. Defines *advanced biofuel* as fuel derived from renewable biomass other than corn kernel starch and explicitly states various inclusions (e.g., diesel-equivalent fuel derived from renewable biomass). **(7 U.S.C. §8101(3)(B)(iv))**	**Definition of advanced biofuel.** Adds "sustainable aviation fuel" (SAF) to the inclusions list for the advanced biofuel definition. **(§9001)**	**Definition of advanced biofuel.** Identical to the House provision. **(§9001)**
Biobased markets program. Requires USDA to promote biobased products through two initiatives: (1) mandatory purchasing by federal agencies and their contractors and (2) a voluntary labeling initiative for biobased products. Requires USDA and the Department of Commerce (DOC) to jointly develop North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes for renewable chemical manufacturers and biobased products manufacturers. Provides $3 million in mandatory Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funding annually through FY2024. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8102; P.L. 118-22; P.L. 119-37)**	**Biobased markets program.** Requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) to coordinate with USDA to provide educational materials to procuring agencies. Requires procuring agencies to submit certain information annually to OFPP and USDA. Requires USDA and DOC to jointly develop NAICS and North American Product Classification System (NAPCS) codes for renewable chemical manufacturers and biobased products manufacturers as well as renewable chemicals and biobased products. Requires a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the federal statistical collections of information relating to the NAICS and NAPCS codes, among other things. Provides $3 million of mandatory CCC funding annually through FY2031. Authorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§9002)**	**Biobased markets program.** Requires procuring agencies to annually increase the number of biobased-only contracts or the volume purchased under biobased-only contracts from the previous year. Requires the Secretary to coordinate with OFPP to issue guidance to procuring agencies to consider product lifespan, savings, and efficacy when making procurement decisions. Removes the requirement that OFPP annually collect certain information and make it publicly available. Requires procuring agencies to submit an annual report to OFPP and the Secretary. Requires that additional information be included in the report (e.g., actions taken by the procuring agency to establish and implement the biobased procurement program, and the specific categories of biobased products that are unavailable to meet the procurement needs of the procuring agency). Requires OFPP and the Secretary to annually collect the report and make it publicly available and to annually verify that each procuring agency has established a biobased products procurement program. No later than two years after enactment, each procuring agency is required to have the appropriate staff complete biobased product purchasing training. Requires the federal catalogs be updated to include biobased product designations and to collect biobased product purchasing data. For the

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		voluntary labeling component of the program, requires the Secretary to promulgate regulations that ensure the integrity of the label, as well as provide instructions on how to report unauthorized use of the label. Allows the Secretary to conduct outreach to educate the public on and promote the use of biobased products and to accept nonfederal funds to carry out the outreach. Requires the Secretary to submit an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and to make publicly available a report that includes the list of biobased products authorized to use the label, audit and compliance activities, outreach conducted, and the amount of nonfederal funds accepted. Requires a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the federal statistical collections of information relating to the NAICS and NAPCS codes. Provides $3 million of mandatory CCC funding annually through FY2031. Authorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Amends the biobased products inclusion section to instruct the Secretary to use the ASTM D-6866 standard, or an alternative standard the Secretary determines appropriate, to determine the contents of biobased products. **(§9002)**
Biorefinery assistance. Requires USDA to provide loan guarantees for the development, construction, or retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries for the development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and biobased products. Defines *biobased product manufacturing*. Sets the maximum principal amount of a loan guarantee to $250 million. Authorizes appropriations of $75 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8103; P.L. 119-37)**	**Biorefinery assistance.** Redefines biobased product manufacturing to include new or innovative commercial-scale processing and manufacturing equipment. Allows USDA to waive the requirement that the applicant demonstrate commercial viability for projects adopting commercially available technology. Adds a technical review agreement requirement under the selection criteria for loan guarantees. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Rescinds $18 million of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under 7 U.S.C. §8103. Increases the maximum principal amount for a	**Biorefinery, renewable chemical, biobased product manufacturing, and sustainable aviation fuel assistance.** Adds SAF to the program purpose and as an eligible technology. Changes the purpose of the program to both develop and assist development of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, biobased product manufacturing, and SAF. Redefines biobased product manufacturing to include new or innovative commercial-scale processing and manufacturing equipment. Specifies that the Secretary is to make loan guarantees on a year-round basis for commercial-scale biorefineries and grants on a competitive basis

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	loan guarantee to $400 million. **(§9003)**	for pilot or demonstration-scale biorefineries. For loan guarantees, allows USDA to waive the feasibility study for proven commercially available technologies. Adds a technical review agreement requirement under the selection criteria for loan guarantees. Adds a grants section that requires the Secretary to establish a priority scoring system for applications and caps grants at $10 million. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Rescinds $15 million of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under 7 U.S.C. §8103. **(§9003)**
No comparable provision.	**Bioproduct labeling terminology.** Requires USDA to implement national uniform labeling standards for bioproducts. **(§9004)**	**Bioproduct labeling terminology.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§9004)**
Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels. Requires USDA to contract with fuel producers to support and expand production of advanced biofuels. Provides $7 million in mandatory CCC funding through FY2031. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8105; P.L. 119-21; P.L. 119-37)**	**Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§9005)**	**Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§9005)**
Biodiesel Fuel Education Program. Establishes a competitive grant program to educate government and private vehicle fleet operators, the public, and others about the benefits of biodiesel. Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually through FY2023. **(7 U.S.C. §8106)**	**Biodiesel Fuel Education Program.** Repeals the program. **(§9006)**	**Biodiesel Fuel Education Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§9006)**
Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Provides eligible entities with grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. Provides loan guarantees and grants for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems. Limits loan guarantees to $25 million. Provides $50 million in mandatory CCC funding annually. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million	**Rural Energy for America Program.** Amends the selection criteria for grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to include "the potential of the proposed program to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of the agricultural producers or rural small businesses." Amends the award considerations for financial assistance for energy efficiency	**Rural Energy for America Program.** Renames the "energy audits and renewable energy development assistance" subsection under current law to be the "project development assistance" subsection. Expands the focus of the project development assistance subsection to include technical assistance to those applying for financial assistance. Adds an "agricultural producer cooperative"

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8107; P.L. 119-37)**	improvements and renewable energy systems to include the potential improvements to the financial conditions of agricultural producers or rural small businesses. Adds agricultural cooperatives with fewer than 2,500 employees as qualified entity for 7 U.S.C. §8107(c). Increases the loan guarantee limit to $50 million. Requires USDA to develop a streamlined application process, enhances outreach and technical assistance for REAP applicants and grantees, and establishes a REAP reserve fund to support projects using underutilized renewable energy technologies. Authorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Requires USDA to ensure diversity in the types of projects approved for grants and loan guarantees. **(§9007)**	as an eligible entity. Amends the selection criteria for grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to include "the potential improvements to the financial conditions of those agricultural producers and rural small businesses." Amends the award considerations for financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems to include "the potential improvements to the financial conditions of those agricultural producers and rural small businesses receiving the loan guarantee or grant." Increases the loan guarantee limit to $50 million. Changes the application process for the financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems subsection by directing the Secretary to establish a simplified application process for projects requesting less than $50,000 and a more comprehensive application process for projects requesting more than $50,000. Increases the percentage of funding the Secretary may issue in the form of grants for lower-cost activities (i.e., the Secretary may use up to 25% of the funding to provide grants of $50,000 or less). Establishes a rebate pilot project for the purchase of certain energy-efficient equipment. Increases the funding available to carry out the project development assistance subsection to 5% of total REAP funds. Authorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. Allows the Secretary to reserve up to 10% of funds for awards that support the adoption of underutilized but proven commercial renewable energy technologies under the financial assistance for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems subsection as well as up to 5% of funds for outreach. **(§9007)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Feedstock Flexibility Program for bioenergy producers. Authorizes a program to help stabilize sugar prices to avoid forfeitures under the sugar loan program through the 2026 crop year. Under the Feedstock Flexibility Program, USDA may purchase sugar from processors for resale to fuel ethanol producers using CCC funds. Requires USDA to provide notice about the quantity of sugar to be made available for purchase and sale. **(7 U.S.C. §8110; P.L. 119-37)**	**Feedstock flexibility.** Extends the purchase and sale of eligible commodities through the 2031 crop year. Extends the notice period to 2031. **(§9008)**	**Feedstock flexibility program for bioenergy producers.** Identical to the House provision. **(§9008)**
Biomass Crop Assistance Program. Provides financial assistance to owners and operators of agricultural land and nonindustrial private forestland to establish, produce, and deliver biomass feedstock to eligible processing plants via matching payments. Provides payments to establish and produce eligible crops. Authorizes appropriations of $25 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8111; P.L. 119-37)**	**Biomass Crop Assistance Program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§9009)**	**Biomass Crop Assistance Program.** Identical to the House provision. **(§9009)**
Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program. Establishes a competitive grant program to educate the public about the economic and emissions benefits of permanent carbon sequestration or utilization and to educate agricultural producers and other stakeholders about the collection of organic waste from multiple sources to be used in a single biogas system. **(7 U.S.C. §8115)**	**Carbon utilization and biogas education program.** Repeals the program. **(§9010)**	**Carbon utilization and biogas education program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§9010)**
No comparable provision.	**Study on effects of solar panel installations on covered farmland.** Requires USDA to study the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of covered farmland out of agricultural production. Defines *covered farmland* as farmland and nonindustrial private forestland. Directs USDA to consult with the Department of Energy and relevant stakeholders. Requires a report to the House Committee on Agriculture, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Senate Committee on Agriculture,	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	Nutrition, and Forestry, and the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the findings of the study and recommendations. **(§9011)**	
No comparable provision.	**Limitation on USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems.** Prohibits USDA from providing financial assistance for a project that would result in the conversion of covered farmland for solar energy production (exceptions include projects converting less than 5 acres or projects converting less than 50 acres with the majority of the energy produced used for on-farm use and receiving approval or support from the county and municipality where the project is located). Project applicants are required to submit a farmland conservation plan. Prohibits USDA from providing financial assistance for a project that procures a solar energy component that is produced, manufactured, or assembled in a foreign country of concern, by an entity domiciled or controlled by a foreign country of concern, or by a foreign entity of concern as defined by 42 U.S.C. §19237. **(§9012)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Sustainable aviation fuels strategy.** Requires USDA to establish a department-wide strategy to advance the production of SAF to (1) facilitate the collaboration between relevant mission areas to encourage the advancement of the SAF supply chain; (2) identify opportunities to maximize SAF development, deployment, and commercialization; (3) leverage the capabilities of U.S. farmers and others to capture opportunities in the SAF market; (4) support rural economic development through SAF production; and (5) promote public-private partnerships for the development, deployment, and commercialization of SAF. **(§9013)**	**Sustainable aviation fuels strategy.** Identical to the House provision. **(§9011)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Leveraging efficiency awareness for pumping systems.** Requires USDA to make available on its website information on "cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems." Requires USDA to make available a user-friendly tool to assist farmers in making a preliminary assessment of the energy efficiency of existing pumping systems and provide an estimate of potential energy savings, cost savings, and carbon emissions reductions that may be realized through pumping system improvements. Requires USDA to establish a process to educate individuals performing energy efficiency audits for USDA on energy use and energy efficiency in pumping systems. Defines *pumping system* as "any pumps, pipes, motors, drives, and controls used to move water and other fluids on farms, ranches, and aquaculture operations." **(§9014(a)-§9014(d), §9014(f))**	**Leveraging efficiency awareness for pumping systems.** Substantively similar to the House provision but does not contain a findings section. **(§9012)**
Definitions. The Conservation Stewardship Program defines *conservation activities* as conservation systems, practices, or management measures, which include structural, vegetative, and land management measures (including drainage management systems); priority resource concern planning; comprehensive conservation planning; soil health planning; and activities that assist with adaptation or mitigation against weather volatility. **(16 U.S.C. §3839aa-21(2))**	**Leveraging efficiency awareness for pumping systems.** Adds "energy-efficient pumping systems" to a list of activities under the Conservation Stewardship Program. **(§9014(e))**	**Leveraging efficiency awareness for pumping systems.** Identical to the House provision. **(§9012(e))**
Definitions. Defines *renewable energy* as energy derived from a wind, solar, renewable biomass, ocean, geothermal, or hydroelectric sources. **(7 U.S.C. §8101(15)(A))**	**Adding waste energy recovery to the Rural Energy for America Program.** Adds "waste energy recovery" as a source for the renewable energy definition. **(§9015)**	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Study on utilization of second-use batteries for agricultural purposes**. Requires a study from the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, on the deployment of second-use electric vehicle batteries on farms and ranches. Mandates a study to include the feasibility, costs, benefits, and barriers to the deployment of the second-use batteries. Requires a report to the House Committee on Agriculture, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources within one year of enactment. **(§9016)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Tree planting grant program.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to support tree planting projects that reduce residential energy consumption. Program is to be established within 90 days of enactment and carried out in consultation with the Secretary of Energy. Sets the application requirements, federal cost share, and priorities for funding. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture, to the extent allowable by appropriations, to award grants to facilitate the planting of at least 300,000 trees each year through the program. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually for FY2027-FY2031. **(§9017)**	No comparable provision.
		Technical corrections. Makes technical corrections for "Secretary of Agriculture" throughout 7 U.S.C. §8108 Biomass research and development. **(§9013)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agricultural, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title X, Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform[68]

The respective horticulture, marketing, and regulatory reform titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would reauthorize and amend many of the 2018 farm bill provisions and programs relating to the specialty crop sector, certified organic agriculture, local and urban food systems, hemp production, pesticide use, and other marketing and regulatory efforts (**Table 13**).

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would reauthorize USDA to issue block grants to states through FY2031 to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops and amend the purpose of the grants to reflect state priorities and input from stakeholders. The bills also would reauthorize appropriations for programs such as Specialty Crops Market News and the Acer Access and Development Program. H.R. 7567 would reauthorize appropriations at current levels for the National Organic Program (NOP) through FY2031, while S. 5526 would increase the levels of authorized appropriations for the NOP for the same period. In addition, both bills would expand the mission and responsibilities of the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.

H.R. 7567 would amend the domestic hemp production program to reflect changes to the statutory definition of *hemp* that were made in P.L. 119-37.[69] The bill would relax certain requirements for producers of industrial hemp, including by reducing or eliminating testing requirements and by taking steps to eliminate the existing 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for a controlled substance-related felony. Additionally, the bill would require USDA to establish a process to accredit laboratories for testing hemp in consultation with the Drug Enforcement Administration. S. 5526 contains no amendments to the statutes that govern hemp.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would extend the authority of USDA to issue grants to local and regional producers through the Local Agriculture Market Program (LAMP) until FY2031, expand the list of businesses eligible for grant funding in LAMP, expand the purposes of grant funding, and require USDA to seek input from stakeholders on a simplified application and reporting process. H.R. 7567 differs from S. 5526 in that it would expand eligible activities for LAMP grants to include the purchase of special purpose equipment and other activities.

Both H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would make amendments to the NOP. The similar amendments in both bills include authorizing USDA to offer technical assistance to organic producers; defining "risk to organic integrity" and "oversight protocols"; and requiring USDA to conduct a study on whether oversight protocols based on the risk to organic integrity may lead to additional NOP regulations. While both bills allow for changes to inspection protocols for operations that pose a lower risk to organic integrity, such as allowing virtual inspections for some operations, S. 5526 would make these allowances conditional on the results of the study. H.R. 7567 contains some organic provisions that are not in S. 5526, such as a proposal to require USDA to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk. Additionally, H.R. 7567 would extend the requirement for USDA to submit an annual report to Congress on enforcement and compliance actions in NOP through March 1, 2031.

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[68] This section was prepared by Zachary T. Neuhofer, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI, with assistance from Eleni G. Bickell, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Laura Gatz, CRS Specialist in Environmental Policy, RSI; Jason O. Heflin, CRS Legislative Attorney, ALD; Jerry H. Yen, CRS Analyst in Environmental Policy, RSI; Elena H. Humphreys, CRS Specialist in Environmental Policy, RSI; and Laura Pineda-Bermudez, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[69] The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agency Appropriations Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-37, Division B, §781).

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 contain comparable provisions that would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA; 7 U.S.C. §§136 et seq.) for various purposes, including to exclude certain plant biostimulants from the statute and exempt certain plant-incorporated protectants from the requirements of the statute. These bills would provide for additional coordination among the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other federal agencies on the implementation of FIFRA, including the evaluation of pesticide registrations and their potential effects on listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 16 U.S.C. §§1531 et seq.). Both bills would extend the deadline until October 2031 for initial registration reviews of pesticides registered prior to October 2016 that have not undergone initial registration reviews. Unlike H.R.7567, S. 5526 would require USDA to conduct a study and report on the types and use of biostimulants to achieve specified nutrient management, environmental, and agricultural objectives.

S. 5526 contains provisions, some of which are related to plant pest and disease management, that have no comparable provisions in the House-passed bill. These include provisions that would (1) expand inspection services for which USDA employees can be paid to include interstate movement of products between the continental United States and Alaska and Hawaii and (2) authorize USDA to use appropriated funds for the construction and operation of research laboratories, quarantine stations, and related facilities.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would establish an Office of Biotechnology Policy (OBP) within USDA. Both bills would require OBP to provide leadership for interagency coordination with EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, and other federal and state agencies. H.R. 7567 would establish OBP to coordinate department policies and activities relating to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and other emerging technologies, including research, extension, and education; communication, regulation, and labeling; and commercialization. H.R. 7567 would have OBP oversee policy coordination across research, cooperative extension, communication, regulation, and commercialization. S. 5526 would establish OBP under a different statutory authority and state that its purpose is to coordinate agricultural policies and activities concerning biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and related topics. It would explicitly assign OBP responsibility for coordinating biotechnology activities carried out under specified USDA authorities and in consultation with USDA agencies on biotechnology responsibilities under FIFRA; the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; Food Quality Protection Act of 1996; and other applicable laws.

Table 13. Title X, Horticulture, Marketing, and Regulatory Reform

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Specialty crop block grants. Authorizes block grants to states to support the competitiveness of specialty crops through FY2026. Requires the state plan to identify the lead agency responsible for the program and how the grants will be used. **(7 U.S.C. §1621 note; P.L. 119-37)**	**Specialty crop block grants.** Reauthorizes block grants to states through FY2031. Amends the purpose of grants to reflect priorities established annually by state plan administrators in consultation with producers and producer groups. Amends the state plan requirements to include outreach and consultation with producers and producer groups. Prohibits USDA from imposing any cost-sharing or matching requirements on any award or sub-award. **(§10001)**	**Specialty crop block grants.** Like the House provision, reauthorizes block grants, amends the purpose of grants, amends the state plan requirements, and prohibits USDA from imposing cost-share requirements. Requires USDA to add unobligated or unexpended amounts to the allocation funding pool for the following fiscal year or subsequent fiscal years. **(§10109)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Definition of specialty crop. Defines a *specialty crop* to mean fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture). **(7 U.S.C. §1621 note)**	No comparable provision.	**Proper administration of the definition of specialty crop.** Requires USDA to define specialty crops according to the definition in 7 U.S.C §1621 note for all relevant programs and services. **(§10213)**
Specialty crops market news allocation. Authorizes appropriations of $9 million annually for market news activities for specialty crops through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1622b(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Specialty crops market news allocation.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§10002)**	**Specialty crops market news allocation.** Identical to the House provision. **(§10102)**
Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). Establishes OUAIP at USDA, including grant authority, to support the development of urban, indoor, and innovative production. Establishes an Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee, pilot programs, and USDA reporting requirements. Authorizes appropriations of $10 million annually to carry out the functions of OUAIP through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §6923; P.L. 119-37)**	**Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.** Expands OUAIP's mission to include controlled environment agriculture systems and expands OUAIP's responsibilities to include providing technical assistance and promoting "conservation techniques unique to urban agriculture and innovative production," such as those that address stormwater runoff and the impacted nature of urban land and land subsurface. Requires OUAIP to assist producers in navigating local polices and regulations. Authorizes OUAIP to enter into cooperative agreements to support urban and innovative agricultural production and removes the pilot status for office projects. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§10003)**	**Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. Requires that USDA establish not fewer than 10 urban and suburban committees. **(§10111)**
National Plant Diagnostic Network. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually for the network through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §8914(c)(5); P.L. 119-37)**	**National Plant Diagnostics Network.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§10004)**	**National Plant Diagnostic Network.** Identical to the House provision. **(§10108)**
Hemp production. Provides the framework for state and tribal hemp production plans. Requires plans to include production guidelines, procedures for testing cannabis for delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration, and disposal procedures for plants in violation of regulations. Defines the approval process, audits for state compliance, technical assistance,	**Hemp production.** Requires state and tribal plans to designate hemp producers as producers of only industrial hemp or of hemp used for any purpose other than industrial hemp. Requires states and Tribes to update testing requirements and compliance to reflect the definitional changes in P.L. 119-37. Allows for state or tribal plans to distinguish between industrial hemp and hemp used for cannabinoids	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
and violations of state and tribal plans. **(7 U.S.C. §1639p)**	purposes. Requires states and Tribes to establish a procedure to eliminate the 10-year period of ineligibility for producers with a controlled substance felony who elect to grow only industrial hemp. Authorizes state and tribal plans to allow for inspections of industrial hemp producers and exemptions from testing for total THC concentration. Adds requirements to report violations to the Attorney General and law enforcement in the state or Tribe. **(§10005(a))**	
Hemp production. Provides framework for USDA's hemp production plan, which governs the production of hemp in states or Tribes that do not have a plan approved under 7 U.S.C. §1639p. Requires USDA's plan to include restrictions on production practices, testing procedures, and disposal procedures for plants without a USDA license or in violation of the hemp production plan. Also requires licensing guidelines, reporting violations, and information sharing for law enforcement. **(7 U.S.C. §1639q)**	**Hemp production.** Requires USDA to create a procedure for a producer to designate the type of production as industrial hemp or hemp for other purposes. Requires USDA to update testing requirements and compliance to reflect the definitional changes in P.L. 119-37. Requires USDA to distinguish in the hemp production plan between industrial hemp and hemp used for cannabinoids purposes. Requires the establishment of a procedure to eliminate the 10-year period of ineligibility for producers with a controlled substance felony who elect to grow only industrial hemp. Allows for procedures to reduce sampling and testing requirements for industrial hemp producers. Requires USDA to share with law enforcement the designation of hemp producers (i.e., industrial or not) and information on disposed hemp. **(§10005(b))**	No comparable provision.
Hemp production. Requires USDA to promulgate regulations on hemp production, consult with the Attorney General on the regulations, and issue reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(7 U.S.C. §1639*r*)**	**Hemp production.** Adds requirement for USDA to establish a process to accredit laboratories for testing hemp in consultation with the administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration. **(§10005(c))**	No comparable provision.
Regulation of movement of plant pests. Subtitle A of the he Plant Protection Act (PPA; P.L. 106-224), as amended, prohibits the import, export, or interstate movement of plant pests without a permit to prevent their spread within the United States. **(7 U.S.C. §§7711 et seq.)**	**Pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.** Requires USDA to establish within 100 days of the enactment of H.R. 7567 a pilot program involving up to 75 *responsible parties* (defined to mean	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	a U.S. partnership, corporation, association, joint venture, or other legal entity) to move covered microorganisms between biocontainment facilities in interstate commerce without a permit and to manage their disposal. Requires USDA to accept applications using a web-based process and to terminate the program three years after USDA completes the application selection process. Requires that USDA not treat genetically modified microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically modified ones or limit the quantity or type of microorganisms that may be moved between facilities. Requires USDA to submit a report to Congress with recommendations on the future of the program six months after the program ends. **(§10006)**	
Reimbursable agreements. Authorizes USDA to enter into reimbursable agreements and pay employees performing services relating to imports into and exports from the United States for all overtime, night, or holiday work performed. **(7 U.S.C. §7753(c)(1))**	No comparable provision.	**Interstate movement outside of the continental United States.** Expands inspection services for which USDA employees can be paid to include interstate movement of products between the continental United States and Alaska and Hawaii. **(§10204)**
Authorization of appropriations. Subtitle D of PPA, as amended, authorizes to be appropriated "such amounts as may be necessary" and provides USDA with discretion and transfer authority during plant health emergencies. **(7 U.S.C. §§7771 et seq.)**	No comparable provision.	**Construction projects to support emergency plant health response efforts.** Authorizes USDA to use available funds for construction and operation of research laboratories, quarantine stations, and other buildings or facilities. **(§10205)**
Use of funds for clean plant network. Requires USDA to use not less than $5 million of the $90 million in mandatory funding for plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention established pursuant to 7 U.S.C. §7721(e) to administer the National Clean Plant Network. **(7 U.S.C. §7721(g))**	No comparable provision.	**National Clean Plant Network.** Increases the allocation of mandatory funding for the National Clean Plant Network to a minimum of $10 million. **(§10212)**

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Collection of fees for inspection services. Authorizes USDA to prescribe and collect fees to cover the cost of agricultural quarantine and inspection services and, through FY2002, to maintain a reasonable balance in the Agricultural Quarantine Inspection User Fee Account. **(21 U.S.C. §136a(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Agriculture quarantine and inspection program reserve fee.** Authorizes USDA to maintain a reasonable balance in the USDA accounts that incur costs associated with agricultural quarantine and inspection services and related administration costs. **(§10206)**
Import prohibitions on specified foreign produce. Requires that certain imported produce comply with marketing order grade, size, quality, and maturity provisions or comparable marketing order restrictions. **(7 U.S.C. §608e-1(a))**	**Marketing orders.** Adds almonds and mandarin oranges to the list of imported produce and removes exception of dates for processing from the list of imported produce for which commodity marketing orders are applicable. **(§10101)**	**Marketing orders.** Like the House provision, removes the exception for dates for processing, and adds mandarin oranges. Explicitly adds dates for processing to the list of imported produce for which commodity marketing orders are applicable. **(§10101)**
Local Agriculture Market Program. Defines and specifies the purpose of the program and authorizes grants to farmers markets, local food system producers, value-added processors, and regional partnerships through FY2026. Includes application processes. Requires USDA to submit a report to the agriculture committees on jurisdiction[a] within four years of December 20, 2018 that on the evaluation the economic impact and effectiveness of the program. **(7 U.S.C. §1627c; P.L. 119-37)**	**Local agriculture market program.** Extends USDA's authority to provide grants to eligible entities and grants for partnerships through FY2031. Adds a definition of *food hub* to mean a business or organization that supports aggregation, distribution, and marketing of source-identified food products that are primarily produced by local and regional producers. Expands the purpose of the program to include regional food chain coordination. Requires USDA agencies to provide program technical assistance and outreach to stakeholders before and after awarding grants. Expands eligible activities to support the purchase of special purpose equipment and support for food hubs, among other expanded support. Requires USDA to establish a simplified application form for eligible entities that request less than $100,000 and choose from project categories including direct-to-consumer projects and local and regional food market and enterprise projects. Reauthorizes grants to support partnerships through 2031 and redefines authorities relating to grants to support partnerships. Provides that, of the funds made available for grants, simplified applications shall receive not less than 10% and not more than 50%. **(§10102)**	**Local agriculture market program.** Like the House provision, extends USDA authority to provide grants, expands the purpose of the program to include regional food chain coordination, adds a definition of *food hub,* adds food hubs to the list of the eligible entities, requires USDA to develop a simplified application process and seek input from stakeholders on the simplified application and reporting process, and reauthorizes and redefines authorities relating to grants to support partnerships and sets the same funding limitations on simplified applications. Requires USDA to submit the evaluation report four years after enactment. Allows for regional partnerships with food hubs. **(§10103)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Acer Access and Development Program. Authorizes USDA to provide grants to state and tribal governments to promote the domestic maple syrup industry. Authorizes appropriations of $20 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §1632c; P.L. 119-37)**	**Acer access and development program.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031 and requires appropriations to remain available until expended. Requires USDA to consult with maple syrup industry stakeholders when setting program priorities at least six months before the first request for applications for the program following enactment. **(§10103)**	**Acer access and development program.** Like the House provision, reauthorizes appropriations at current levels and requires USDA to consult with maple industry stakeholders when setting program priorities. Prohibits USDA from imposing cost-sharing or matching requirements on any award or sub-award for funds received through the program. **(§10104)**
Organic production and market data initiative. Requires USDA to collect data on the production and marketing of organic agricultural products. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually to carry out the initiative through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §5925c; P.L. 119-37)**	**Organic production and market data initiative.** Adds requirement to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§10104)**	No comparable provision.
Organic certification. The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA; P.L. 101-624, Title XXI) authorizes USDA to develop and enforce national standards for certified organic agricultural products under the National Organic Program (NOP). Establishes the general requirements for the NOP for the standards of organic production, and certification. Requires USDA to submit and publish an annual report to Congress on all domestic and international compliance actions taken in the prior year through 2026. Authorizes appropriations of $24 million annually to carry out NOP through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §6506; 7 U.S.C. §6521(d)(1); 7 U.S.C. §6522(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Organic certification.** Extends the reporting requirement on compliance actions through 2031. Authorizes USDA to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing USDA programs. Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§10105)**	**National Organic Program.** Allows USDA to provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to farmers on certified organic farms and farmers who are transitioning to organic production. Allows USDA to coordinate between agencies to administer technical assistance, education, and outreach. Allows USDA to enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofits. Increases the authorization of appropriations for each fiscal year from FY2027 to FY2031 from $26 million in FY2027 to $34 million in FY2031. **(§10105)**
No comparable provision.	**Report on procurement.** Requires USDA to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] within one year of enactment that examines USDA's procurement process for domestic commodities or products (as defined in School Breakfast Program regulations, 7 C.F.R. §220.16). Requires the report to include an examination of the solicitation process for such commodities and products and of barriers to entry	No comparable provision.

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	for "nontraditional, culturally relevant, or local and regional commodities or products." Requires the report to include the diet quality and accessibility of procured commodities or products. Requires the report to include USDA's administrative, regulatory, and legislative recommendations to improve such procurement processes. **(§10106)**	
Definitions. Defines 22 terms for the purposes of NOP within OFPA, as amended. (**P.L. 101-624, Title XXI; 7 U.S.C. §6502)**	**Definitions of risk to organic integrity and oversight protocols.** Adds definitions for *oversight protocols* and *risk to organic integrity.* Defines oversight protocols as the regulations, policies, and procedures issued by USDA under the stated sections of OFPA. Defines risk to organic integrity as the likelihood that a product marketed as organically produced is or contains an agricultural product that was not produced or processed to the standards of NOP. **(§10107)**	**National organic program oversight protocols and inspection requirements.** Like the House provision, adds definitions for oversight protocols, risk to organic integrity and other terms. Makes additional conforming amendments throughout OFPA. **(§10112(a))**
General requirements. Lists the general requirements for NOP, including regulations that provide for annual on-site inspections by the certifying agent of each farm and handling operation that is certified organic. **(7 U.S.C. §6506(a))**	**Modernization of inspection requirements.** Maintains the requirement for annual inspections for organic operations. Requires that annual inspections for international operations be conducted on-site. Authorizes on-site inspections to be conducted once every three years for domestic operations, with annual inspections being conducted on-site or virtually on the basis of the operation's "risk to organic integrity" as determined by USDA. Allows handling operations that acquire but do not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products to be inspected virtually or via other ways as determined by USDA. **(§10108)** **Study and reform of National Organic Program oversight protocols.** Requires USDA not later than 12 months after enactment to conduct a study to determine whether the establishment of oversight protocols based on risk to organic integrity are necessary and appropriate. Requires the study to	**National organic program oversight protocols and inspection requirements.** Authorizes USDA to promulgate regulations amending annual inspection protocols for organic operations to permit certifying agents to conduct virtual annual inspections, conditional on the results of the required study. Similarly to the House provision, USDA may require annual inspections for international operations to be conducted on-site; permit on-site inspections for domestic operations once every three years, with annual inspections conducted either on-site or virtually on the basis of an operation's risk to organic integrity as determined by USDA; and allow handling operations that acquire but do not physically receive, process, package, or store organic products to be inspected virtually or through other methods as determined by USDA. Adds conforming amendments to permit virtual inspections, conditional on the results of the study. **(§10112(b))**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	examine the feasibility and implications of implementing oversight protocols that are based on potential concerns that an operation would violate NOP standards while considering factors such as the size and scope of the operation, complexity, and location. Requires USDA to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the results of the study within 18 months of enactment and to make the report publicly available. Requires USDA to consult with the National Organic Standards Board, certifying agents, certified organic operations, consumers, and other stakeholders in conducting the study. Allows USDA to issue regulations that may modify oversight protocols in NOP following the issuance of the report. Authorizes USDA to issue regulations that reduce oversight costs and administration for operations and certifying agents that are lower risk to organic integrity. **(§10109)**	Similarly to the House provision, requires USDA to conduct a study to assess potential amendments to oversight protocols and their feasibility, requires USDA to submit a report on the study's results to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] and authorizes USDA to issue regulations on NOP oversight protocols following the study. Such regulations may seek to reduce oversight costs and administrative burdens for operations and certifying agents that present a lower risk to organic integrity while prioritizing oversight resources for activities that present a higher risk to organic integrity. **(§10112(b))**
National organic certification cost share program (NOCCP). Requires USDA to establish a cost-share program to assist producers and handlers of agricultural products in obtaining certification under the NOP. Requires an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that describes the requests, disbursements, and expenditures for each state under NOCCP for the current and previous fiscal year, including the number of producers and handlers served by NOCCP in the previous fiscal year. **(7 U.S.C. §6523)**	No comparable provision.	**National organic certification cost share program.** Provides specific amendments to the existing annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction. [a] Requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to examine the impact the program has had "on the rising cost of organic certification" and deliver a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction within 18 months of enactment. Authorizes not more than $8 million in discretionary appropriations from FY2027 to FY2031. **(§10106)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision**.**	**Organic Inputs Verification.** Defines relevant terms for the section, including *covered organic feedstuff* and *shipped in bulk*. Defines covered organic feedstuff as organic feedstuff that is shipped in bulk and for which there is a NOP import certificate. Defines shipped in bulk as feedstuff that is shipped loose in a ship hold, railcar, or other similar

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
		methods, excluding feedstuff that is a packaged good. Requires an annual report to Congress on the residue testing that was carried out in the year for each covered organic feedstuff and other imported organic feedstuff that is shipped in bulk or for which there is an NOP import certificate. Requires the report to include information on the frequency of residue testing, the methods used in testing, test results, standards used to analyze the results, and any actions taken as a result of that residue testing. **(§§10110(a) and (b))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Organic Inputs Verification.** Requires USDA to consult with the Department of Homeland Security and the organic imports interagency working group (7 U.S.C. §6521a) to develop and regularly update risk-based protocols for determining which imported organic feedstuffs shall be included in the list of covered organic feedstuffs and to determine the necessary parameters of residue testing for relevant imported organic feedstuffs. Requires USDA to establish and annually update a confidential list of imported organic feedstuffs that require residue testing during the year. Prohibits covered organic feedstuff that contains any detectable prohibited substance at a level that is not permitted under OFPA or relevant state organic certification program from being sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced. **(§10110(c))**
Food safety education initiatives. Authorizes a food safety education program for fresh produce industry personnel and the public on science-based practices to reduce pathogens in fresh produce. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually to remain available until expended. **(7 U.S.C. § 7655a(c);** P.L. 119-37**)**	No comparable provision.	**Food safety education initiatives.** Reauthorizes program and funding at current levels through FY2031. **(§10107)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Scope of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). FIFRA (7 U.S.C. §§136 et seq.) governs the sale, distribution, and use of pesticides through registration (i.e., licensing), which includes the approval of a label specifying the pesticide's proper use. FIFRA §2 defines various categories of substances on the basis of their intended function to determine whether they fall under the jurisdiction of the statute. Plant biostimulants that meet the definition of a *pesticide*, *plant regulator*, or *nitrogen stabilizer* are subject to FIFRA requirements. FIFRA §17(c)(2) provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person is required to notify EPA of the importation of a plant-incorporated protectant contained in seed if (1) such plant-incorporated protectant is otherwise registered or subject to an experimental use permit or (2) the seed is covered by a permit or a notification. FIFRA §25(b) authorizes EPA to exempt any pesticide from FIFRA requirements if the agency determines that the pesticide is either (1) adequately regulated by another federal agency or (2) of a character that is unnecessary to be subject to FIFRA requirements. Section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA) requires EPA to set tolerances (i.e., maximum residue limits) or tolerance exemptions for pesticide residues that may remain in or on food and feed. **(7 U.S.C. §§136, 136o(c), and 136w(b); 21 U.S.C. §346a)**	**Exclusion of certain substances.** Amends definitions of terms in FIFRA §2 to exclude certain plant biostimulants from the definition of *plant regulator* and the reach of FIFRA. Specifies the definitions of the terms *nutritional chemical* and *vitamin hormone product* for purposes of excluding such substances from regulation under FIFRA as plant regulators. Codifies the regulatory definition of the term *plant-incorporated protectant*. Amends FIFRA §25(b) to exempt plant-incorporated protectants "resulting from endogenous genetic material found within or that could arise from the plant's gene pool" from statutory requirements, including the requirement for a tolerance under FFDCA §408, on the issuance of guidance, unless EPA determines that such plant-incorporated protectant is of a character that it needs to be subject to requirements under the statute to carry out FIFRA's purpose. Requires EPA to issue guidance on exempting certain plant-incorporated protectants from FIFRA requirements within one year of enactment. Provides for a conforming amendment to FIFRA §17(c)(2) to affirm that plant-incorporated protectants meeting the criteria specified in amended FIFRA §25(b) and contained in seed are exempt from import notification requirements. **(§10201)**	**Biostimulants.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§10201)**
FIFRA pesticide registration. FIFRA §3 establishes the process by which EPA evaluates pesticide registration applications and the criteria for registering pesticides and specifying permissible uses. FIFRA §22 directs EPA to cooperate with USDA, any other federal agencies, and any appropriate state agencies or political subdivisions of the state in carrying out FIFRA and in securing	**Coordination.** Requires EPA to coordinate with USDA on the development of risk mitigation measures for registered pesticides and the use of certain information provided by USDA to help inform the registration or registration review of pesticides or the establishment, modification, or revocation of pesticide tolerances in or on food and feed. Requires EPA to conduct and publish an	**Coordination.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§10209)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
uniformity of regulations. **(7 U.S.C. §§136a and 136t)**	economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such risk mitigation measures. Requires EPA to coordinate with USDA, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Commerce on the implementation of "reasonable and prudent actions and measures" with respect to the use of a registered pesticide. Authorizes waivers of and modifications to coordination requirements for a specific action if EPA, USDA, and the registrant enter into an agreement published in the relevant regulatory docket. **(§10202)**	
FIFRA interagency working group. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334) required the establishment of an interagency working group to provide recommendations regarding, and the implementation of a strategy for improving, the consultation process required under §7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; P.L. 93-205) for pesticide registration and registration review. **(7 U.S.C. §136a(c)(11); 16 U.S.C. §1536)**	**Interagency working group.** Requires USDA's director of the Office of Pest Management Policy to be included in all meetings of the interagency working group. Changes the reporting frequency of an implementation report from semiannually to annually and requires such reports to be publicly available on EPA's website. Requires the working group to consult with interested industry stakeholders and nongovernmental organizations. Requires EPA to consult with covered agencies on any policy, strategy, work plan, or pilot program prior to taking such actions on pesticides pursuant to ESA. **(§10203)**	**FIFRA interagency working group.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§10203)**
FIFRA registration review. The Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (Title VI of Division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023; P.L. 117-328), §711, requires EPA to complete by October 2026 initial registration review of each pesticide or pesticide case registered prior to October 2011 that has not undergone initial registration review. Covered interim registration review decisions must involve the consideration of input from USDA and other members of the FIFRA interagency working group and include, where applicable, measures to reduce the effects of the applicable pesticide on listed species and designated critical habitat under ESA. **(7 U.S.C. §136a(g) and §136a note—**	**Registration review.** Repeals §711 of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 2022) and extends the deadline to October 2031 for initial registration review of each pesticide or pesticide case registered prior to October 2016 that has not undergone initial registration review. Reiterates requirements in current law for covered interim registration review decisions. Defines *covered interim registration review decisions* to include interim registration review decisions noticed in the *Federal Register* after H.R. 7567 is enacted and before October 1, 2031. **(§10204)**	**Registration Review.** Substantively resembles the House provision with one difference. Like the House provision, repeals §711 of PRIA 2022; extends to October 1, 2031, the deadline for initial registration review for pesticides or pesticide cases registered prior to October 2016; and reiterates requirements in current law for covered interim registration review decisions. Defines covered interim registration review decisions to include those noticed in the *Federal Register* before October 1, 2031, for the purposes of the reiterated requirements for such reviews. The definition of covered interim registration review decision does not specify that decisions must have

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Registration Review Deadline Extension)		been noticed in the *Federal Register* after the bill's enactment. **(§10207)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Soil Health Study.** Requires USDA to conduct a study on the types and use of biostimulants that best achieve the following objectives: • increasing organic matter content; • reducing atmospheric volatilization; • promoting nutrient management practices; • reducing runoff or leaching of soil or nutrients into water sources; • restoring healthy nutrients to the soil and beneficial bioactivity; • aiding carbon sequestration, nutrient use efficiency, and other climate-related benefits; and • supporting innovative ways to improve agricultural sustainability, including via performance metrics. Four years after funds are provided for this study, requires USDA to report on the results of the study and make that report available to the public and to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(§10202)**
Multiple crop and pesticide use survey. The 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) requires USDA, through the Office of Pest Management Policy, to conduct a multiple crop and pesticide use survey to collect data for risk assessment modeling and mitigation for an active ingredient. Requires USDA to submit the survey to EPA and make it publicly available. **(P.L. 115-334, §10109)**	**Multiple crop and pesticide use survey.** Adds data collection requirements to include commercial data on pesticide use. **(§10211)**	**Multiple crop and pesticide use survey.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§10210)**
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Clean Water Act (CWA) (P.L. 92-500; 33 U.S.C. §§1251 et seq.) prohibits the discharge of pollutants from any point source to waters of the United States without a permit.	**Safe harbor for certain discharges of wildland fire chemicals.** Provides certain legal protection for covered entities until EPA (or a state) issues an NPDES permit authorizing the discharge from aerial applications of a	No comparable provision.

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CWA authorizes EPA and states to limit or prohibit discharges of pollutants through NPDES permits. Prior to a 2022 legal challenge, the U.S. Forest Service (FS) relied on a determination from EPA that an NPDES permit was not necessary for discharges to waters of the United States resulting from aerial applications of fire retardants. FS has since requested an NPDES general permit for these discharges and, in the meantime, is operating under the terms of a February 2023 federal facilities compliance agreement between EPA and the FS. **(33 U.S.C. §1342)**	covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention activities. Prevents any court from enjoining certain covered entities from conducting such aerial applications when they are conducted in accordance with the 2023 federal facilities compliance agreement between EPA and FS. Provision sunsets five years after enactment. **(§10212)**	
No comparable provision.	**Office of Biotechnology Policy.** Establishes a USDA Office of Biotechnology Policy (OBP) under the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. §§6901 et seq., P.L. 103-354) to coordinate department policies and activities relating to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies. Specifies the office's responsibilities. Specifies that the director shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Directs the office to provide interagency coordination with EPA, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other federal and state agencies, and to conduct stakeholder outreach. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2031. **(§10213)**	**Office of Biotechnology Policy.** Establishes a USDA OBP under the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. §§7651 et seq., P.L. 105-185) and adds a statement of purpose. Specifies that the office's coordination and consultation responsibilities include biotechnology activities and products under the Plant Protection Act; Animal Health Protection Act; Virus-Serum-Toxin Act; Federal Meat Inspection Act; Poultry Products Inspection Act; Egg Products Inspection Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; and Food Quality Protection Act. Like the House provision, specifies that the director shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Directs the office to ensure interagency coordination with EPA, FDA, and other federal and state agencies, and to conduct stakeholder outreach. Authorizes appropriations of $1 million annually through FY2031. (**§10211**)
No comparable provision.	**Office of Pest Management Policy.** For more information, see §7308 in the House-passed bill. **(§7308, Title VII—Research, Extension, and Related Matters)**	**Office of Pest Management Policy.** For more information, see §7308 in the House-passed bill. **(§10208)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
No comparable provision.	**Report on Barriers to Accessing Federal Programs. (§12414, Title XII-Miscellaneous)**	**Study on barriers to participation in Department of Agriculture programs faced by certified organic farms and farms interested in transitioning to organic production**. For more information, see §12414 in the House-passed bill. **(§10113)**
No comparable provision.	**Local farmers feeding our communities program (§4306, Title IV-Nutrition)**	**Strengthening Local Food Security Program**. For more information, see §4306 in the House-passed bill. **(§10114)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title XI, Crop Insurance[70]

The Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) offers subsidized crop insurance policies that producers can purchase to insure a wide variety of crops and livestock. Policies pay indemnities for yield and revenue losses due to adverse growing and market conditions, including natural disasters. The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), a government corporation within USDA, pays part of the premium (about 61% on average in crop year 2025) and policyholders—farmers and ranchers—pay the balance. Private insurance companies, known as Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs), sell and service the policies in return for administrative and operating (A&O) subsidies from the FCIC. The FCIC also reinsures a portion of the AIPs' underwriting risk as specified in a mutually negotiated Standard Reinsurance Agreement. The USDA Risk Management Agency administers the FCIP. The FCIP is permanently authorized under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (P.L. 75-430, 52 Stat. 72) and the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-365, 7 U.S.C. §§1501 et seq.), as amended. Congress recently made changes to the FCIP in the FY2025 budget reconciliation law (P.L. 119-21) to increase various premium and A&O subsidies, modify certain insurance policies, and increase funds available for program compliance and integrity.[71] The respective crop insurance titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, would make multiple changes to the program with implications for policyholders, AIPs, and USDA (**Table 14**).

Implications for Policyholders

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would modify the definition of *veteran farmers and ranchers* used in the FCIP and increase premium subsidies available for these individuals.[72] These changes would grant qualified veteran farmers and ranchers the same set of FCIP benefits that are available for *beginning farmers and ranchers*. Both bills would exempt some individuals from beneficial ownership interest reporting requirements.

Implications for Approved Insurance Providers

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would impose new requirements on AIPs and grant AIPs additional recourse from notification requirements for compliance problems. Both bills would amend the requirements for final agency determinations. H.R. 7567 would specify that the requirement for the FCIC to establish procedures applies only to binding final agency determinations. S. 5526 would grant the FCIC exclusive authority to interpret crop insurance regulations and prohibit judicial review of final agency determinations. S. 5526 would allow all program participants to request FCIC interpretations and establish certain requirements for FCIC procedures for final agency determinations. Additionally, S. 5526 would apply and bind FCIC final agency determinations on all program participants, the National Appeals Division, and all courts of competent jurisdiction.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would remove the limit on the maximum A&O subsidy rate that USDA could assign to policies created after 2026 and require USDA to maintain A&O subsidy rates for

[70] This section was prepared by Stephanie Rosch, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI.

[71] For background on the changes made to the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP) in the FY2025 budget reconciliation law, see CRS Report R48574, *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1): Title I, Farm Safety Net and Miscellaneous Provisions*, coordinated by Stephanie Rosch.

[72] Veterans are individuals who have served and completed active military, naval, air, or space service and meet other requirements specified in 38 U.S.C. §101(24). For background on these requirements, see CRS Report R47299, *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Who Is a Veteran?*, by Madeline E. Moreno.

policies created prior to 2027 at the rates in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year. H.R. 7567 would authorize AIPs to charge certain late fees to delinquent policyholders; S. 5526 would not make changes to the late fee policy.

Implications for USDA

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would retain the prohibition on the simultaneous purchase of a Stacked Income Protection Plan policy and enrollment in either Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs and would shift these prohibitions from the parts of the *U.S. Code* authorizing the FCIP to the parts of the *U.S. Code* authorizing the ARC and PLC programs.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would specify the FCIC's authority to provide yield and revenue coverage. Both bills would require USDA to study and report on modifications to reinsurance funds and crop insurance compensation, to reevaluate the Whole Farm Revenue Protection coverage available for certain commodities, and to periodically review quality loss adjustment procedures. H.R. 7567 would not make changes to crop insurance options that exclude certain years from a producer's production history calculations. S. 5526 would require the FCIC to exclude yields from production history calculations for producers who were adversely impacted by the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area flood risk management project.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would establish a specialty crop advisory committee. H.R. 7567 would remove the requirement for the FCIC Board to include at least one specialty crop producer and add a requirement for the FCIC Board to include at least one livestock producer. S. 5526 would require the FCIC Board to include at least one specialty crop producer, at least one crop and livestock producer, and at least one underserved producer who is a beginning farmer or rancher. S. 5526 would also increase the quorum for the FCIC Board from four to six members. H.R. 7567 would not create a statutory definition of specialty crops for the purposes of the FCIP. S. 5526 would create a statutory definition of specialty crops that aligns with the statutory definition used in other USDA programs.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would modify certain rules that apply to private sector submissions.[73] H.R. 7567 would require USDA to periodically evaluate the actuarial performance of FCIP insurance products developed by the private sector, impose certain requirements on the FCIC concerning private sector submissions, and permit submissions of products developed by the private sector without letters of support from an AIP. S. 5526 would not make these changes and would prohibit the FCIC from requiring an AIP to appear in person when the AIP is assisting an applicant with an in-person presentation.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require USDA to conduct a pilot project to study the effects of late planting on irrigation water use in the Ogallala Aquifer. Both bills would require USDA to conduct research to develop coverage options for new priority areas, with some differences in priority areas between the bills. Both bills would require USDA to study and report on modifications to crop insurance and commodity support programs that would enhance risk management options for lamb producers. H.R. 7567 would require USDA to study and report on the effects of weather station outages on hurricane insurance coverage and changes to Livestock Revenue Protection policies for feeder cattle impacted by natural disasters; S. 5526 does not include these requirements.

[73] The private sector can propose new types of FCIP policies and coverages as authorized under 7 U.S.C. §1508(h); these are often referred to as "508(h) submissions." For additional background, see CRS Report R46686, *Federal Crop Insurance: A Primer*, by Stephanie Rosch.

Table 14. Title XI, Crop Insurance

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Board of Directors. Establishes the composition of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) Board of Directors, including at least one specialty crop producer. **(7 U.S.C. §1505(a))**	**Specialty Crop Advisory Committee.** Requires the FCIC Board of Directors to include the chairperson of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee; removes the requirement to include at least one specialty crop producer; and requires the board to include at least one livestock producer. **(§11001(a)(1))**	**Management of corporation.** Requires the FCIC Board of Directors to include the chairperson of the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee as a nonvoting ex officio member. Requires the board to include at least one specialty crop producer, at least one producer of crops and livestock, and at least one underserved producer who is a beginning farmer or rancher. **(§11002(a)(1))**
Vacancies. Establishes four members as a quorum for transacting FCIC Board business. **(7 U.S.C. §1505(b))**	No comparable provision.	**Management of corporation.** Establishes six members as a quorum for transacting FCIC Board business. **(§11002(a)(2))**
No comparable provision	**Specialty Crop Advisory Committee.** Requires USDA to establish the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee within 180 days of enactment to advise the FCIC on insurance for specialty crops. Specifies the size, duties, and geographic composition of committee membership and requires the committee to meet at least twice annually. **(§11001(a)(2))**	**Management of corporation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11002(a)(3))**
Specialty crops coordinator. Establishes the responsibilities of the specialty crops coordinator. **(7 U.S.C. §1507(g))**	**Specialty Crop Advisory Committee.** Adds responsibility for the special crops coordinator to liaise with the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee. **(§11001(b))**	**Management of corporation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11002(b))**
Annual review of new and specialty crops. Requires the FCIC to provide an annual review of data to expand crop insurance options for new and specialty crops. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(a)(6)(A))**	**Specialty Crop Advisory Committee.** Requires the FCIC to consult with the Specialty Crop Advisory Committee in conducting the required review. **(§11001(c))**	**Management of corporation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11002(c))**
Submission of certain information. Allows the FCIC to require policyholders to report the names of individuals who hold or acquire *substantial beneficial interest*, defined as a 5% or greater ownership share. **(7 U.S.C. §1506(m))**	**Identification of holders of substantial interests.** Adds flexibility for the FCIC to require policyholders to report the names of entities with substantial beneficial interest, provides for flexibilities on reporting deadlines, and redefines substantial beneficial interest as a 10% or greater ownership share, which may exempt some individuals from reporting requirements. **(§11002)**	**Identification of holders of substantial interests.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11003)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Actuarial soundness. Requires the FCIC to take actions to improve the actuarial soundness of policies sold through the FCIP. **(7 U.S.C. §1506(n))**	**Actuarial soundness of certain new products.** Requires the FCIC to periodically review and take actions to improve the actuarial performance of FCIP policies and products developed by the private sector. **(§11003)**	No comparable provision.
Authority to offer insurance. Authorizes the FCIC to offer insurance coverage for losses due to drought, flood, or other natural disasters as determined by USDA. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(a)(1))**	**Coverage of revenue losses.** Authorizes the FCIC to offer insurance coverage for losses due to a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, provided the decline was not directly caused by the producer. **(§11004)**	**Coverage of revenue losses.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11005)**
Prohibition on simultaneous participation in Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) and purchase of certain policies offered through the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP). Prohibits farmers with acres insured under Stacked Income Protection Plan policies from purchasing Supplemental Coverage Option policies for those acres. Prohibits farmers enrolling in either ARC or PLC from purchasing Stacked Income Protection Plan policies. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(c)(4)(C)(iv); 7 U.S.C. §1508b(f))**	**Limitation on farm program participation.** Limits the prohibitions on enrolling in ARC or PLC through crop year 2025 in the FCIP authorizing statute and adds such prohibitions beginning with crop year 2026 to the ARC and PLC authorizing statute. This change would move the prohibitions from the FCIP authorizing statute to the ARC and PLC authorizing statute without altering the prohibitions. **(§11005)**	**Limitation on farm program participation.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11011)**
No comparable provision.	**Limitation on interest accrual.** Authorizes Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) to charge up to 1% interest for outstanding delinquent premiums and administrative fees for a maximum of five years, beginning in the 2026 reinsurance year. **(§11006)**	No comparable provision.
Veteran farmer and rancher definitions. Defines *veteran farmers and ranchers* for the purposes of the FCIP as former servicemembers who have operated farms for no more than five years. **(7 U.S.C. §1502(b))**	**Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.** Redefines veteran farmers and ranchers for the purposes of the FCIP as former servicemembers who have operated farms for no more than 10 years. **(§11007(a))**	**Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11007(a))**
Additional subsidies for beginning farmers. Provides premium subsidies for beginning farmers and ranchers of 15 percentage points for the first two years of insurance purchases, 13 percentage points for the third	**Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.** Authorizes the same additional premium subsidies for veteran farmers and ranchers. **(§11007(b))**	**Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.** Identical to the House provision. **(§11007(b))**

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year, 11 percentage points for the fourth year, and retains additional premium subsidies of 10 percentage points for the fifth through tenth years. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(e)(9))**		
Guidelines for submission and review. Requires the FCIC to establish guidelines for proposals submitted by private sector entities. Requires the FCIC to allow applicants to present proposals to the FCIC Board in person. Requires the FCIC to keep proposals confidential prior to approval. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(h)(4))**	**Marketability.** Adds an exception to grant certain AIPs access to submitted materials and requires those AIPs to adhere to the same confidentiality requirements that are applicable to the FCIC. Requires the FCIC to delay implementation of new products developed by the private sector until the next reinsurance year if certain conditions are not met. Requires AIPs submitting letters of support for new products developed by the private sector to provide information and analysis on product marketability. Requires the FCIC to deem products developed by the private sector marketable if at least one AIP expresses support as part of the submission. Requires the FCIC to consider marketability information submitted by AIPs. Permits submissions of products developed by the private sector without letters of support from an AIP. **(§11008)**	**Marketability.** Adds an exception to grant certain AIPs access to submitted materials and requires those AIPs to adhere to the same confidentiality requirements that is applicable to the FCIC. Prohibits the FCIC Board from requiring an AIP to appear in person when the AIP is assisting an applicant with an in-person presentation. Requires the FCIC to delay implementation of new products developed by the private sector until the next reinsurance year if certain conditions are not met. Requires AIPs submitting letters of support for new products developed by the private sector to provide information and analysis on product marketability. **(§11008)**
Rate for administrative and operating (A&O) subsidies. Limits the maximum rate the FCIC Board of Directors can establish for A&O subsidies at 24.5% of a policy's premium for the 1999 and subsequent reinsurance years. Sets the A&O subsidy rate for area policies, Supplemental Coverage Option policies, or Stacked Income Protection Plan policies at 12.0% of policy premiums. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(k)(4)(A); 7 U.S.C. §1508(k)(4)(F))**	**Reimbursement rates for administrative and operating costs.** Removes the limit on the maximum A&O subsidy rate for each of the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years. Removes the requirement for A&O subsidy rates of 12.0% for area policies, Supplemental Coverage Option, and Stacked Income Protection Plan coverage. For the 2027 and subsequent reinsurance years, requires the FCIC Board to maintain A&O subsidies at the rates that were in effect for the 2026 reinsurance year. **(§11009)**	**Reimbursement rates for administrative and operating costs.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11009)**
Review of Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) coverage. Requires the FCIC to review the QLA procedures and make adjustments beginning no later than the 2004 reinsurance year. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(m)(3))**	**Quality loss adjustment coverage.** Requires the FCIC to review the QLA procedures beginning in calendar year 2027 and every five years thereafter. Requires the FCIC to adjust QLA procedures after every review. Requires QLA reviews to include engagement with	**Quality loss adjustment coverage.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11010)**

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	regionally diverse industry stakeholders. Requires the FCIC to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on completion of each QLA review. **(§11010)**	
Common crop insurance policies. No direct comparable provision. FCIP regulations for common crop insurance policies detail the reductions in coverage applicable to late planted crops. **(7 C.F.R. §457.8)**	**Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty.** Requires USDA and the FCIC to establish a four-year pilot program beginning in the 2027 crop year and located in or adjacent to certain groundwater districts in Texas to study yield declines associated with late plantings of corn and other crops. Requires the FCIC to provide full crop insurance benefits for late plantings under the pilot program. Requires the FCIC to determine if late planting reduces use of the Ogallala Aquifer for irrigation. Requires USDA and the FCIC to report the results of the pilot program to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] no later than 90 days after the end of the 2031 crop year. Authorizes up to $200,000 of total FCIC mandatory funding for research and development to fund a partnership or cooperative agreement to conduct the required research and evaluation. **(§11011)**	**Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11012)**
Review to improve effectiveness of Whole Farm Revenue Protection coverage. Requires the FCIC to hold stakeholder meetings, review procedures and paperwork requirements, and modify procedures and requirements as appropriate to decrease burdens and improve effectiveness of Whole Farm Revenue Protection no later than June 2020. **(7 U.S.C. §1522(c)(7)(E))**	**Whole farm improvements.** Requires the FCIC to conduct annual reviews of the limitations applied to total revenue insured under Whole Farm Revenue Protection and the limitations on insured revenues from animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture. Requires the FCIC to provide annual reports to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] about the reviews conducted and planned changes to Whole Farm coverages. **(§11012)**	**Whole farm improvements.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11014)**
Notification of compliance problems. Requires the FCIC to notify AIPs in writing within three years of any errors, omissions, or failures to follow regulations or procedures that may result in a debt owed to the FCIC. Relieves AIPs from any debt owed to the FCIC due to errors, omissions, or	**Program compliance and integrity.** Changes provision heading to "Notification, response, and final determination of compliance problems." Requires the FCIC to provide an initial finding in writing to notify AIPs of any errors, omissions, or failures to follow regulations or procedures within	**Program compliance and integrity.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11013)**

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failures to follow regulations or procedures outside of the three-year notification window. **(7 U.S.C. §1515(b))**	three years of the error, omission or failure. Requires the FCIC to follow a specified process and timeline to seek compliance remedy from AIPs. Provides AIPs the right to appeal at specified points during the process. Relieves AIPs from any debt owed to the FCIC because of errors, omissions, or failures to follow regulations or procedures outside of the procedures specified in this provision unless referred to the USDA Office of Inspector General or Department of Justice. **(§11013(a))**	
Procedures for responding to certain inquiries. Requires the FCIC to establish procedures for providing final agency determinations. (**7 U.S.C. §1506(r))**	**Program compliance and integrity.** Specifies that the requirement for the FCIC to establish procedures applies to binding final agency determinations. **(§11013(b))**	**Restoration of final agency determinations.** Grants the FCIC exclusive authority to interpret crop insurance regulations, policies, plans of insurance, contract provisions, and procedures. Allows participants in the FCIP to request FCIC interpretations. Requires the FCIC to provide final agency determinations no later than 90 days after receiving requests for final agency determinations. Requires the FCIC to make final agency determinations publicly available. Establishes that FCIC final agency determinations are applicable to and binding on all participants in the FCIP, including arbitrators, the National Appeals Division, and all courts of competent jurisdiction. Prohibits judicial review of final agency determinations, including certain determinations made prior to enactment. **(§11004)**
Research and development authority. Requires the FCIC to research and develop new insurance coverage for tropical storms and hurricanes, quality losses, citrus, hops, subsurface irrigation, grain sorghum, limited irrigation, irrigation practices used for rice production, greenhouse production, local foods, and certain lands in floodplains. **(7 U.S.C. §1522(c))**	**Research and development priorities.** Requires the FCIC to research and develop new insurance coverage for (1) revenue losses for selected crops, (2) wine grape losses from smoke taint, (3) mushroom losses, (4) losses due to hurricanes and tropical storms, (5) losses due to frost or cold weather, (6) losses for double and rotational oilseed production, (7) harvest incentives for revenue coverage, (8) specialty crop prevented planting, and (9) catastrophic events relating to swine. Requires USDA to report to certain congressional	**Research and development.** Requires the FCIC to research and develop new insurance coverage for (1) organic producers, (2) wine grape losses from smoke taint, (3) mushroom losses, (4) losses due to frost or cold weather, (5) losses for double and rotational oilseed production, (6) supplemental coverage within counties, (7) blueberry losses, (8) pecan revenue losses, (9) hurricanes and tropical storms, (10) harvest incentives for revenue coverage, and (11) enterprise units for fallow cropping. Requires USDA to report to the agriculture committees of

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	committees on the progress of these topics. **(§11014)**	jurisdiction[a] on the progress of these topics. **(§11015)**
Definitions. No direct comparable provision. The Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) specifies the terms under which private sector insurers and crop insurance agents sell and service FCIP policies. **(7 C.F.R. §460.15)**	**Report on Standard Reinsurance Agreement.** Requires the FCIC to prepare a report for the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the SRA analyzing modifications to expand the availability of FCIP insurance coverage. Requires the report to consider alternative reinsurance options for crop insurers and crop insurance agent reimbursements. Requires the FCIC to consult with producers, crop insurance companies, crop insurance agents, and the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] **(§11015)**	**Report on Standard Reinsurance Agreement.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11017)**
Research and development. No direct comparable provision. The FCIC sells hurricane insurance coverage as authorized under the FCIP research and development authority. **(7 U.S.C. §1522(c))**	**Hurricane insurance protection-wind index report.** Requires the FCIC to prepare a report for the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that analyzes instances where weather station outages operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) led to loss of hurricane insurance coverage and the feasibility of developing a contingency plan for such events. Requires the FCIC to consult with the administrator of NOAA. **(§11016)**	No comparable provision.
Dairy Margin Coverage and Pilot Programs. No direct comparable provision. The USDA Farm Service Agency administers the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, which provides commodity support for eligible dairy producers. The FCIC sells Livestock Risk Protection policies under the FCIP pilot program authority. **(7 U.S.C. §§9051 et seq.; 7 U.S.C. §1523(b))**	**Risk management study for lamb.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of modifications to the DMC program, Livestock Risk Protection policies, and other programs designed to protect producers from market volatility as determined by the Secretary to enhance risk management for lamb producers. Requires the FCIC to prepare a report for the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the study's findings. **(§11017)**	**Risk management study for lamb.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§11016)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Pilot programs. No direct comparable provision. The FCIC sells Livestock Risk Protection policies under the FCIP pilot program authority. **(7 U.S.C. §1523(b))**	**Study on livestock risk protection policy with respect to producers of feeder cattle affected by adverse weather events.** Requires the FCIC to conduct a study of modifications to Livestock Risk Protection policies to address the marketing of feeder cattle affected by drought, wildfires, and other adverse weather events, as determined by the Secretary. Requires the FCIC to prepare a report for the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the study's findings. **(§11018)**	No comparable provision.
Adjustment in actual production history to establish insurable yields. Authorizes the FCIC to allow producers to choose to exclude certain years of poor harvests from calculations of insurable yields. Requires the FCIC to adjust premiums to reflect the risks associated with excluded yields. **(7 U.S.C. §1508(g)(4))**	No comparable provision.	**Yield determinations.** Requires the FCIC to exclude yields for producers who were adversely impacted by the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area flood risk management project. **(§11006)**
No directly comparable provision. The FCIC has codified two definitions of "specialty crops" for certain crop insurance purposes. **(7 C.F.R. §400.701; 7 C.F.R. §460.15)**	No comparable provision.	**Definition of specialty crops.** Defines specialty crops for all crop insurance purposes to align with the definition used in various USDA programs. **(§11001)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Note:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Title XII, Miscellaneous[74]

The respective miscellaneous titles of H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and of S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, cover a variety of provisions across five subtitles. Both bills would extend authorization of appropriations for some programs through FY2031 and reauthorize certain provisions of the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA; P.L. 64-190; 39 Stat. 482; 7 U.S.C. §§71 et seq.) through FY2033 (**Table 15**).

Livestock and Other Animals

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would require USDA to evaluate the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program and to submit a report on USDA support for livestock and poultry operations during animal disease outbreaks to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[75] Both bills would authorize USDA to establish additional National Detector Dog Training Centers with off-site state partnerships and strategic site considerations and to set dog importation requirements. S. 5526 would authorize appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2031 for the dog training centers. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would allow livestock marketing agencies to hold an ownership interest in meat processing facilities. The bills would require USDA to provide guidance on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point plans to small and very small meat processors and to conduct outreach for the Food Safety and Inspection Service Cooperative Interstate Shipping Program.[76]

H.R. 7567 would restrict a state from enacting and enforcing production standards on livestock products not produced in the state. H.R. 7567 would amend animal welfare provisions, such as by establishing requirements for the importation of dogs, requiring federal research facilities to facilitate the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals no longer needed for research, and prohibiting certain commercial greyhound racing activities. H.R. 7567 would establish a pilot program to allow custom slaughter facilities that are exempt from inspection to sell meat and poultry products directly to consumers. S. 5526 does not include those provisions.

S. 5526 would codify the National Poultry Improvement Plans and the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan, exempt interstate internet sales of certain state-inspected meat and poultry from certain federal inspections, and require USDA to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction on meat-packer concentration.

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[74] This section was prepared by Christine Whitt, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Randy Alison Aussenberg, CRS Specialist in Nutrition Assistance Policy, DSP; Eleni G. Bickell, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Kelsi Bracmort, CRS Specialist in Natural Resources and Energy Policy, RSI; Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs, CRS Specialist in International Trade and Finance, Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division (FDT); Zachary T. Neuhofer, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Laura Pineda-Bermudez, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Stephanie Rosch, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Megan Stubbs, CRS Specialist in Agricultural Policy and Natural Resources Policy, RSI; Karen M. Sutter, CRS Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance, FDT; Benjamin Tsui, CRS Analyst in Agricultural Policy, RSI; Alexandria K. Mickler, CRS Analyst in Health Policy, DSP; Chris Jaikaran, CRS Specialist in Cybersecurity Policy, Government and Finance Division (G&F); Naseeb A. Souweidane, CRS Analyst in Transportation Policy, RSI; and Rena S. Miller, CRS Specialist in Financial Economics, G&F.

[75] The agriculture committees of jurisdiction are the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

[76] In the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point final rule (61 *Federal Register* 38806, July 25, 1996), USDA defines *small meat processors* as having 10-499 employees and *very small meat processors* as having fewer than 10 employees or annual sales under $2.5 million. On March 23, 2026, USDA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking stating that it would consider revising how establishment sizes are defined for purposes of its oversight of meat and poultry establishments and egg products plants (see 91 *Federal Register* 13979, March 24, 2026).

Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994

H.R. 7567 would amend various authorities of several USDA entities in the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (1994 USDA Reorganization Act; Title II of P.L. 103-354), including the Office of Homeland Security, the Office of Tribal Relations, and the National Appeals Division.[77] S. 5526 would not amend authorities of the Office of Tribal Relations or the National Appeals Division. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would expand the duties of the Office of Homeland Security and create an Office of Seafood.

National Security

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 (AFIDA; P.L. 95-460). H.R. 7567 proposes amendments to Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) authorities and provisions relating to restricting foreign adversaries from ownership of U.S. agricultural land. H.R. 7567 would require USDA to provide information on foreign ownership of agricultural land to CFIUS, create an office to monitor AFIDA compliance, provide annual reports to certain committees of Congress on agricultural land purchasing activities, update the AFIDA handbook, and establish an electronic database of land registrations by foreign owners.[78] H.R. 7567 would amend CFIUS authorities under Section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. §4565) to add the Secretary of Agriculture as a CFIUS member with respect to certain types of foreign investment transactions involving agriculture and to require CFIUS to consider for review "reportable agricultural land transactions" as notified to CFIUS by the Secretary of Agriculture.[79] H.R. 7567 would require the President to direct the heads of federal departments and agencies to promulgate rules and regulations that would prohibit foreign adversaries and state sponsors of terrorism from purchasing agricultural land in the United States.

S. 5526 would expand reporting requirements under AFIDA to include leases of five years or more, require foreign persons who transition agricultural land to nonagricultural land to submit reports to USDA, and amend civil penalty amounts and public reporting from USDA. S. 5526 also would require USDA to conduct annual audits on AFIDA compliance, provide annual training to state and local personnel, establish an electronic database of land registrations by foreign owners or leasers, and release an additional report to Congress annually on AFIDA data and trends.

The bills would amend parts of AFIDA in similar ways. For example, both bills would amend the civil penalty amounts for AFIDA violations to reflect different types of violations. Both bills also would require USDA to establish a streamlined database for electronic submission and retention of AFIDA reports. The timeline to establish the database would differ between the bills, with H.R. 7567 requiring establishment within three years of enactment and S. 5526 within two years. Both bills would expand USDA's investigative actions. Specifically, H.R. 7567 would create a new office at USDA, and S. 5526 would require USDA to conduct an annual compliance audit on

[77] For more information about the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (1994 USDA Reorganization Act; Title II of P.L. 103-354), see CRS Report R48905, *U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): Structure and Proposed Changes*, by Zachary T. Neuhofer.

[78] H.R. 7567, §12303, states that the reports would be sent to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the Senate Committee on Intelligence; the House Committee on Homeland Security; the House Committee on Agriculture; and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

[79] The bill would not add USDA as a permanent member agency of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (50 U.S.C. §4565(k)(2)).

AFIDA reporting. Both bills would require USDA to submit reports to Congress, though the required reports would differ in content. For example, H.R. 7567 would require reports relating to agricultural land transactions for covered foreign countries and state sponsors of terrorism, and S. 5526 would require reports pertaining to general influences of foreign investment (including national security interests) without specifying covered foreign countries or state sponsors of terrorism.

Fertilizer

H.R. 7567 does not include provisions that would address fertilizer in Title XII—Miscellaneous. S. 5526 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to coordinate reports on the domestic and international crop input market and direct USDA to produce a report on fertilizer production and use.

S. 5526 would also require the Secretary to establish a program of weekly price reporting for certain fertilizers and fertilizer products to augment prices currently reported by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Market News program.[80] The bill would require mandatory weekly price reporting from certain manufacturers and wholesalers and allow for voluntary weekly price reporting from agricultural cooperatives and retailers.

Title I of both bills include provisions relating to loans for construction of on-farm fertilizer storage.

Year-Round E15 and RFS Reform

The House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry both took legislative action to address the year-round sale of E15 and the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) in the 119th Congress. The House addressed these topics in H.R. 1346. The Senate committee addressed these topics in Section 12501 of S. 5526. E15 is a fuel blend of up to 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline that generally cannot be sold during the summer driving season.[81] Both H.R. 1346 and S. 5526 would amend the Clean Air Act (CAA; 42 U.S.C. §7545(f) and 42 U.S.C. §7545(h)) to extend the existing E10 waiver to E15 to allow year-round sales. The RFS requires U.S. transportation fuel to include a minimum volume of renewable fuel each year.[82] Under current law, small refineries are an obligated party to the RFS that may petition for an exemption from the RFS under certain conditions (e.g., compliance would subject them to disproportionate economic hardship).[83] H.R. 1346 and S. 5526 would amend the CAA to modify the small refinery exemption process under the RFS, with some differences between the two bills.

U.S. Grain Standards Act Reauthorization

The USGSA, as amended, requires official inspection and weighing of certain grains and oilseeds sold for export. The USGSA authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish official marketing or quality standards for certain grains and oilseeds, conduct official grain inspections and weighing services, and supervise official inspections and weighing by authorized state agencies and official agencies (i.e., private sector entities designated by USDA to conduct official

[80] USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service, "About Market News," https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/.

[81] For more information, see CRS Insight IN10979, *Year-Round Sale of E15*.

[82] For more information, see CRS Report R43325, *The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): An Overview*.

[83] For more information, see CRS Report R46244, *The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS): Frequently Asked Questions About Small Refinery Exemptions (SREs)*.

grain inspections and weighing). The federal costs associated with official grain inspections and weighing are covered by user fees set annually by USDA.[84]

Although most provisions of the USGSA are permanently authorized, several provisions authorizing user fee collections and grain inspection advisory committee meetings expired on September 30, 2025. Congress extended these provisions in the Continuing Appropriations, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Extensions Act, 2026 (P.L. 119-37, Division E, §5001), with certain provisions extended through January 30, 2026, and others extended through September 30, 2026. Historically, Congress has not reauthorized the USGSA as part of farm bill reauthorization.[85]

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would reauthorize through September 30, 2033, the USGSA provisions that expired on January 30, 2026, and the provisions that expired on September 30, 2026. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would specify that fees collected must be deposited into a trust fund. H.R. 7567 would amend certain cost calculations for official inspection and weighing services; S. 5526 would maintain current cost calculation formulas.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would authorize the Secretary to allow official agencies (i.e., private sector entities designated by USDA to conduct official grain inspections and weighing) to conduct certain official inspections and weighing at export ports. Currently, statute permits official agencies to conduct official inspections at locations other than export ports. Statute permits only USDA and authorized state agencies to conduct official inspections and weighing at export ports.

H.R. 7567 would require grain inspection advisory committee members who have completed two successive terms to continue serving on completion of their second term until the Secretary appoints a new member of the committee. S. 5526 would allow advisory committee members to continue serving on completion of their terms, including their second terms, until the Secretary appoints a new member of the committee. The Senate committee-reported bill would also require the Secretary to solicit advisory committee nominations prior to the end of current members' terms and announce the selection of new committee members within 180 days of the end of the solicitation period.

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would direct the Secretary to prioritize adoption of improved grain grading technology. H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 also would exempt costs associated with equipment and technology development from certain cost calculations. H.R. 7567 would authorize the Secretary to cooperate with official agencies when conducting research to improve grain grading. S. 5526 would authorize the Secretary to cooperate with authorized state and official agencies when conducting research to improve grain grading. H.R. 7567 would require the Secretary to publish certain data on December 1 of each year, instead of at the discretion of the Secretary, and make recommendations to improve grain grading and minimize costs for the federal government and the grain export industry. S. 5526 would require the Secretary—in consultation with authorized state agencies, official agencies, and the grain industry—to make recommendations to improve grain grading and minimize costs for the federal government and the grain export industry.

[84] For background on the U.S. Grain Standards Act (USGSA), see CRS Report R48577, *U.S. Grain Standards Act: Overview and Issues for Possible Reauthorization*.

[85] For a summary of the legislative history of the USGSA (P.L. 64-190; 39 Stat. 482, 7 U.S.C. §§71 et seq.), see CRS Report R48577, *U.S. Grain Standards Act: Overview and Issues for Possible Reauthorization*.

Other Miscellaneous Provisions

H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would expand fluid milk options that participating schools can offer in the School Breakfast Program. This change would extend, in statute, the recently enacted changes to National School Lunch Program milk options (the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act; P.L. 119-69) to the School Breakfast Program.[86] Both bills would reauthorize the U.S. Drought Monitor. In addition, the miscellaneous title of H.R. 7567 would amend the USDA farm loan program to include commercial fishing and fish processing for wild-caught fish and shellfish. S. 5526, in the credit title, not the miscellaneous title, would amend the farm loan program to include commercial fishing. Additionally, H.R. 7567 and S. 5526 would establish a cost-share grant program to retrofit tractors with rollover protection structures.

The following provisions were included in H.R. 7567 and not S. 5526. H.R. 7567 would amend the requirement for USDA to establish a Commission on Farm Transitions (which has not been established) such that USDA would be required to establish this commission within 60 days of enactment. The bill would require the Commission on Farm Transitions to expand the required study to include information on heirs' property, barriers for historically underserved and women farmers, and land ownership trends.[87] The bill also would extend the commission's termination date to September 30, 2031. H.R. 7567 would impose several USDA reporting requirements on the following topics: USDA personnel, land access and ownership, authorities to address Texas and Arizona economic losses "due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water," opportunities for enhancing pet protections, risk management programs for lamb producers, precision agriculture satellite connectivity, and certified organic farmers' access to USDA programs. H.R. 7567 also would require USDA to provide guidance on the process for importers to obtain information on imported products that were detained or denied entry under the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. §§3371-3378). H.R. 7567 would require USDA to coordinate with the Food and Drug Administration and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to create a definition of honey and require USDA to establish specific testing standards for honey.

The following provisions were included in S. 5526 and not H.R. 7567. S. 5526 would define *natural cheese* and define a *zootechnical animal food substance* and deem it a food additive. S. 5526 would amend mandatory country of origin labeling requirements for certain seafood and beef commodities for certain retail establishments. S. 5526 also would require USDA to study expanding seafood processing capacity. S. 5526 includes a provision that would establish a Commission on Rural Maternal Health. The commission would be tasked with studying issues impacting rural maternal health, such as access to and availability of providers and services and best practices to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes in rural areas.

[86] USDA has extended the milk options changes to the School Breakfast Program through rulemaking (USDA, Food and Nutrition Service, "Expanding Fluid Milk Options in Child Nutrition Programs," 91 *Federal Register* 25073, May 8, 2026).

[87] In the 2018 farm bill, Congress required USDA to establish a Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 and tasked the commission to conduct a study on issues affecting the transition of agricultural operations from established farmers and ranchers to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. To date, the commission has not been established, and the required study has not been completed.

Table 15. Title XII, Miscellaneous

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Animal disease prevention and management. Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA; P.L. 107-171) contains provisions to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests to protect animal health. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 farm bill; P.L. 115-334) established the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program (NADPRP) and the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank (NAVVCB) and increased funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). These programs receive funding from mandatory and discretionary appropriations as authorized through FY2026. Entities receiving funding from NADPRP can spend 10% of the funds on administrative costs incurred. **(7 U.S.C. §8308a; P.L. 119-37)**	**Animal disease prevention and management.** Adds "improving animal disease traceability" to the list of program activities for NADPRP. Extends the authorization of appropriations for NADPRP, NAVVCB, and NAHLN through FY2031. Limits administrative costs at 15% of NAHLN and NADPRP funding. **(§12001)**	**Animal disease prevention and management.** Like the House-passed bill, adds "improving animal disease traceability" to the list of program activities for NADPRP; extends the authorization of appropriations for NADPRP, NAVVCB, and NAHLN through FY2031; and limits administrative costs at 15% of NAHLN and NADPRP funding. Expands NAVVCB to maintain vaccines and veterinary countermeasures to livestock pests. Increases and extends the authorization of appropriations from $30 million to $45 million for NAHLN. **(§12102)**
No comparable provision.	**Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program review and report.** Requires USDA to contract with an eligible institution to evaluate the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program, including the program's effectiveness and burden of compliance for cattle producers, and to produce a report within one year of enactment to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] with review evaluation results and recommendations to improve the program. For these activities, USDA is to use funds made available for the agricultural and food policy research centers under §1419A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. **(§12002)**	**Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program review and report.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12611)**
National Detector Dog Training Center. Authorizes USDA to establish and operate a National Detector Dog Training Center to train dogs and handlers to detect invasive pests and diseases, collaborate with federal and nonfederal partners, ensure the welfare of the dogs under the care of the center, and safeguard	**Additional training facilities for National Detector Dog Training Center.** Authorizes USDA to establish additional dog training facilities with the same duties as the National Detector Dog Training Center and to enter into cooperative agreements with state departments of agriculture to establish an off-site training	**Additional training facilities.** Authorizes USDA to establish additional dog training facilities with the same duties as the National Detector Dog Training Center and to enter into cooperative agreements with state departments of agriculture to establish an off-site training program to provide dog training and associated technical

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases. **(7 U.S.C. §2279l)**	program to provide dog training and associated technical assistance. Requires consideration of international port locations, passenger and cargo volume, and regional agricultural production trends and associated pest and disease threats when determining the need for additional facilities. **(§12003)**	assistance. Requires consideration of international port locations, passenger and cargo volume, and regional agricultural production trends and associated pest and disease threats when determining the need for additional facilities. Authorizes appropriations of $15 million annually through FY2031. **(§12105)**
Exportation. The Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA; P.L. 107-171) authorizes USDA to take certain measures on the exportation of animals in response to disease threats such a restrict the export of livestock to prevent the spread of a pest or disease within the United States or abroad. In addition, USDA is authorized to certify the health of U.S. livestock animals and animal products intended for export. **(7 U.S.C. §8304)** **Cooperation.** The AHPA authorizes USDA to cooperate with other federal agencies, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments of foreign countries, local governments of foreign countries, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, Indian Tribes, and other persons to care out the provisions under the AHPA. In general, the Department of Agriculture is lead agency with respect to issues related to pests and diseases of livestock.**7 U.S.C. §8310)**	**Regionalization, zoning, and compartmentalization agreements.** Amends 7 U.S.C. §8304 to authorize USDA, in consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), to negotiate in advance trade agreements with countries representing export markets for U.S. livestock animals or animal products. The agreements are to recognize regions, zones, or animal subpopulations as being free of disease in the event of an outbreak. States that this provision does not limit USTR's ability to negotiate trade agreements and does not require language relating to outbreaks of known animal disease threats be included in such agreements. **(§12004)**	**Engagement with Export Markets.** Substantively similar to the House provision except it amends 7 U.S.C. §8310, and it authorizes USDA to make such trade agreements for any animal, article, or associated means of conveyance from the United States, not just U.S. livestock or animal products. Does not include language about USDA consulting with USTR. **(§12103)**
No comparable provision.	**Importation of live dogs.** Adds a section to the AHPA that prohibits importation of a dog into the United States unless, prior to transport, USDA receives the required electronic documentation demonstrating the dog's health status, vaccinations and parasite treatment, negative test results, and permanent identification. Requires that dogs meet a minimum age for transfer and applicants obtain an import permit. Provides enforcement authority and	**Importation of live dogs.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that it requires USDA to annually submit a report to Congress and make dog importation data publicly available. Unlike the House provision, it does not include a definition of transition period. **(§12602)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	penalties. Defines *compensation*, *importer*, *import transporter*, *transfer,* and *transition period.* Directs USDA to promulgate implementing regulations within 18 months of enactment and establishes a transition period. Repeals §18 of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA; P.L. 89-544; 7 U.S.C. §§2131-2159), concerning live dog importation, with conforming amendments. **(§12005)**	
No comparable provision.	**Ensuring the free movement of livestock-derived products in interstate commerce.** Prohibits states and subdivisions from enacting or enforcing a production standard as a condition for sale or consumption on products derived from livestock not physically raised in such state or subdivision. Does not cover egg-laying poultry. "Production" does not include the movement, harvesting, or further processing of livestock. **(§12006)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Report on support for livestock and poultry producers during a foreign animal disease outbreak.** Requires USDA, within six months of enactment, to provide a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on USDA's ability to protect producers from significant economic losses in the event of a foreign animal disease event and make recommendations to improve its programming and capacity to deliver such assistance. **(§12007)**	**Report on support for livestock and poultry producers during a foreign animal disease outbreak.** Substantively similar to the House-passed bill, except that it requires USDA to submit the report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] within 180 days of enactment. **(§12104)**
No comparable provision.	**Protection of greyhounds.** Amends the AWA (7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) to prohibit any person from knowingly engaging in commercial greyhound racing involving interstate or foreign commerce; conducting commercial greyhound racing or racing meetings involving betting or wagering; engaging in or facilitating interstate or foreign simulcast betting on greyhound races; and knowingly selling, buying, possessing, training, transporting, delivering, or receiving greyhounds for use in commercial racing. Defines *commercial greyhound racing* and *simulcast*; authorizes	No comparable provision.

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
	investigations by the Secretary with assistance from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; establishes penalties, including fines and imprisonment of up to seven years per violation; applies the prohibitions beginning October 1, 2027; and preserves state gambling and animal welfare laws as well as the relationship between the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978 and other federal laws. **(§12008)**	
Animal fighting venture prohibition. Authorizes USDA to create regulations to enforce the law and set standards for the humane treatment of certain animals. **(7 U.S.C. §2156)**	**Animal fighting.** Amends the AWA to make it unlawful to sponsor or exhibit animals in fighting ventures and to allow minors under 16 to attend or gamble on animal fighting events, including in-person and broadcast events. Removes the requirement that the animal fighting venture involve animals moved in interstate or foreign commerce for purposes of the sponsoring or exhibiting prohibition. **(§12009)**	No comparable provision.
Humane standards for animals by U.S. Government facilities. Requires all federal departments and agencies operating laboratory animal facilities to comply with AWA standards and requirements issued by USDA. (**7 U.S.C. §2144).**	**Placement of animals used in Federal research.** Requires federal research facilities to develop policies facilitating the adoption or non-laboratory placement of certain animals no longer needed for research, including dogs, cats, nonhuman primates, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters, when deemed suitable for release by a veterinarian. Establishes definitions and standards for *eligible placement entities*. **(§12010)**	No comparable provision.
Packers and stockyards. The Packers and Stockyards Act (P&S Act) regulates marketing and competition in the livestock industry. P&S Act regulations prohibit livestock marketing agencies from having ownership and management interests in packing facilities. **(7 U.S.C. §§181 et seq.; 9 C.F.R. §201.67)**	**Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A-PLUS).** Requires USDA to promulgate regulations allowing a livestock marketing agency to own, finance, or manage a packer (e.g., slaughterhouse, wholesaler, or meat processing facility), so long as the packer's daily or annual animal processing capacity is below certain thresholds. Requires livestock marketing agencies to disclose business interests in a packer to livestock sellers. **(§12111)**	**Allowed interest of livestock auction owners in meatpacking businesses.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12106)**

Current Law/Policy	House-Passed H.R. 7567	Senate Committee-Reported S. 5526
Meat inspection. The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA; P.L. 90-201) and Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA; P.L. 85-172) require that all meat and poultry sold commercially be inspected and passed to ensure that it is safe, wholesome, and properly labeled. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) is a system used to ensure food safety in meat and poultry facilities by identifying food safety hazards and controlling risks. HACCP regulations require each poultry and meat facility to have a HACCP plan. The regulations define *small meat and poultry establishments* as having 10-499 employees and *very small meat and poultry establishments* as having fewer than 10 employees or annual sales under $2.5 million.[b] **(21 U.S.C. §§601 et seq.; 21 U.S.C. §§451 et seq.; 9 C.F.R. Part 417)**	**Hazard analysis and critical control point guidance and resources for small and very small poultry and meat establishments.** Requires USDA to make publicly available scientific studies, guidelines, and model plans relating to the development of an HACCP plan for small and very small poultry and meat establishments no later than 18 months after enactment. Requires USDA, within two years, to publish a guidance document on requirements for developing an HACCP plan. **(§12112)**	**Hazard analysis and critical control point guidance and resources for small and very small poultry and meat establishments.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12107)**
Interstate shipment of meat and poultry inspected by federal and state agencies for certain small establishments. Authorizes approved state-inspected processing facilities to operate as federally inspected facilities, under certain conditions. **(21 U.S.C. §683; 21 U.S.C. §472)**	**Outreach on cooperative interstate shipment.** Requires USDA to conduct outreach to states with inspection programs and without participating establishments in each of FY2027-FY2031. Requires an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations that details outreach activities and results. **(§12113)**	**Outreach on cooperative interstate shipment.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12111)**
Exemptions from inspection requirements. FMIA exempts livestock slaughter inspection for meat products intended for personal consumption. **(21 U.S.C. §623)**	**Pilot program to support custom slaughter establishments.** Establishes a pilot program run by state departments of agriculture that allows custom exempt slaughter facilities, or owners of livestock harvested at such facilities, to sell meat products directly to in-state consumers. If the state departments of agriculture choose not to establish a program, then USDA is to establish a program. Requires state departments of agriculture to send an annual report to USDA on the number of participating facilities and any instance of adulterated meat products. Requires USDA, within 90 days of enactment, to issue	No comparable provision.

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	guidance and, within two years, to submit a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] that details participation rates, outcomes, and information provided by the state departments of agriculture. Sunsets the pilot program on September 30, 2031. **(§12114)**	
Restriction on importation or entry. The AHPA authorizes USDA to prohibit or restrict the importation or entry of any animal, article, or means of conveyance, or use of any means of conveyance or facility, if USDA determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into or dissemination within the United States of any pest or disease of livestock. **(7 U.S.C. §8303)**	No comparable provision.	**Animal importation inspections.** Amends the AHPA to authorize USDA to promulgate regulations that permit a qualified veterinarian employed by or in contract with USDA to conduct inspections relating to restrictions on import and entry of any animal, article, or means of conveyance or use of any means of conveyance or facility. Directs USDA to prioritize inspections by qualified veterinarians in regions that do not have APHIS veterinary medical officers available. Defines a *qualified veterinarian* for the purpose of this section as an individual with the appropriate training and credentials as determined by USDA. **(§12101)**
National poultry improvement plan. Requires USDA to administer diagnostic surveillance for certain strains of avian influenza in commercial poultry and maintain a General Conference Committee. The General Conference Committee serves as an official advisory committee for problems relating to poultry health, among other responsibilities and duties. **(7 U.S.C. §8308, Statutory Notes; 9 C.F.R §147.43)**	No comparable provision.	**National poultry improvement plan.** Requires USDA to maintain National Poultry Improvement Plans as detailed in regulations for the National Poultry Improvement Plan for Breeding Poultry (9 C.F.R. Part 145) and the National Poultry Improvement Plan for Commercial Poultry (9 C.F.R. Part 146) and supplemental provisions in 9 C.F.R Part 147. Requires USDA to maintain a General Conference Committee in accordance with duties and responsibilities detailed in 9 C.F.R Part 147 and federal advisory committee laws. Authorizes USDA to promulgate successor regulations for National Poultry Improvement Plans. Provides an authorization of appropriations for $1.5 million per year for FY2027-FY2031. Exempts expenses of the General Conference Committee from general limitations on expenses of advisory committees in any act providing appropriations to USDA unless said appropriations act names this subsection or the

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		General Conference Committee. **(§12108)**
Cooperation. The AHPA authorizes USDA to cooperate with other entities, including states and domestic organizations and associations. USDA used this authority to establish the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) pilot program. Participants in the program can receive certifications for monitoring African swine fever and classic swine fever. In addition, the program is responsible for identifying biosecurity best practices and establishing swine health production standards. **(7 U.S.C. §12108)**	No comparable provision.	**U.S. swine health improvement plan.** Requires USDA to establish and maintain SHIP as a voluntary certification program to improve biosecurity, traceability, disease surveillance, and foreign animal disease preparedness of the swine industry. Requires USDA to establish a federal advisory committee that is to provide recommendations for administering SHIP. Requires USDA to establish SHIP and the federal advisory committee and finalize the proposed SHIP rule (89 *Federal Register* 107045, December 31, 2024) within one year following enactment. Provides authorization of appropriations of $4.5 million per year for fiscal years 2027-2031. Exempts expenses of the federal advisory committee from general advisory committee limitations in any act providing appropriations to USDA unless said appropriations act names this subsection or the federal advisory committee. **(§12109)**
Retail exemptions from federal inspection. FMIA and PPIA provide retail exemptions from federal inspection for establishments subject to state meat and poultry inspection that are at least equal to federal requirements. **(21 U.S.C. §§661(c)(2), 464(a))**	No comparable provision.	**Interstate internet sales of certain State inspected meat and poultry** Amends FMIA and PPIA to include interstate internet sales within the retail exemptions from federal inspection for establishments subject to state inspection that are at least equal to federal requirements. **(§12110)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Livestock and meat marketing study.** Requires USDA's Office of the Chief Economist to enter into a contract with an independent, nonpartisan research institute; a land-grant college or university; or a non-land-grant college of agriculture to carry out a study on packer concentration similar to the study funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (P.L. 108-7). Requires the report to include analyses of production trends and marketing practices in the livestock and meat industries and how different marketing practices affect industry

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		participants, including consumers. Requires USDA to submit the report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction within two years of enactment. Provides an authorization of appropriations of $3 million. **(§12112)**
Country of origin labeling definition. Defines *covered commodities* for purposes of requiring certain retailers to inform consumers the country of origin of certain covered commodities (i.e., ground and muscle cuts of lamb and venison, farm-raised and wild fish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, peanuts, goat meat, chicken meat, ginseng, pecans, and macadamia nuts). Mandatory country of origin labeling for covered commodities excludes the above-mentioned items if it is an "ingredient in a processed food item." **(7 U.S.C. §1638)**	No comparable provision.	**Country of origin labeling for beef.** Adds muscle cuts or ground beef (i.e., meat produced from cattle including veal) as covered commodities under mandatory country of origin labeling requirements. **(§12113(a))**
Notice of country of origin. Retailers may designate the covered meat commodities of lamb, chicken, goat, or venison meat as exclusively as having a U.S. country of origin only if it is derived from an animal that was either exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States; born and raised in Alaska or Hawaii and transported no more than 60 days through Canada to the United States for slaughter; or present in the United States on or before July 15, 2008 and remained continuously in the United States. Retailers may designate the covered meat commodities with multiple countries of origin to be labeled with all of the countries in which the animal may have been born, raised, or slaughtered. A retailer must designate covered meat commodities from animals imported for immediate slaughter in the United States to be labeled with the country from which the animal was imported and the United States. A retailer must designate covered meat commodities from animals not born, raised, or slaughtered in the United States to be labeled with the country of	No comparable provision.	**Country of origin labeling for beef.** Adds beef or ground beef as a covered meat commodity to be designated by retailers. **(§12113(b))**

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origin other than the United States. Ground meat of covered commodities must list all countries of origin or all reasonably possible countries of origin. **(7 U.S.C. §1638a(a)(2))**		
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Country of origin labeling for beef.** Requires USTR, in consultation with USDA, to determine within 180 days of enactment a means of reinstating mandatory country of origin labeling that is compliant with WTO rules for beef in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section. Requires USTR and USDA to implement mandatory country of origin labeling for beef no later than one year after enactment. Subsections (a) and (b) are to take effect on the earlier date of either USDA publishing a determination in the *Federal Register* of implementing mandatory country of origin labeling that complies with WTO rules or one year after enactment. **(§12113(c))**
Office of Homeland Security (OHS). Establishes OHS at USDA, which works on issues including homeland security, emergency management, and agriculture and food defense. **(7 U.S.C. §6922)**	**Office of Homeland Security.** Amends OHS duties to include annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises. Authorizes USDA to detail employees to and accept detailed employees from the intelligence community to carry out the duties of OHS. Requires OHS to conduct risk assessments on vulnerabilities of critical food and agriculture infrastructure and report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs no later than 180 days after the completion of risk assessments with specific guidelines. **(§12201)**	**Office of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture.** Defines *food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector* to include any physical infrastructure, energy production, or land associated with the production and agricultural supply chain. Defines *intelligence community* according to the definition in the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. §3003). Adds to the duties of OHS, such as informing the Secretary of potential threats by foreign actors in the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector, serving as the liaison between USDA and the intelligence community, coordinating with the Farm Service Agency to monitor compliance with reporting requirements under the Agricultural Foreign Disclosure Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. §§3501 et seq.), and referring transactions that raise potential national security concerns to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). Like the House-passed bill, authorizes USDA to detail employees to and accept detailed

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		employees from the intelligence community to carry out the duties of OHS. **(§12207)**
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagements (OPPE). Authorizes appropriations of $2 million annually for the functions of OPPE through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §6934(f)(3)(b); P.L. 119-37)**	**Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels to carry out the functions of OPPE through FY2031. **(§12202)**	No comparable provision.
National Appeals Division (NAD). The burden of proof for NAD hearings requires those seeking appeals to prove in their appeal that an agency's adverse decision is erroneous. **(7 U.S.C. §6997(c)(4))**	**Burden of proof for national appeals division hearings.** Amends the burden of proof provision for NAD hearings to require the agency to prove by substantial evidence that an adverse decision is valid. **(§12203)**	No comparable provision.
Termination of Authority. Terminates USDA authority to reorganize USDA pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (1994 USDA Reorganization Act; P.L. 103-354) two years after enactment. Lists functions that are not affected by the two-year termination date, including reorganization amendments made by the 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334). **(7 U.S.C. §7014)**	**Termination of authority.** Grants USDA the authorities of the 1994 USDA Reorganization Act (P.L. 103-354) to carry out the amendments to P.L. 103-354 in the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 beyond the two-year termination date specified in 7 U.S.C. §7014. **(§12204)**	No comparable provision.
Office of Tribal Relations. Establishes the USDA Office of Tribal Relations and authorizes it to advise the Secretary of Agriculture on policies related to Indian Tribes and to carry out other functions as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. **(7 U.S.C. §6921)**	**Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations.** Expands the duties of the Office of Tribal Relations to include overseeing self-determination contracts between USDA and tribal organizations and self-governance compacts between USDA and Indian Tribes. **(§12205)**	No comparable provision.
No directly comparable provision. **The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978** (AFIDA; P.L. 95-460) requires foreign persons who acquire or transfer agricultural land to disclose the transaction to USDA, which tracks and reports these data. **(7 U.S.C. §§3501-3508)**	**Agricultural foreign investment disclosure improvements.** Defines relevant terms for the section. Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into one or more memoranda of understanding (MOU) with CFIUS and to provide CFIUS with information about foreign ownership of U.S. agricultural land submitted to USDA under AFIDA. Requires USDA to make specific updates to the AFIDA handbook within 2 years of enactment, with subsequent updates every 10 years. **(§§12301(a), (b), and (c))**	No comparable provision**.**

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Civil penalty. Pursuant to AFIDA, imposes civil penalties on individuals who fail to submit a report, submit a report without all the required information, or submit a report with misleading or false information. Gives USDA discretion on the penalty amount, but the amount shall not exceed 25% of the fair market value of the land. **(7 U.S.C. §3502)**	**Agricultural foreign investment disclosure improvements.** Authorizes any civil penalty imposed by USDA to be recoverable. Amends the civil penalty amount to reflect the type of infraction. Requires USDA to publicly disclose the names of individuals who paid a civil penalty. Requires USDA to conduct outreach to relevant stakeholders on the reporting requirements of AFIDA. **(§§12301(d), (e), and (f))**	**Civil Penalties.** Requires USDA to issue a civil penalty if the Secretary determines that an individual has failed to submit required reports, knowingly submitted a report that contains misleading or false information or that is incomplete, or failed to submit updates to reports that are no longer accurate. Like the House-passed bill, amends the civil penalty amount to reflect the type of infraction. Makes civil penalties available to be expended by USDA to enforce AFIDA. Authorizes USDA to "place a lien on the agricultural land with respect to which the violation that is the subject of the penalty occurred," which may be released on payment of the penalty. Requires USDA to publicly disclose the names of individuals who paid a civil penalty, penalty amounts, and the reason for the penalty. **(§12203)**
Report to Congress on Foreign Investments in Agricultural Land in the United States; Required Report. Requires USDA to submit reports to Congress on foreign ownership and investments in U.S. agricultural land. **(7 U.S.C. §3501 note)**	**Report on agricultural land purchasing activities in the United States by countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and certain other countries.** Requires USDA to annually report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Intelligence, the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on potential national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons from a covered foreign country (defined in 42 U.S.C. §19237). The report is to include an analysis of possible threats to U.S. food security, safety, biosecurity, or environmental protection. Provides definitions for terms such as *agricultural land*, *covered foreign country*, *covered foreign person,* and *state sponsor of terrorism*. **(§12302)**	**Definitions; organization updates.** Repeals 7 U.S.C. §3501 note. (**§12201(b)(3)**) **Secretarial Reports.** Requires USDA to submit a publicly available annual report to Congress that contains a description of foreign agricultural land holdings by state; the percentage of land owned or managed by foreign persons compared with the total acreage in the state; the activities carried out by USDA with respect to AFIDA; the intended and unintended misrepresentation of foreign ownership in any annual reports by USDA due to inaccurate reporting of foreign holdings; and any actions carried out by USDA to monitor errors in AFIDA reporting that would result in violations of law or the assessment of a civil penalty. Requires USDA to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information in the report. Requires USDA to conduct an annual analysis jointly with the Department of Homeland Security and any other appropriate agency that analyzes foreign influence in the U.S. agriculture sector. Requires an

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		annual report to Congress that contains a summary of foreign investments in the U.S. agriculture sector and trends relating to the purchases of agricultural land in the United States by foreign-owned shell corporations, among other information. Requires USDA, in coordination with other federal agencies, to submit a report to Congress on the progress of USDA in implementing the amendments of S. 5526, the feasibility of establishing a mechanism for quantifying potential threats to the United States from foreign persons, and the feasibility of establishing a discovery and review process to review transactions described in the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. §4565(a)(4)(B)) for referral to CFIUS. **(§12206)**
Investigative actions. Authorizes USDA to take necessary action to monitor compliance with the reporting requirements in AFIDA. Authorizes USDA to determine whether all information submitted under AFIDA is accurate and reveals the ownership interest of all foreign persons who are required to submit a report. **(7 U.S.C. §3503)**	**Investigative actions.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to appoint a Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions. The chief of operations is to hire, appoint, and maintain additional employees to monitor compliance, conduct investigations, and conduct an annual audit of available data, among other tasks. The chief of operations is to coordinate investigations with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Treasury, the National Security Council, and state and local law enforcement agencies. The chief of operations is required to refer to CFIUS transactions that raise national security concerns or are associated with a *foreign entity of concern* (as defined by 15 U.S.C. §4651). **(§12303)**	**Investigative actions.** Requires USDA to perform an annual compliance audit on not less than 10% of reports submitted during the year for completeness and accuracy. Requires USDA to provide annual training to state and county level personnel for the identification of agricultural land for which reporting is required and has been submitted. Like provision **§12301(f)** of the House-passed bill, it requires USDA to conduct nationwide outreach to relevant stakeholders to increase public awareness and education regarding the reporting requirements under AFIDA. **(§12204)**
Public Inspection. Requires that any report submitted under AFIDA is available for public inspection not later than 10 days after receiving the report. **(7 U.S.C. §3506)** **Report to Congress on foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States; Database.** Requires USDA to develop a	**Digitization and consolidation of foreign land ownership data collection and publication.** Requires USDA, not later than three years after enactment, to establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures in a database to include each registration or	**Public Inspection.** Amends AFIDA to require USDA to establish within two years of enactment a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of submitted reports. Also requires USDA to establish an internet database that contains information from such reports, such

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streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures under AFIDA. **(7 U.S.C. §3501 note)**	updated registration of agricultural land owned or leased by a foreign person. Requires an audit from the chief of operations (created in §12303 of H.R. 7567) and a report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Senate Committee on Intelligence, the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on the accuracy of the database and recommendations to improve compliance with AFIDA reporting. Repeals data reporting requirements at 7 U.S.C. §3501 note from P.L. 117-328. **(§12304)**	as a description of the purchase or lease price paid for the land, updated estimated values of the land based on recently assessed value, descriptions of foreign persons who hold interest in the agricultural land, and any other relevant information. Requires that information is updated with data from submitted reports as soon as practicable after 30 days following the date of receipt. Requires USDA to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information contained in submitted reports. **(§12205)**
Membership and activities of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). Establishes the authorities of CFIUS to review certain foreign investments with regard to potential U.S. national security risks. **(50 U.S.C. §4565)** The Secretary of Agriculture is not specified in CFIUS membership; CFIUS is authorized to include as a member any department or agency that the President determines appropriate, generally or on a case-by-case basis. **(50 U.S.C. §4565(k)(2))** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to be included as a member of CFIUS on a case-by-case basis pursuant to 50 U.S.C. §4565(k)(2)(J) for certain transactions involving agriculture. **(P.L. 119-37, Title VII, §739)**	**CFIUS consideration of certain agricultural land transactions.** Amends the authorities of CFIUS to require that the Secretary of Agriculture be a circumscribed member of CFIUS[c] with respect to a covered transaction that involves agricultural land, agriculture biotechnology, or the agriculture industry. **(§12305(a))**	No comparable provision.
Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to notify CFIUS of any agricultural land transactions that may pose a risk to U.S. national security, particularly those involving interests in agricultural land by foreign governments or entities of concern (as defined in 42 U.S.C. §19221(a)), including China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran. **(P.L. 119-37, Title VII, §739)**	**CFIUS consideration of certain agricultural land transactions.** Amends 50 U.S.C. §4565(b)(1) to require CFIUS, after receiving notification from the Secretary of Agriculture of a reportable agricultural land transaction, to determine whether the transaction is a covered transaction under CFIUS jurisdiction and whether to initiate CFIUS review or take other action. Defines *reportable agricultural land transaction* to include acquisitions of agricultural land by a	No comparable provision.

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	foreign person of China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran, as well as those subject to AFIDA requirements. **(§12305(b))**	
No comparable provision.	**Prohibition on purchase of agricultural land by foreign adversaries and state sponsors of terrorism.** Requires the President to direct the heads of federal departments and agencies to promulgate rules and regulations to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land in the United States by agents or those affiliated with foreign adversaries or state sponsors of terrorism. Defines relevant terms for the section. **(§12306)**	No comparable provision.
Definitions. Provides definitions of 6 terms for AFIDA, including *agricultural land*, *foreign government*, and *foreign person*. **(7 U.S.C. §3508)**	No comparable provision.	**Definitions; Organizational Updates.** Provides technical edits to the definitions in 7 U.S.C. §3508. Replaces the phrase "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands" with "a party to a Compact of Free Association with the United States" throughout the section. **(§12201)**
Reporting requirements. Requires any foreign person who acquires or transfers interest (other than a security interest) in agricultural land to submit a report to USDA. Details the required information in the report, and additional reporting requirements for different transaction types. **(7 U.S.C. §3501)** Provides that leaseholds of less than 10 years are exempt from AFIDA reporting requirements. **(7 C.F.R. §781.2)**	No comparable provision.	**Reporting requirements.** Amends the type of transaction requiring reporting to include leased land to conform with USDA regulations in 7 C.F.R. Part 781. Removes references to the exception language of "other than a security interest." Changes the exemption from reporting requirements to leases of less than five years. Removes 7 U.S.C. §3501(b), which contains the reporting requirements for foreign persons who held agricultural land at the time of enactment of AFIDA. Requires a foreign person who acquires agricultural land that subsequently ceases to be agricultural land to submit a report to USDA within 90 days of the land ceasing to be agricultural land. **(§12202)**

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No direct comparable provision. The Executive Director of the USDA Office of Homeland Security can conduct exercises, share information, and work with federal agencies to develop all-threat intelligence. **(7 U.S.C. §6922)**	No comparable provision.	**Assessment of cybersecurity threats and security vulnerabilities in the agricultural and food critical infrastructure sector.** Requires the Secretary of Agriculture to work with federal and state governments on cybersecurity risk assessments for the food and agriculture sector, conduct cybersecurity exercises, and engage industry in assessments and exercises. Directs the Secretary to submit a report on each risk assessment to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the House Committee on Agriculture; and the House Committee on Homeland Security. **(§12208)**
Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050. Requires the establishment of the Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050 to conduct a study on issues affecting the transition of agricultural operations from established farmers and ranchers to the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Requires the commission to provide a report to the President and the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] The commission has not been established to date. (**P.L. 115-334, §12609)**	**Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050.** Requires USDA to establish the Commission on Farm Transitions within 60 days of enactment. Expands the commission's study to include issues affecting farm succession, including heirs' property, barriers for historically underserved and women farmers, and land ownership trends. Extends the commission's termination date to September 30, 2031. **(§12401)**	No comparable provision.
Report on personnel. Requires USDA to provide the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] biannual reports describing the number of staff years and employees at each USDA agency in FY2019-FY2026. **(P.L. 115-334, §12506; P.L. 119-37)**	**Report on personnel.** Extends the reporting requirement through FY2031. **(§12402)**	No comparable provision.
Improvements to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Authorizes appropriations of $5 million annually through FY2026 for the U.S. Drought Monitor, a collaboration between USDA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-	**Improvements to United States Drought Monitor.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§12403)**	**Improvements to United States Drought Monitor.** Identical to the House provision. **(§12615)**

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Lincoln. Maps and data are released weekly. The drought monitor is used to determine drought relief for certain USDA programs. **(7 U.S.C. §5856; P.L. 119-37)**		
Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection. Requires USDA to submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] and make publicly available a report that identifies the barriers to entry for beginning farmers and socially disadvantaged farmers in acquiring farmland, the extent to which specified USDA programs aid these farmers in farmland access, and recommendations to improve access to these farmers. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026 for this section. **(7 U.S.C. §2204i; P.L. 119-37)**	**Reports on land access and farmland ownership data collection.** Amends §12607 of the 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) and adds requirements for USDA to update on a biennial basis a report identifying barriers to farmland access and evaluating federal programs supporting beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers. Requires USDA to expand reporting to include a catalog of federal, state, and private programs that facilitate access to land, capital, and markets, including land acquisition assistance, financing, down payment support, title clarification, land improvements, infrastructure, legal and planning services, and related activities. Requires continued reporting. Requires USDA to provide the report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] Reauthorizes appropriations at the current level through FY2031. **(§12404)**	No comparable provision.
Lacey Act. The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (Lacey Act; P.L. 97-79), as amended, prohibit the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, receipt, acquisition, or purchase of any fish or wildlife or plant taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of any law, treaty, or regulation of the United States or any Indian tribal law or foreign law. **(16 U.S.C. §§3371-3378)**	**Increasing transparency regarding detention of imported plants.** Requires USDA, within 180 days of enactment, to issue guidance in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that clarifies the process for importers to obtain information on why their plants were denied entry and detained under the Lacey Act (P.L. 97-79). Requires USDA to provide detained plant importers with specific reasons for detention, the detention date, the expected duration of detention, details of tests or inquiries to be conducted (which the importer can replicate), and information that could expedite the resolution of the detention. **(§12405)**	No comparable provision.

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No comparable provision.	**Enhancement of pet protections.** Requires USDA to, within two years of enactment, submit to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] a report evaluating enforcement, education, and capacity under the AWA and recommending improvements, including cost impacts. Specifies that "adequate veterinary care" includes visual and dental examinations when practicable. Defines *compensation*, *importer*, *import transporter*, and *transfer*. **(§12406)**	No comparable provision.
Emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program. Requires USDA to provide grants for emergency and transitional shelter options for domestic violence survivors with companion animals. Authorizes appropriations of $3 million annually through FY2026. **(34 U.S.C. §20127; (P.L. 119-37)**	**Protecting animals with shelter.** Reauthorizes appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§12407)**	**Protecting animals with shelter.** Identical to the House provision. **(§12601)**
No comparable provision.	**Report on available assistance to agricultural producers in the State of Texas that have suffered economic losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water.** Requires USDA to provide the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] within 180 days of enactment, a report containing all USDA authorities that could assist Texas agricultural producers that have suffered economic losses due to the "failure of Mexico to deliver water to the United States," in accordance with a 1944 treaty and supplemental protocol. **(§12408)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Qualified renewable biomass.** Defines the term *qualified renewable biomass* to include forest products manufacturing bioenergy feedstocks and forest biomass derived from residues created as a byproduct of timber harvesting. The term excludes paper that is commonly recycled. Requires USDA to consider qualified renewable biomass as a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission rate and carbon intensity of no	**Qualified renewable biomass.** Substantively similar to the House provision except that it excludes requiring USDA to consider assigning facilities using a qualified renewable biomass as fuel with a GHG emission rate and carbon intensity of no greater than zero. **(§12612)**

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	greater than zero, if the use of the qualified renewable biomass does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use. Requires USDA to establish guidance, no later than 180 days following enactment, for considering qualified renewable biomass as a renewable energy source and to consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Energy, and any other relevant entities. **(§12409)**	
Fluid milk. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and the School Breakfast Program (SBP) require participating schools to offer meals that (1) include fluid milk and (2) do not exceed saturated fat limits. The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-69) expands schools' milk options to include whole and reduced-fat (2%) in program-funded lunches (i.e., under the NSLP) and exempts milk from being counted toward a school meal's saturated fat limits. P.L. 119-69 did not amend SBP. In a May 8, 2026, interim final rule, USDA implemented P.L. 119-69 changes for NSLP and expanded milk flexibility for three other programs, including SBP. USDA cites the statutory provision requiring that school lunches and breakfasts are to be "consistent with the goals of the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans [DGAs]" and the 2025-2030 DGAs full-fat dairy recommendations. The interim final rule's effective date is June 8, 2026. **(42 U.S.C. §1758(a)(2); 42 U.S.C. §1758(f)(1); 7 C.F.R. §§210.10, 220.8; 91 *Federal Register* 25073, May 5, 2026)**	**Whole milk under the school breakfast program.** Extends, via statute, the fluid milk changes made by the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act to also apply to the SBP. **(§12410)**	**Whole milk under the school breakfast program.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12616)**
No comparable provision.	**Spotted lanternfly awareness campaign.** Requires USDA to carry out a national campaign to increase public awareness and knowledge of spotted lanternflies. Requires USDA to place public service announcements on television, radio, and billboards in areas with a high spotted lanternfly incidence rate to communicate the threat these invasive pests pose to	No comparable provision.

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	local agriculture and encourage individuals to kill the pest, if encountered. **(§12411)**	
No comparable provision.	**Rio Grande Valley agricultural water interagency working group.** Requires USDA, in coordination with other federal agencies, to form an interagency working group to coordinate federal efforts relating to water deliveries from Mexico under a 1944 treaty. The group is required to meet annually and provide annual reports to Congress on the economic impacts, diplomatic strategies, trade actions, and recommendations relating to water deliveries and their effects on agricultural production. **(§12412)**	No comparable provision.
No direct comparable provision. Certain agricultural and industrial tractors used in construction work are required to use protective frames (rollover protection structures) to minimize operator injury (**29 C.F.R. §1926.1002**)	**Cost-share grants for rollover protection structures.** Directs USDA to establish a Roll-Over Prevention and Safety (ROPS) Rebate Program by providing cost-share grants (generally up to 70%, with higher coverage for costs exceeding $500) to retrofit tractors with rollover protection structures. Authorizes appropriations of $725,000 annually for FY2027-FY2031, including $500,000 for grants and the rest for website promotion and upgrades, program administration, outreach, and a telephone hotline. **(§12413)**	**Cost-share grants for rollover protection structures.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12618)**
No comparable provision.	**Report on barriers to accessing Federal programs.** Requires USDA to submit a publicly available report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the potential barriers organic farms face in accessing federal programs. Requires the report to include the steps that USDA can take to reduce barriers without congressional action and the barriers that require further congressional action. **(§12414)**	**Study on barriers to participation in Department of Agriculture Programs faced by certified organic farms and farms interested in transitioning to organic production.** Similar to the House provision, it requires USDA to submit a publicly available report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on the potential barriers organic farms face in accessing federal programs and any recommendations that would require statutory changes. Requires the report to consider barriers for farms that may be interested in transitioning to organic production. Requires USDA to provide publicly available annual updates to the agriculture committees of

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		jurisdiction[a] that contain information such as the progress USDA has made in removing barriers. Requires the annual updates to be made each of the first three years following submission of the report. **(§10113)**
No comparable provision.	**Transparency of records of commodity boards.** Requires USDA to publish the information provided by the various commodity research and promotion programs (i.e., checkoff programs), including annual audit reports, the activities and budgets of each commodity board approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, and the results from the periodic independent evaluation from the prior 5 years within 180 days of enactment. Requires USDA to publish new information within 365 days after the start of the subsequent fiscal year. **(§12415)**	No comparable provision.
Identification of Honey. Requires a "Product of" or similar statement in close proximity to any claims of quality, mark, grade, or certifications on labels of packaged honey. Allows USDA to debar violators of this law with respect to honey. **(7 U.S.C. §1622(h)(6))**	**Honey Standards and Definitions.** Requires USDA to consult with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and CBP to establish a federal definition of *honey*. Requires that the consultation is conducted in coordination with domestic honey producers and land-grant colleges and universities with expertise in honey authenticity, quality, and related testing. Requires that the definition is used for enforcement of federal laws relating to the adulteration, mislabeling, and misbranding of honey. Directs USDA to cease consultation if FDA publishes a standard of identity for honey under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. §341). **(§12416)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Report on assistance available to agricultural producers in Arizona for certain losses.** Requires USDA to provide the agriculture committees of jurisdiction,[a] within 180 days of enactment, a report containing all USDA authorities that could assist Arizona agricultural producers that have suffered economic losses "due to the delivery of Colorado River waters to Mexico while Mexico	No comparable provision.

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	failed to deliver water to the United States," in accordance with a 1944 treaty and supplemental protocol. **(§12417)**	
No comparable provision.	**Precision agriculture satellite connectivity.** Directs the Federal Communications Commission to review rules relating to certain satellite services and whether changes could be made to promote precision agriculture. Requires recommendations on how to implement rule changes meeting the criteria. Requires that a report of the review results and recommendations is submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation within 15 months of enactment. **(§12418)**	No comparable provision.
No comparable provision.	**Establishment of Office of Seafood in the Department of Agriculture**. Establishes a USDA Office of Seafood to provide leadership, expertise, management, and advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on matters impacting the seafood industry. The office is responsible for coordinating across USDA to ensure that fishermen are integrated into USDA programs and working alongside counterparts in the Department of Commerce and other federal departments and agencies on seafood issues. **(§12419)**	**Establishment of Office of Seafood.** Establishes a USDA Office of Seafood to provide coordination within USDA and with other federal, state, local, and nongovernmental entities relating to the domestic seafood industry. The office is responsible for coordinating seafood activities across USDA and the federal government, such as strategic planning, economic analysis, trade analysis, and market opportunities and access for seafood producers. Directs the office to consult with relevant stakeholders who may be impacted by USDA actions. **(§12606)**
	Department of Agriculture loans and grants for commercial fishing and fish processing businesses. For more information, see §5216 in S. 5526. **(§12420)**	**Farm operating loans for commercial fishing.** For more information, see §5216 in S. 5526. **(§5216, Title V—Credit)**
No comparable provision.	**Honey testing standards.** Directs USDA to create requirements for sampling or analytical methods conducted by stakeholders in the honey supply chain to substantiate their claims that their product is honey or pure honey or other claims of purity, geographic origin, grade or authenticity. Requires that tests are	No comparable provision.

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	conducted in a laboratory or other qualified testing entity in the United States; conducted with methods approved by USDA; and not satisfied solely by foreign certificates, foreign government certification, or testing conducted outside the United States. **(§12421)**	
Nonroad engines and vehicles. Authorizes EPA to establish and enforce national emissions standards for nonroad engines and vehicles, including agricultural equipment. **(42 U.S.C. §7547)**	**Exemption of farm equipment from Clean Air Act emission standards.** Exempts certain agricultural equipment, such as tractors and self-propelled agricultural equipment used for spraying, fertilizing, or harvesting certain commodities, from the nonroad engines and vehicles emissions standards. **(§12422)**	No comparable provision.
Country of origin labeling definitions. Requires certain retailers to inform consumers the country of origin of certain *covered commodities* (i.e., muscle cuts of and ground lamb and venison, farm-raised and wild fish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, peanuts, goat meat, whole and in part chicken, ginseng, pecans, and macadamia nuts). Mandatory country of origin labeling for covered commodities excludes the above-mentioned items if it is an "ingredient in a processed food item." **(7 U.S.C. §1638)**	No comparable provision.	**Country of origin labeling for cooked king crab and tanner crab and cooked and canned salmon.** Adds cooked salmon, whole and sections of king crab and tanner crab, and canned salmon as covered commodities under mandatory country of origin labeling requirements. Prohibits exclusion of wild cooked salmon, whole and sections of king crab and tanner crab, and canned salmon from mandatory country of origin labeling requirements even if the product is an "ingredient in a processed food item." **(§12604)**
Method of notification. Retailers may provide consumers with mandatory country of origin labeling for covered commodities with labels, stamps, marks, placards, or other clear and visible signs or on the package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the covered commodity at the final point of sale to consumers. Retailers are not required to provide additional information if the covered commodity is already individually labeled with the country of origin for retail sale. **(7 U.S.C. §1638a(c))**	No comparable provision.	**Country of origin and method of production labeling for fish.** Requires information provided to consumers for the covered commodity of fish to be in a conspicuous location so the information is likely to be read and understood by a consumer under normal conditions of purchase in a font size not smaller than the font size describing the fish on the package, display, holding unit, or bin; the designation of country of origin and designation of wild fish or farm-raised fish must be combined and not separate; and labeling must be located on the front of package if the fish is in a consumer package. These requirements are to take effect one year after enactment. **(§12605)**

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No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Office of Small Farms.** Requires USDA to create an Office of Small Farms within the Farm Production and Conservation mission area. Defines a *small farm, ranch, or forest operation* as an operation that has less than 180 acres or meets another acreage-based definition by USDA and has an annual gross cash income of less than $350,000. Sets the duties of the office to include coordinating support efforts for small operations and reviewing USDA programs and policies to ensure they assist small operations. Directs USDA to implement grant programs that provide a maximum of $25,000 to small operations for purposes such as equipment and infrastructure repairs and upgrades and uninsured losses. Requires USDA to submit an annual report to the agriculture committees of jurisdiction[a] on departmental efforts to enhance participation of small operations in USDA programs and the results achieved by this participation. Authorizes $15 million in annual appropriations for the administration of the office and $10 million annually for technical assistance and grants to small operations for FY2027-FY2031. **(§12608)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Study and report on expanding seafood processing capacity.** Requires USDA, in consultation with the Department of Commerce and FDA, to study opportunities to expand domestic processing of U.S.-caught seafood in coastal communities. Requires an evaluation of federal and state programs that could support expanded seafood processing, including recommendations to improve seafood producers' access to those programs. Requires USDA to submit the report to Congress and make it publicly available within 180 days of enactment. **(§12607)**

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Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA, **21 U.S.C. §§301 et seq.**) defines terms such as *food additive* and *misbranded food*. FDA must issue a regulation allowing the use of a food additive and prescribing safe conditions of its use before the additive may be used in food **(21 U.S.C. §§321, 348).** A food is considered misbranded if its label is false or misleading or lacks required information, among other things. **(21 U.S.C. §343)**	No comparable provision.	**Innovative feed enhancement.** Amends the FFDCA to define *zootechnical animal food substance* as a substance added to animal food or water that is intended to affect certain digestive processes for food animals, including reducing foodborne pathogens. Zootechnical animal food substances would be regulated as food additives, and foods containing zootechnical animal food substances would be considered misbranded unless certain labeling requirements were met. The definition does not include substances that are used to treat or prevent diseases in animals, hormones, or active ingredients in animal drugs. **(§12609)**
	Promoting precision agriculture. For more information, see §6302 in the House-passed bill. **(§6302, Title VI—Rural Development)**	**Promoting precision agriculture.** For more information, see §6302 in the House-passed bill. **(§12613)**
Farming opportunities training and outreach. The 2018 farm bill (P.L. 115-334) merged two USDA grant programs for beginning, veteran, and socially disadvantaged producers. Provides mandatory CCC funding of $50 million annually. Authorizes appropriations of $50 million annually through FY2026. **(7 U.S.C. §2279; P.L. 119-37)**	**Farming opportunities training and outreach.** Authorizes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture director to expand support for training in budgeting, business planning, and financial management to strengthen the long-term economic viability of beginning farmers and ranchers. Reauthorizes program authority and appropriations at current levels through FY2031. **(§7210)**	**Farming opportunities training and outreach.** Reauthorizes program authority through FY2031 for the portion of the program serving socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers. **(§12614)**
	Dairy business innovation initiatives. For more information, see §1015 in the House-passed bill. **(§1015, Title I—Commodities)**	**Dairy business innovation initiatives.** For more information, see §1015 in the House-passed bill. **(§12603)**
Declaration of policy. Declares the policy of Congress to promote marketing of high-quality grain, to certify grain quality accurately, and to set official U.S. standards for grain. **(7 U.S.C. §74(b))**	**Declaration of policy.** Adds a policy for the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize adoption of improved grain grading technology. **(§12501)**	**Prioritizing improvements to grain grading technology.** Identical to the House provision. **(§12401)**
Official inspection. Allows the Secretary to authorize official inspections of grain for export and for domestic use at export ports by an authorized state agency. Requires USDA to collect certain fees for official inspections performed by authorized state agencies and official agencies (i.e.,	**Official inspection authority and funding.** Allows the Secretary to authorize official inspections of grain for domestic use at export ports by an official agency. Extends USDA's authority to collect certain fees through September 30, 2033. Specifies that fees must be	**Additional flexibilities.** Allows the Secretary to authorize official inspections of grain for domestic use at export ports by an official agency. **(§12402)** **Investment authority.** Extends USDA's authority to collect certain fees through September 30, 2033.

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private sector entities designed by USDA to conduct official inspections and weighing) through September 30, 2025. Requires USDA to deposit fees collected into a fund. **(7 U.S.C. §79)**	deposited into a trust fund. **(§12502)**	Specifies that fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12403)**
Weighing authority. Allows the Secretary to authorize official weighing of grain at export ports by an authorized state agency. Requires USDA to collect certain fees for official weighing performed by authorized state agencies and official agencies through September 30, 2025. Requires USDA to deposit such fees into a fund. **(7 U.S.C. §79a)**	**Weighing authority.** Allows the Secretary to authorize official weighing of grain at export ports by an authorized state agency or an official agency. Extends USDA's authority to collect certain fees through September 30, 2033. Specifies that fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12503)**	**Additional flexibilities.** Allows the Secretary to authorize official weighing of grain for domestic use at export ports by an official agency. **(§12402)** **Investment authority.** Specifies that fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12403)** **Reauthorization of other expiring provisions.** Extends USDA's authority to collect certain fees through September 30, 2033. **(§12408)**
Testing of equipment. Requires the Secretary to collect fees for mandatory testing of equipment used for official grain inspections and weighing and to deposit such fees into a fund. **(7 U.S.C. §79b(a))**	**Testing of equipment.** Specifies that the fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12504)**	**Investment authority.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12403)**
Limitation on administrative and supervisory costs. Limits the funds that USDA can expend on administering and supervising official grain inspections and weighing to no more than 30% of the total costs incurred for official grain inspections and weighing conducted by USDA annually from FY1989 through FY2025. Exempts USDA's costs for standardization, compliance, and foreign monitoring activities from the calculation of administrative and supervisory costs. **(7 U.S.C. §79d)**	**Limitation on administrative and supervisory costs.** Continues the limitation on expenditures for administrative and supervisory costs through FY2033. Adds exemptions for equipment and development of technology costs from the calculation of administrative and supervisory costs. **(§12505)**	**Administrative and supervisory costs.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12404)**
General authorities. Authorizes the Secretary to conduct research to improve grain grading. Authorizes the Secretary to collect fees for testing weighing equipment, grain inspection instruments, and services provided by USDA and requires the Secretary to deposit the fees into a fund. **(7 U.S.C. §87e)**	**General authorities.** Authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with official agencies when conducting research to improve grain grading. Specifies that the fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12506)**	**General authorities.** Authorizes the Secretary to cooperate with state and official agencies when conducting research to improve grain grading. **(§12405)** **Investment authority.** Specifies that fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12403)**

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Registration requirements. Requires the Secretary to collect registration fees from persons who buy, handle, weigh, or transport grain for sale in foreign commerce and to deposit the fees into a fund. **(7 U.S.C. §87f-1(e))**	**Registration requirements.** Specifies that the fees must be deposited into a trust fund. **(§12507)**	**Investment authority.** Contains minor wording and grammatical differences from the House provision. **(§12403)**
Reporting requirements. Allows the Secretary—in consultation with authorized state agencies, official agencies, and the grain industry—to publish certain data. **(7 U.S.C. §87f-2(e))**	**Reporting requirements.** Requires the Secretary to publish the data on December 1 of each year. Requires the Secretary to include an analysis of deficiencies in the technology evaluation process and recommendations to improve grain grading and minimize costs for the federal government and the grain export industry. **(§12508)**	**Reporting requirements.** Requires the Secretary to publish an analysis of deficiencies in the technology evaluation process and recommendations to improve grain grading and minimize costs for the federal government and the grain export industry. Requires the Secretary to consult with authorized state agencies, official agencies, and the grain industry. **(§12406)**
Funding. Authorizes annual appropriations of $23 million for FY2021-FY2025 for grain standardization and related activities. Authorizes the Secretary to set user fees at levels that cover certain costs incurred for official inspection and weighing services. **(7 U.S.C. §87h)**	**Funding.** Authorizes annual appropriations of $23 million for FY2026-FY2033 for grain standardization and related activities. Excludes the costs of grading services authorized under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 from the calculation of costs incurred for official inspection and weighing services under the U.S. Grain Standards Act. **(§12509)**	**Reauthorization of other expiring provisions.** Authorizes annual appropriations of $23 million for FY2026-FY2033 for grain standardization and related activities. **(§12408)**
Advisory committee. Authorizes maintenance of a grain inspection advisory committee through September 30, 2025. Restricts advisory committee members from serving more than two terms in succession. **(7 U.S.C. §87j)**	**Advisory committee.** Authorizes maintenance of an advisory committee through September 30, 2033. Requires committee members who have completed two successive terms to continue serving on completion of their second term until the Secretary appoints a new member of the committee. **(§12510)**	**Improving advisory committee nominations efficiency and continuity.** Extends the maintenance of an advisory committee through September 30, 2033. Requires the Secretary to solicit nominations for the advisory committee before the terms of current members expire. Requires the Secretary to announce newly appointed members not later than 180 days after the end of the solicitation period. Allows current committee members to continue serving until new members are appointed by the Secretary, including current committee members who have completed two successive terms. **(§12407)**
No direct comparable provision. The Secretary of Agriculture is allowed to delegate transferred functions to offices and officers within the Department of Agriculture. **(7 U.S.C. §6912)**	No comparable provision.	**Crop input reporting.** Requires the Secretary to coordinate the development of reports on the domestic and international crop input market. Requires the Secretary to designate a liaison for

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		the crop input market, make public certain routine reports, assess the crop input market for certain risks, improve data collection, and coordinate and support specific research goals. Requires the Secretary to submit to Congress and make public reports on crop input markets and to include recommendations to improve the transparency, resilience, and competitiveness of the crop input supply chain. **(§12301)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Fertilizer research.** Requires the Secretary, in consultation with the administrator of the Economic Research Service, to publish a report on the domestic fertilizer industry within one year of enactment. Specifies topics to be included in the report, including recommendations to Congress regarding fertilizer price reporting mechanisms. **(§12302)**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Fertilizer mandatory reporting**. Requires the Secretary to establish a program for fertilizer and fertilizer product price reporting. Requires certain manufacturers and wholesalers to report weekly prices for certain products. Requires the Secretary to allow cooperatives and retailers to provide weekly price reporting on a voluntary basis. Requires the Secretary to publish information weekly. Authorizes the Secretary to use information collected for competitive effects analysis. Requires the Secretary to establish a fertilizer retail survey to augment existing reporting through the Agricultural Marketing Service Market News program. Requires the Secretary to provide a weekly summary of collected data on a public dashboard and protect confidentiality of data. Bars disclosure of data by federal employees except in specific circumstances. Requires the Secretary to review information reporting requirements at least once every two years. Requires the Secretary to promulgate rules, with opportunity for public notice and comment, if the Secretary determines that additional

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		information collection is warranted and to promulgate rules to consider the development of a map of regional fertilizer prices and quantities. **(§12303)**
Regulation of fuels. Grants EPA the authority to regulate fuels. This includes the regulation of fuels and fuel additives (i.e., CAA 211(f); 42 U.S.C. §7545(f)) and gasoline volatility for fuels which is measured according to Reid Vapor Pressure requirements (i.e., CAA 211(h); 42 U.S.C. §7545(h)). Section 211 also grants EPA the authority to administer the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), a program that requires U.S. transportation fuel to include a minimum volume of renewable fuel each year (i.e., CAA 211(o); 42 U.S.C. §7545(o)). **Section 211 of the Clean Air Act (CAA; 42 U.S.C. §7545).**	No comparable provision.	**Year-round E15 and RFS reform.** Amends CAA Sections 211(f) and 211(h) to allow for the year-round sale of E15. Acknowledges the states that applied for an exclusion from the ethanol waiver under CAA Section 211(h)(5) granted by EPA since January 1, 2022, and applies a new Reid Vapor Pressure standard for E10 to E15 fuel blends. The language in §12501(a) is identical to the language in the House-passed H.R. 1346 §1(a). Starting in 2028, eliminates any extension of a small refinery exemption (SRE) that was granted on the basis of disproportionate economic hardship (42 U.S.C. §7545(o)(9)(B)) or any SRE granted as a temporary exemption (42 U.S.C. §7545(o)(9)(A)). The language in §12501(b)(1)(A) is identical to the language in H.R. 1346 §1(c)(1)(A). Adds a small refinery certainty subsection to 42 U.S.C. §7545(o)(9). This subsection replaces the existing SRE process with a new way to reduce compliance requirements for small refineries, starting in 2028. This subsection also explains how EPA is to reallocate, starting in 2028, volumes of transportation fuel for which small refineries were not obligated for a calendar year. Returns credits generated by certain small refiners under the RFS that requested an exemption for compliance years 2016, 2017, and 2018 if certain conditions are met. The language in §12501(c) is identical to the language in H.R. 1346 §1(d). Requires EPA to issue a rulemaking within 18 months of enactment regarding the sale and distribution of gasoline-ethanol blends that contain 10%-15% ethanol and to modify the E15 fuel dispenser

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		labeling requirements and underground storage tank regulations with respect to compatibility with gasoline-ethanol blends. The language in §12501(d) is identical to the language in H.R 1346 §1(f). **(§§12501(a), (b), (c), and (d))**
No comparable provision.	No comparable provision.	**Commission on rural maternal health.** Establishes a commission to study issues impacting rural maternal health, such as access to and availability of providers and services, health outcomes and disparities, and evidence-based practices to reduce adverse maternal health outcomes. Requires the commission to submit a report to the President and agriculture committees of jurisdiction.[a] Specifies features of the commission, such as membership appointments, terms, and co-chairs; meeting requirements; and termination details. **(§12617)**
Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. The FFDCA authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to promulgate regulations to set "a reasonable definition and standard of identity" for certain foods (**21 U.S.C. §341)**. There are standards of identity for different types of process cheese (**21 C.F.R. Part 133**). A food is considered misbranded if its label is false or misleading, or if it does not conform to a definition or standard of identity for which there is a regulation, among other things **(21 U.S.C. §343)**. There is no current definition in the FFDCA or in regulation for *natural cheese*.	No comparable provision.	**Codifying useful regulatory definitions.** Amends the FFDCA to add a definition of *natural cheese* to support consumer understanding in differentiating between natural cheese and *process cheese*. Prohibits the use of the term natural cheese, deeming the food misbranded, unless the food meets the definition established above. Does not prohibit the use of the claims *natural* or *all-natural* if used in a manner consistent the regulations, guidance, or policy documents issued by the HHS Secretary for using the claims. Prohibits states or other localities from setting labeling requirements for natural cheese that are "not identical" to the federal requirements. **(§12610)**
Commodity whistleblower incentives and protection. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission's (CFTC's) existing Whistleblower Program was created by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (P.L.111-203), which in 2010 amended the Commodity Exchange Act by adding a new Section 23, titled "Commodity	No comparable provision.	**Improving whistleblower protections under the commodity exchange act.** Makes permanent the CFTC Whistleblower Office's operating account and raises the Customer Protection Fund cap from $100 million to $300 million. Establishes statutory deadlines for CFTC to process whistleblower award claims. Enhances anti-retaliation

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Whistleblower Incentives and Protection." The program allows the CFTC to pay financial rewards to whistleblowers meeting certain criteria (e.g., individuals, not corporate entities) who voluntarily provide original information about CEA violations resulting in a successful CFTC enforcement action with $1 million or more in penalties. The program is self-funded and does not require annual congressional appropriations. Awards and operational costs are paid out of a dedicated, revolving U.S. Treasury account called the CFTC Customer Protection Fund (CPF). Caps the CPF at $100 million. (**7 U.S.C. §26**)		protections for whistleblowers. Eliminates a provision prohibiting whistleblower compensation in certain cases when a company declares bankruptcy. **(§12619)**

Source: Compiled by CRS from H.R. 7567, as passed by the House, and S. 5526, as reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Notes:

a. "Agriculture committees of jurisdiction" refers to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

b. In the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point final rule published on July 25, 1996 (61 *Federal Register* 38806, July 26,1996), USDA defines small and very small meat and poultry establishments as those having 10-499 employees and those having fewer than 10 employees or annual sales under $2.5 million, respectively. On March 24, 2026, USDA published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking stating that it would consider revising how establishment sizes are defined for purposes of its oversight of meat and poultry establishments and egg products plants (91 *Federal Register* 13979, March 24, 2026).

c. Does not give the Secretary of Agriculture the right to unilaterally determine USDA's involvement with a particular transaction; this remains the prerogative of the President or of the Secretary of the Treasury as CFIUS chair. Excludes USDA as a permanent committee member in 50 U.S.C. §4565(k)(2). Members review, deliberate on, and decide certain matters on all transactions.

Author Information

Monica R. Saavoss, Coordinator
Section Research Manager

Randy Alison Aussenberg
Specialist in Nutrition Assistance Policy

Eleni G. Bickell
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Kara Clifford Billings
Analyst in Social Policy

Kelsi Bracmort
Specialist in Natural Resources and Energy Policy

Jim Monke
Specialist in Agricultural Policy

Zachary T. Neuhofer
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Anne A. Riddle
Specialist in Natural Resources Policy

Stephanie Rosch
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Megan Stubbs
Specialist in Agricultural Conservation and Natural Resources Policy

Benjamin Tsui
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Christine Whitt
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Cathleen D. Cimino-Isaacs
Specialist in International Trade and Finance

Gene Falk
Specialist in Social Policy

Laura Gatz
Specialist in Environmental Policy

Alicyn R. Gitlin
Analyst in Natural Resources Policy

Jason O. Heflin
Legislative Attorney

Kristen Hite
Legislative Attorney

Elena H. Humphreys
Specialist in Environmental Policy

Heather McPherron
Analyst in Environmental Policy

Alexandria K. Mickler
Analyst in Health Policy

Laura Pineda-Bermudez
Analyst in Agricultural Policy

Karen M. Sutter
Specialist in Asian Trade and Finance

Erin H. Ward
Coordinator of Research Planning/ALD

Jerry H. Yen
Analyst in Environmental Policy

Chris Jaikaran
Specialist in Cybersecurity Policy

Naseeb A. Souweidane
Analyst in Transportation Policy

Rena S. Miller
Specialist in Financial Economics

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