

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 439

To amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2019

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

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 FFA Organi-
5 zation’s Federal Charter Amendments Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION.**

7 Section 70901 of title 36, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “corporation”
10 and inserting “FFA”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation”
2 and inserting “FFA”.

3 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION.**

4 Section 70902 of title 36, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
7 striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA”;

8 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
9 paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

10 (3) by striking paragraphs (3), (4), (6), and
11 (7);

12 (4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-
13 graph (11);

14 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as
15 paragraphs (12) and (13), respectively;

16 (6) by inserting before paragraph (7), as redesi-
17 gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

18 “(1) to be an integral component of instruction
19 in agricultural education, including instruction relat-
20 ing to agriculture, food, and natural resources;

21 “(2) to advance comprehensive agricultural edu-
22 cation in the United States, including in public
23 schools, by supporting contextual classroom and lab-
24 oratory instruction and work-based experiential
25 learning;

1 “(3) to prepare students for successful entry
2 into productive careers in fields relating to agri-
3 culture, food, and natural resources, including by
4 connecting students to relevant postsecondary edu-
5 cational pathways and focusing on the complete de-
6 livery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-
7 based experiential learning, and leadership develop-
8 ment;

9 “(4) to be a resource and support organization
10 that does not select, control, or supervise State asso-
11 ciation, local chapter, or individual member activi-
12 ties;

13 “(5) to develop educational materials, pro-
14 grams, services, and events as a service to State and
15 local agricultural education agencies;

16 “(6) to seek and promote inclusion and diver-
17 sity in its membership, leadership, and staff to re-
18 flect the belief of the FFA in the value of all human
19 beings;”;

20 (7) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by para-
21 graph (2)—

22 (A) by striking “composed of students and
23 former students of vocational agriculture in
24 public schools qualifying for Federal reimburse-

1 ment under the Smith-Hughes Vocational Edu-
2 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 11–15, 16–28”); and

3 (B) by inserting “as such chapters and as-
4 sociations carry out agricultural education pro-
5 grams that are approved by States, territories,
6 or possessions” after “United States”;

7 (8) in paragraph (8), as redesignated by para-
8 graph (2)—

9 (A) by striking “to develop” and inserting
10 “to build”;

11 (B) by striking “train for useful citizen-
12 ship, and foster patriotism, and thereby” and
13 inserting “and”; and

14 (C) by striking “aggressive rural and” and
15 inserting “assertive”;

16 (9) by inserting after paragraph (8), as redesi-
17 gnated by paragraph (2), the following:

18 “(9) to increase awareness of the global and
19 technological importance of agriculture, food, and
20 natural resources, and the way agriculture contrib-
21 utes to our well-being;

22 “(10) to promote the intelligent choice and es-
23 tablishment of a career in fields relating to agri-
24 culture, food, and natural resources;”;

1 (10) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by
2 paragraph (4)—

3 (A) by striking “to procure for and dis-
4 tribute to State” and inserting “to make avail-
5 able to State”;

6 (B) by inserting “, programs, services,”
7 before “and equipment”; and

8 (C) by striking “corporation” and inserting
9 “FFA”;

10 (11) in paragraph (12), as redesignated by
11 paragraph (5), by striking “State boards for voca-
12 tional” and inserting “State boards and officials for
13 career and technical”; and

14 (12) in paragraph (13), as redesignated by
15 paragraph (5), by striking “corporation” and insert-
16 ing “FFA”.

17 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

18 Section 70903(a) of title 36, United States Code, is
19 amended—

20 (1) by striking “corporation” and inserting
21 “FFA”; and

22 (2) by striking “as provided in the bylaws” and
23 inserting “as provided in the constitution or bylaws
24 of the FFA”.

1 **SEC. 5. GOVERNING BODY.**

2 Section 70904 of title 36, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “corpora-
6 tion” and inserting “FFA” each place the term
7 appears;

8 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(2) The board—

11 “(A) shall consist of—

12 “(i) the Secretary of Education, or
13 the Secretary of Education’s designee who
14 has experience in agricultural education,
15 the FFA, or career and technical edu-
16 cation; and

17 “(ii) other individuals—

18 “(I) representing the fields of
19 education, agriculture, food, and nat-
20 ural resources; or

21 “(II) with experience working
22 closely with the FFA; and

23 “(B) shall not include any individual who
24 is a current employee of the National FFA Or-
25 ganization.

1 “(3) The number of directors, terms of office of
2 the directors, and the method of selecting the direc-
3 tors, are as provided in the constitution or bylaws of
4 the FFA.”; and

5 (C) in paragraph (4)—

6 (i) in the first sentence, by striking
7 “bylaws” and inserting “constitution or
8 bylaws of the FFA”; and

9 (ii) in the third sentence, by striking
10 “chairman” and inserting “chair”;

11 (2) by striking subsection (b); and

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(b) OFFICERS.—The officers of the FFA, the terms
15 of officers, and the election of officers, are as provided
16 in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that such
17 officers shall include—

18 “(1) a national advisor;

19 “(2) an executive secretary; and

20 “(3) a treasurer.

21 “(c) GOVERNING COMMITTEE.—

22 “(1) The board may designate a governing com-
23 mittee. The terms and method of selecting the gov-
24 erning committee members are as provided in the
25 constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that all

1 members of the governing committee shall be mem-
2 bers of the board of directors and at all times the
3 governing committee shall be comprised of not less
4 than 3 individuals.

5 “(2) When the board is not in session, the gov-
6 erning committee has the powers of the board sub-
7 ject to the board’s direction and may authorize the
8 seal of the FFA to be affixed to all papers that re-
9 quire it.

10 “(3) The board shall designate to such com-
11 mittee—

12 “(A) the chair of the board;

13 “(B) the executive secretary of the board;

14 and

15 “(C) the treasurer of the board.”.

16 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL STUDENT OFFICERS.**

17 Section 70905 of title 36, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(a) COMPOSITION.—There shall be not less than 6
22 national student officers of the FFA, including a student
23 president, 4 student vice presidents (each representing re-
24 gions as provided in the constitution or bylaws of the cor-
25 poration), and a student secretary.”;

1 (2) by striking subsection (b);

2 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
3 subsections (b) and (c), respectively; and

4 (4) in subsection (b), as so redesignated, by
5 striking “, except that” and all that follows through
6 “(20 U.S.C. 11–15, 16–28)”.

7 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

8 Section 70906 of title 36, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
11 striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA”;

12 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “corporate”;

13 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “corporation”
14 and inserting “FFA”;

15 (4) in paragraph (6), by striking “corporation”
16 and inserting “FFA”;

17 (5) by amending paragraph (8) to read as fol-
18 lows:

19 “(8) use FFA funds to give prizes, awards,
20 loans, and grants to deserving members, local FFA
21 chapters, and State FFA associations to carry out
22 the purposes of the FFA;”;

23 (6) by amending paragraph (9) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(9) produce publications, websites, and other
2 media;”;

3 (7) in paragraph (10)—

4 (A) by striking “procure for and distribute
5 to State” and inserting “make available to
6 State”; and

7 (B) by striking “Future Farmers of Amer-
8 ica” and inserting “FFA”; and

9 (8) in paragraph (12), by striking “corpora-
10 tion” and inserting “FFA”.

11 **SEC. 8. NAME, SEALS, EMBLEMS, AND BADGES.**

12 Section 70907 of title 36, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) by striking “corporation” and inserting
15 “FFA” each place the term appears;

16 (2) by striking “name” and inserting “names”;

17 (3) by striking “‘Future Farmers of America’ ”
18 and inserting “‘Future Farmers of America’ and
19 ‘National FFA Organization,’ ”; and

20 (4) by inserting “education” before “member-
21 ship”.

22 **SEC. 9. RESTRICTIONS.**

23 Section 70908 of title 36, United States Code, is
24 amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “corporation”
2 and inserting “FFA”;

3 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation
4 or a director, officer, or member as such” and in-
5 serting “FFA or a director, officer, or member act-
6 ing on behalf of the FFA”;

7 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “corporation”
8 and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears;
9 and

10 (4) in subsection (d), in the first sentence, by
11 striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA”.

12 **SEC. 10. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

13 Section 70909 of title 36, United States Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 **“SEC. 70909. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—On request of the board of direc-
17 tors, the FFA may collaborate with Federal agencies, in-
18 cluding the Department of Education and the Department
19 of Agriculture on matters of mutual interest and benefit.

20 “(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Those Federal agencies
21 may make personnel, services, and facilities available to
22 administer or assist in the administration of the activities
23 of the FFA.

24 “(c) AGENCY COMPENSATION.—Personnel of the
25 Federal agencies may not receive compensation from the

1 FFA for their services, except that travel and other legiti-
2 mate expenses as defined by the Federal agencies and ap-
3 proved by the board may be paid.

4 “(d) COOPERATION WITH STATE BOARDS.—The
5 Federal agencies also may cooperate with State boards
6 and other organizations for career and technical education
7 to assist in the promotion of activities of the FFA.”.

8 **SEC. 11. HEADQUARTERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE.**

9 Section 70910 of title 36, United States Code, is
10 amended by striking “of the corporation shall be in the
11 District of Columbia. However, the activities of the cor-
12 poration are not confined to the District of Columbia but”
13 and inserting “of the FFA shall be as provided in the con-
14 stitution or bylaws of the FFA. The activities of the
15 FFA”.

16 **SEC. 12. RECORDS AND INSPECTION.**

17 Section 70911 of title 36, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) in subsection (a)—

20 (A) by striking “corporation” and inserting
21 “FFA”; and

22 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “entitled
23 to vote”; and

24 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation”
25 and inserting “FFA”.

1 **SEC. 13. SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

2 Section 70912 of title 36, United States Code, is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking “DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA”
6 and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

7 (B) by striking “corporation” and insert-
8 ing “FFA” each place the term appears;

9 (C) by striking “in the District of Colum-
10 bia” before “to receive”; and

11 (D) by striking “Designation of the agent
12 shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the
13 United States District Court for the District of
14 Columbia”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) by striking “corporation” and inserting
17 “FFA” each place the term appears; and

18 (B) by inserting “of the FFA” after “asso-
19 ciation or chapter”.

20 **SEC. 14. LIABILITY FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS OR AGENTS.**

21 Section 70913 of title 36, United States Code, is
22 amended by striking “corporation” and inserting “FFA”.

23 **SEC. 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN DISSOLUTION OR**
24 **FINAL LIQUIDATION.**

25 Section 70914 of title 36, United States Code, is
26 amended—

- 1 (1) by striking “corporation” and inserting
- 2 “FFA”; and
- 3 (2) by striking “vocational agriculture” and in-
- 4 serting “agricultural education”.

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