

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 515

To provide a mechanism for the determination on the merits of the claims of claimants who met the class criteria in a civil action relating to racial discrimination by the Department of Agriculture but who were denied that determination.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide a mechanism for the determination on the merits of the claims of claimants who met the class criteria in a civil action relating to racial discrimination by the Department of Agriculture but who were denied that determination.

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 “Pigford Claims Rem-
5 edy Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. DETERMINATION ON MERITS OF PIGFORD CLAIMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any Pigford claimant who has not
3 obtained a determination on the merits of a Pigford claim
4 before the date of enactment of this Act may, in a civil
5 action, obtain that determination.

6 (b) INTENT OF CONGRESS AS TO REMEDIAL NATURE
7 OF SECTION.—It is the intent of Congress that this sec-
8 tion be liberally construed so as to effectuate its remedial
9 purpose of giving a full determination on the merits for
10 each Pigford claim denied that determination.

11 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act—

12 (1) the term “Pigford claimant” means an indi-
13 vidual who submitted, before the date of enactment
14 of this Act, a late-filing request under section 5(g)
15 of the consent decree in the case of Pigford v. Glick-
16 man, approved by the United States District Court
17 for the District of Columbia on April 14, 1999; and

18 (2) the term “Pigford claim” means a discrimi-
19 nation complaint, as defined by section 1(h) of that
20 consent decree and documented under section 5(b)
21 of that consent decree.

○