

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 439

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23 (legislative day, JANUARY 22), 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National FFA Organi-  
3 zation’s Federal Charter Amendments Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION.**

5 Section 70901 of title 36, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

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

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

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

12 Section 70902 of title 36, United States Code, is  
13 amended—

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

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

18 (3) by striking paragraphs (3), (4), (6), and  
19 (7);

20 (4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as para-  
21 graph (11);

22 (5) by redesignating paragraphs (8) and (9) as  
23 paragraphs (12) and (13), respectively;

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

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

4           “(2) to advance comprehensive agricultural edu-  
5           cation in the United States, including in public  
6           schools, by supporting contextual classroom and lab-  
7           oratory instruction and work-based experiential  
8           learning;

9           “(3) to prepare students for successful entry  
10          into productive careers in fields relating to agri-  
11          culture, food, and natural resources, including by  
12          connecting students to relevant postsecondary edu-  
13          cational pathways and focusing on the complete de-  
14          livery of classroom and laboratory instruction, work-  
15          based experiential learning, and leadership develop-  
16          ment;

17          “(4) to be a resource and support organization  
18          that does not select, control, or supervise State asso-  
19          ciation, local chapter, or individual member activi-  
20          ties;

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

24          “(6) to seek and promote inclusion and diver-  
25          sity in its membership, leadership, and staff to re-

1 flect the belief of the FFA in the value of all human  
2 beings;”;

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

5 (A) by striking “composed of students and  
6 former students of vocational agriculture in  
7 public schools qualifying for Federal reimburse-  
8 ment under the Smith-Hughes Vocational Edu-  
9 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 11–15, 16–28”;

10 (B) by inserting “as such chapters and as-  
11 sociations carry out agricultural education pro-  
12 grams that are approved by States, territories,  
13 or possessions” after “United States”;

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

16 (A) by striking “to develop” and inserting  
17 “to build”;

18 (B) by striking “train for useful citizen-  
19 ship, and foster patriotism, and thereby” and  
20 inserting “and”; and

21 (C) by striking “aggressive rural and” and  
22 inserting “assertive”;

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

1           “(9) to increase awareness of the global and  
2           technological importance of agriculture, food, and  
3           natural resources, and the way agriculture contrib-  
4           utes to our well-being;

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

8           (10) in paragraph (11), as redesignated by  
9           paragraph (4)—

10           (A) by striking “to procure for and dis-  
11           tribute to State” and inserting “to make avail-  
12           able to State”;

13           (B) by inserting “, programs, services,”  
14           before “and equipment”; and

15           (C) by striking “corporation” and inserting  
16           “FFA”;

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

21           (12) in paragraph (13), as redesignated by  
22           paragraph (5), by striking “corporation” and insert-  
23           ing “FFA”.

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 Section 70903(a) of title 36, United States Code, is  
3 amended—

4 (1) by striking “corporation” and inserting  
5 “FFA”; and

6 (2) by striking “as provided in the bylaws” and  
7 inserting “as provided in the constitution or bylaws  
8 of the FFA”.

9 **SEC. 5. GOVERNING BODY.**

10 Section 70904 of title 36, United States Code, is  
11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “corpora-  
14 tion” and inserting “FFA” each place the term  
15 appears;

16 (B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and  
17 inserting the following:

18 “(2) The board—

19 “(A) shall consist of—

20 “(i) the Secretary of Education, or  
21 the Secretary of Education’s designee who  
22 has experience in agricultural education,  
23 the FFA, or career and technical edu-  
24 cation; and

25 “(ii) other individuals—

1                   “(I) representing the fields of  
2                   education, agriculture, food, and nat-  
3                   ural resources; or

4                   “(II) with experience working  
5                   closely with the FFA; and

6                   “(B) shall not include any individual who  
7                   is a current employee of the National FFA Or-  
8                   ganization.

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

13                  (C) in paragraph (4)—

14                   (i) in the first sentence, by striking  
15                   “bylaws” and inserting “constitution or  
16                   bylaws of the FFA”; and

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

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

20                  (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
21                  lowing:

22                  “(b) OFFICERS.—The officers of the FFA, the terms  
23                  of officers, and the election of officers, are as provided  
24                  in the constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that such  
25                  officers shall include—

1           “(1) a national advisor;

2           “(2) an executive secretary; and

3           “(3) a treasurer.

4           “(c) GOVERNING COMMITTEE.—

5           “(1) The board may designate a governing com-  
6           mittee. The terms and method of selecting the gov-  
7           erning committee members are as provided in the  
8           constitution or bylaws of the FFA, except that all  
9           members of the governing committee shall be mem-  
10          bers of the board of directors and at all times the  
11          governing committee shall be comprised of not less  
12          than 3 individuals.

13          “(2) When the board is not in session, the gov-  
14          erning committee has the powers of the board sub-  
15          ject to the board’s direction and may authorize the  
16          seal of the FFA to be affixed to all papers that re-  
17          quire it.

18          “(3) The board shall designate to such com-  
19          mittee—

20                 “(A) the chair of the board;

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

22                 and

23                 “(C) the treasurer of the board.”.



1 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL STUDENT OFFICERS.**

2 Section 70905 of title 36, United States Code, is  
3 amended—

4 (1) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
5 lows:

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

11 (2) by striking subsection (b);

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

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

17 **SEC. 7. POWERS.**

18 Section 70906 of title 36, United States Code, is  
19 amended—

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

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

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

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

1           (5) by amending paragraph (8) to read as fol-  
2           lows:

3           “(8) use FFA funds to give prizes, awards,  
4           loans, and grants to deserving members, local FFA  
5           chapters, and State FFA associations to carry out  
6           the purposes of the FFA;”;

7           (6) by amending paragraph (9) to read as fol-  
8           lows:

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

11          (7) in paragraph (10)—

12                 (A) by striking “procure for and distribute  
13                 to State” and inserting “make available to  
14                 State”; and

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

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

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

20          Section 70907 of title 36, United States Code, is  
21          amended—

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

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

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

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

6 **SEC. 9. RESTRICTIONS.**

7           Section 70908 of title 36, United States Code, is  
8           amended—

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

11           (2) in subsection (b), by striking “corporation  
12           or a director, officer, or member as such” and in-  
13           serting “FFA or a director, officer, or member act-  
14           ing on behalf of the FFA”;

15           (3) in subsection (c), by striking “corporation”  
16           and inserting “FFA” each place the term appears;  
17           and

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

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

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

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

24           “(a) IN GENERAL.—On request of the board of direc-  
25           tors, the FFA may collaborate with Federal agencies, in-

1 cluding the Department of Education and the Department  
2 of Agriculture on matters of mutual interest and benefit.

3 “(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Those Federal agencies  
4 may make personnel, services, and facilities available to  
5 administer or assist in the administration of the activities  
6 of the FFA.

7 “(c) AGENCY COMPENSATION.—Personnel of the  
8 Federal agencies may not receive compensation from the  
9 FFA for their services, except that travel and other legiti-  
10 mate expenses as defined by the Federal agencies and ap-  
11 proved by the board may be paid.

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

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

17 Section 70910 of title 36, United States Code, is  
18 amended by striking “of the corporation shall be in the  
19 District of Columbia. However, the activities of the cor-  
20 poration are not confined to the District of Columbia but”  
21 and inserting “of the FFA shall be as provided in the con-  
22 stitution or bylaws of the FFA. The activities of the  
23 FFA”.

1 **SEC. 12. RECORDS AND INSPECTION.**

2 Section 70911 of title 36, United States Code, is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) by striking “corporation” and inserting  
6 “FFA”; and

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

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

11 **SEC. 13. SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

12 Section 70912 of title 36, United States Code, is  
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

15 (A) by striking “DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA”  
16 and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

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

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

21 (D) by striking “Designation of the agent  
22 shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the  
23 United States District Court for the District of  
24 Columbia”; and

25 (2) in subsection (b)—

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

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

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

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

8 **SEC. 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN DISSOLUTION OR**  
9 **FINAL LIQUIDATION.**

10 Section 70914 of title 36, United States Code, is  
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “corporation” and inserting  
13 “FFA”; and

14 (2) by striking “vocational agriculture” and in-  
15 serting “agricultural education”.

Passed the House of Representatives January 22,  
2019.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

*Clerk.*