

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8057

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act with respect to the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 14, 2020

Ms. SPANBERGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act with respect to the conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

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 “Healthy Soil, Resilient
5 Farmers Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 304(b) of the Consoli-
9 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1924(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or a soil
2 health transition plan” after “conservation plan”;
3 and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(4) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION LOAN.—The
6 term ‘soil health transition loan’ means a qualified
7 conservation loan with respect to which the applica-
8 ble qualified conservation project addresses provi-
9 sions of a soil health transition plan.

10 “(5) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION PLAN.—The
11 term ‘soil health transition plan’ means a com-
12 prehensive, whole-farm plan, approved by the Sec-
13 retary, that, for a farming or ranching operation,
14 identifies the conservation activities that will be ad-
15 dressed with loan funds provided or guaranteed
16 under this section to assist the borrower in making
17 a transition to a farming or ranching production and
18 conservation system that includes one or more of the
19 following:

20 “(A) Cover cropping or other continuous
21 living cover systems.

22 “(B) Resource-conserving crop rotation, as
23 defined in section 1240L(d)(1) of the Food Se-
24 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24).

1 “(C) Advanced grazing management, in-
2 cluding management-intensive rotational graz-
3 ing, as defined in section 1240L(d)(1) of the
4 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-
5 24).

6 “(D) Certified organic production under
7 the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7
8 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

9 “(E) Such other soil health management
10 systems, including systems to increase soil car-
11 bon levels, as the Secretary may designate.”.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 304(c)(2) of the Consoli-
13 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
14 1924(c)(2)) is amended by striking “subparagraphs (A)
15 and (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A), (B), and
16 (C)”.

17 (c) PRIORITY.—Section 304(d) of the Consolidated
18 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924(d)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and
21 inserting a semicolon;

22 (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at
23 the end and inserting “; and”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(4) farmers or ranchers whose farm or ranch
2 land is subject to the jurisdiction of an Indian
3 tribe.”.

4 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—Section 304(f)
5 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7
6 U.S.C. 1924(f)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
8 the following:

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(2) SOIL HEALTH TRANSITION LOANS.—

12 “(A) LIMITATIONS PERMITTED.—In mak-
13 ing or guaranteeing soil health transition loans
14 under this section, the Secretary may limit eli-
15 gibility to individuals and entities described in
16 subsection (d).

17 “(B) WAIVER OF PRINCIPAL AND INTER-
18 EST.—The Secretary shall establish terms and
19 conditions for making or guaranteeing soil
20 health transition loans under this section that
21 waive principal and interest repayment for up
22 to three years from the date on which the loan
23 is made or guaranteed in order for the borrower
24 to make a satisfactory transition to the farming
25 or ranching production and conservation system

1 to be adopted under the soil health transition
2 plan.”.

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