

AGRICULTURE MANAGERS PACKAGE

Bill/Report language for Senator Baldwin regarding agricultural research

Bill/Report language for Senator Mikulski regarding FDA

Bill/Report language for Senator Boozman regarding agriculture research

Bill/Report language for Senator Tester regarding beef imports

Report language for Senator Shaheen regarding reducing duplication

Report language for Senator Daines regarding agency transparency

Report language for Senator Kirk regarding printing costs

Report language for Senators Feinstein/Udall/Schatz/Merkley regarding animal welfare

Report language for Senator Daines regarding transportation disruptions

Report language for Senator Shaheen regarding energy efficiency

Report language for Senator Leahy regarding housing repair program limits

Report language for Senator Shaheen regarding energy efficiency coordination

Report language revision for Senator Leahy regarding broadband grants

Report language for Senators Tester/Leahy/Daines regarding broadband

Report language for Senators Tester/Daines regarding the Rural Utilities Service

Report language for Senator Cassidy regarding comparative oncology

Report language revision for Senator Murphy regarding medical gases

On page 6 of the bill, line 4, strike “\$54,368,000” and insert “\$53,618,000”.

On page 8 of the bill, line 21, strike “\$1,136,075,000” and insert “\$1,136,825,000”.

On page 60 of the bill, line 7, strike “\$49,218,000” and insert “\$50,218,000”.

On page 84 of the bill, between lines 19 and 20 insert the following section:

Sec. 742. Notwithstanding any language to the contrary, state agricultural experiment stations and state cooperative extension services are eligible entities under 7 U.S.C. 3125a–1(a).

On page 84 of the bill, in the appropriate place insert the following section:

Sec. 743. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled “Importation of Beef From a Region in Argentina” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on July 2, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 37935 et seq.) or the rule entitled “Importation of Beef From a Region in Brazil” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on July 2, 2015 (80 Fed. Reg. 37923 et seq.) until the Secretary of Agriculture—(1) conducts an updated comprehensive risk evaluation of importing beef produced in Argentina and Brazil; and (2) updates the Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-9) Final Report issued to Congress in January 2003 as it relates to economic impacts associated with the potential introduction of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), including specific actions by Federal agencies to prevent the introduction into or dissemination within the United States of FMD, and the sufficiency of legislative authority to prevent or control FMD in the United States; and (3) reports to Congress on specific steps to implement recommendations of the May 2015 GAO Report on Federal Veterinarians and workforce needs for emergency response to an animal disease outbreak.

On page 8 of the report between “Drought Relief” and “Outreach to Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers” insert the following paragraph:

Duplication Across Federal Agencies.—The Committee is concerned about duplication of functions across federal agencies and directs USDA to review its operations to reduce potentially duplicative functions as a way to save taxpayer dollars.

Multi-Agency Transparency. – The Committee expresses support for increasing transparency within all agencies of the Department of Agriculture. The agencies are encouraged to disclose costs associated with analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

On page 8 of the report at the bottom of the page insert the following paragraph:

Printing Costs.—The Committee is concerned about the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on wasteful printing practices each year and the lack of clear printing policies within each of the agencies. While progress has been made to better utilize the cloud and digitalize records, little progress has been made to reform in-house printing practices. The Committee directs the Department to work with the Office of Management and Budget to reduce printing and reproduction by 34 percent and report to the Committee within 60 days after enactment of this Act on what steps have been taken to reduce printing volume and costs. The report should specifically identify how much money each agency will be saving.

On page 14 of the report, strike \$54,368,000 and replace with \$53,618,000 in two places.

On page 22 of the report, strike \$1,136,075,000 and replace with \$1,136,825,000.

On page 23 of the report, strike \$1,136,075,000 under Committee Recommendations and replace with \$1,136,825,000.

On page 23 of the report, after “Agroforestry” insert the following paragraph:

Animal Welfare. – The Committee is concerned about allegations of mistreatment of research animals at the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) in Clay Center, Nebraska, and is aware that USDA’s Office of the Inspector General is conducting a full audit of animal welfare practices at USMARC and throughout the Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The Committee directs ARS to ensure all its facilities conducting agricultural research comply with standards that are equivalent to the Animal Welfare Act, and to enter into an agreement with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to have APHIS Animal Care conduct routine inspections of ARS facilities to ensure humane treatment of animals. The Committee further directs ARS to fully review all of its animal welfare policies and procedures, and to ensure that all research facilities which conduct animal research have fully functioning Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees, with appropriate record keeping procedures. The Committee directs USDA to provide quarterly reports to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate regarding all efforts to improve or ensure all animal welfare regulations are being followed, including measures taken when problems are discovered.

On page 24 of the report, under “Cranberry research,” strike “encourages ARS to devote resources” and insert “recommendation includes \$750,000 to increase resources devoted”.

On page 47 of the report, above “Limitation on Inspection and Weighing Services Expenses” insert the following paragraph:

REPORT INSERT 47A

Transportation Disruptions. – The Committee directs USDA to develop and implement prompt and effective contingency plans to ensure that official grain inspection and weighing services resume as quickly as possible should an interruption in service occur. Additionally, in the event of a disruption, the Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that persons requesting official inspection and weighing services are informed immediately of the nature of the emergency, promptly implement the necessary mitigations to address any concerns, and provide regular updates should any disruption persist.

On page 67 of the report, before “Maturing Mortgages” insert the following paragraph:

Energy Efficiency. – The Committee recognizes opportunities to reduce costs for rural housing and save taxpayer money by embracing energy efficiency standards in rural housing, with measures such as air sealing, and installing insulation, window films, and roofs.

Housing Repair Program Limits. - The Committee is concerned that the outdated housing repair program limits have not kept pace with modern home repair costs and is limiting the effectiveness of the program. The Committee directs the Secretary to examine the potential impact of providing the Secretary with discretion to establish the maximum loan and grant levels, including the maximum level for unsecured 504 loans, and the maximum level of combined loans and grants available to an individual.

On page 77 of the report, below the table and above “Healthy Food Financing Initiative” insert the following paragraph:

Energy Efficiency Coordination. – The Committee encourages increased coordination and cooperation between USDA Rural Development agencies and offices to better utilize the energy efficiency and renewable energy programs available through the Rural Energy for America Program.

On page 82 of the report, under “Broadband Grants” strike the following:

and local dial-up Internet services

On page 82 of the report, below “Broadband Grants” insert the following paragraph:

Broadband Program. – The Agricultural Act of 2014 made several changes to the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program. The changes expand the definition of eligible service areas and establish new minimum broadband speed requirements for carriers receiving loans from the program. The Committee applauds these changes and believes that a comprehensive rural broadband strategy should include investment in advanced networks that will meet the needs of a 21st century economy. The Committee directs the Department of Agriculture to expedite the implementation of the broadband provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, including the new authority to increase the minimum speeds available in rural communities.

Rural Utilities Service and Coordination on Telecommunications Services. – The Committee recognizes the Rural Utilities Services’ (RUS) vital role in expanding access to broadband services in rural America. In addition, the Committee notes the importance of the RUS coordinating its efforts with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on programs designed to support broadband investment in rural America. Recent FCC policy changes on deploying broadband in rural areas affect rural carriers with outstanding RUS loans and carriers aiming to use RUS loans to build out networks in the coming years. To ensure that RUS and FCC policies are aligned to optimize the use of limited resources and carriers are well equipped to serve the hardest-to-reach rural Americans, the Committee directs RUS and the FCC to coordinate on major policy decisions.

On page 101 in the report, between “Centers of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation” and “Cord Blood Regulation” insert the following paragraph:

Comparative Oncology. —The Committee recognizes the value in using data from cancers in companion animals to provide answers to important translational questions about cancer biology, diagnosis, and treatment. This research offers an important opportunity to study cancers in thousands of subjects to benefit both human patients and pets. The Committee requests FDA address the use of companion animals in diagnosis and treatment research and encourage the FDA to open grant opportunities in animal models to increase the study of the one million companion animals that naturally develop cancer each year.

On page 104 of the report, in the paragraph titled “Master Plan”, strike “\$2,000,000” and insert “\$3,000,000”.

On page 104 in the report, strike the body of the “Medical Gases” paragraph and insert the following:

The Committee is concerned that FDA has not initiated rulemaking to address numerous longstanding regulatory issues for medical gases despite the statutory requirement in FDASIA to issue a final rulemaking addressing all necessary changes for medical gases by July 9, 2016. Designated medical gases are a unique class of drugs that differ significantly from traditional pharmaceuticals and therefore must be addressed in the Federal drug regulations to prevent safety and enforcement issues caused by current regulations. The Committee disagrees with the FDA report to Congress sent on June 30, 2015 that despite decades of issues created by existing regulations “the current regulatory framework is adequate and sufficiently flexible to appropriately regulate medical gases.”

On page 112 of the report, at the bottom of the page insert the following section:

Section 742. This section includes language regarding agricultural research.

Section. 743. This section includes language regarding beef imports from Argentina and Brazil.