

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5267

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop programs to encourage source-separated composting at homes, schools, and workplaces, and on farms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 1994

Mr. HOCHBRUECKNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to develop programs to encourage source-separated composting at homes, schools, and workplaces, and on farms.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Composting
5 Act of 1994”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COORDINATION**
2 **OF COMPOSTING.**

3 (a) COMPOSTING PROGRAM.—Subtitle F of title XIV
4 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
5 1990 (Public Law 101–624; 104 Stat. 3619) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new chapter:

7 **“CHAPTER 2—COORDINATION OF**
8 **COMPOSTING**

9 **“SEC. 1476. FINDINGS, PURPOSE, AND DEFINITIONS.**

10 “(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

11 “(1) billions of dollars are spent annually on
12 municipal solid waste management in the United
13 States;

14 “(2) a substantial portion of discarded munici-
15 pal solid waste is organic material that could be sep-
16 arated at the generating source and composted;

17 “(3) approximately half of this compostable ma-
18 terial could be diverted from the waste stream by
19 composting at home, school, and work, and on
20 farms, thereby avoiding at least 20 percent of the
21 ever increasing social and economic burden of mu-
22 nicipal solid waste management;

23 “(4) the incorporation in soil of organic mate-
24 rial derived from composting enhances soil produc-
25 tivity by adding nutrients and natural disease sup-
26 pressing factors;

1 facilitate on-site use of the resulting compost at
2 Federal installations.

3 “(2) Development of Federal procurement
4 guidelines for obtaining source-separated compost
5 for use on public lands and promotion of the adop-
6 tion of such guidelines by Federal agencies.

7 “(3) Establishment of a soil conservation pro-
8 gram for compost production and use as part of the
9 Soil Conservation Service and a cost-sharing pro-
10 gram for compost use as part of the Agricultural
11 Stabilization and Conservation Service protocol for
12 organic matter management and soil loss prevention.

13 “(4) Implementation of a ‘Zero-Discharge Com-
14 munity Challenge’, in which communities, cat-
15 egorized by size and region, compete for national
16 awards or grants rewarding those communities that
17 strive to achieve zero-discharge of compostables.

18 “(5) Establishment of a clearinghouse for infor-
19 mation available to the public on composting and use
20 of compost generated by States, Government agen-
21 cies (including the Department of Agriculture), envi-
22 ronmental groups, composting organizations and pri-
23 vate enterprises.

24 “(6) Establishment of a nationwide ‘compost
25 from cafeterias’ demonstration program to compost

1 organic discards from school and workplace cafe-
2 terias together with yard trimmings.

3 “(7) Development of compost programs in asso-
4 ciation with restaurant, grocery, and other industry
5 where food scraps are generated.

6 “(8) Development of guidelines for the use of
7 compost in agriculture and public lands in conjunc-
8 tion with initiatives in the Soil Conservation Service
9 and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation
10 Service and demonstration of the suitability of the
11 guidelines through the use of compost in public pro-
12 grams.

13 “(9) Institution of outreach programs using the
14 Cooperative Extension Service to demonstrate back-
15 yard composting for homes, schools, workplaces, and
16 farms and promotion and coordination of cooperative
17 composting and compost utilization programs involv-
18 ing farms and communities by providing training
19 and technical support.

20 **“SEC. 1478. DEFINITIONS.**

21 “As used in this chapter—

22 “(1) COMPOST.—Organic materials that have
23 been biologically decomposed.

1 “(2) COMPOSTING.—The term ‘composting’
2 means the controlled biological decomposition of or-
3 ganic matter into a stable humus.

4 **“SEC. 1479. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 “‘There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
6 retary of Agriculture to carry out this chapter \$2,000,000
7 for each of the fiscal years 1995 through 1999.’”.

8 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Such subtitle is
9 further amended by inserting after the subtitle heading
10 the following:

11 **“CHAPTER 1—ADMINISTRATION**
12 **GENERALLY”.**

13 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
14 in section 1(b) of such Act (104 Stat. 3359) is amended—

15 (1) by striking the item relating to section
16 1446;

17 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sub-
18 title F of title XIV the following new item:

“Chapter 1—Administration Generally”;

19 and

20 (3) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
21 tion 1473 the following new items:

“Chapter 2—Coordination of Composting

“Sec. 1476. Findings, purpose, and definitions.

“Sec. 1477. Federal coordination of composting and use of compost.

“Sec. 1478. Definitions.

“Sec. 1479. Authorization of appropriations.”.

1 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF COMPOST USAGE AS CONSERVATION**
2 **PRACTICE ELIGIBLE FOR COST SHARE AS-**
3 **SISTANCE**

4 The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate use of
5 compost as an activity eligible for Federal cost sharing
6 under programs of the Department of Agriculture promot-
7 ing soil conservation practices and the establishment or
8 renovation of permanent vegetative cover.

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