

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3655

To provide funding for targeted purchases of qualified agricultural products from producers that rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2020

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To provide funding for targeted purchases of qualified agricultural products from producers that rely on local agricultural food markets affected by COVID–19, 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 “Farmers-Feeding-
5 Families Coronavirus Response Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TARGETED PURCHASES OF AGRICULTURAL PROD-**
7 **UCTS.**

8 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PRO-
2 GRAM.—The term “emergency food assistance pro-
3 gram” means the emergency food assistance pro-
4 gram established under the Emergency Food Assist-
5 ance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.).

6 (2) QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT.—The
7 term “qualified agricultural product” means a spe-
8 cialty crop, dairy product, meat product, or poultry
9 product—

10 (A) that was packaged, marketed, intended
11 to be harvested, or harvested for sale—

12 (i) to commercial or food service in-
13 dustries; or

14 (ii) through direct-to-consumer, di-
15 rect-to-institution, direct-to-retail, direct-
16 to-restaurant, or direct-to-store marketing
17 channels, including local and regional food
18 enterprises such as food hubs, agricultural
19 cooperatives, and producer associations;
20 and

21 (B) for which decreased demand exists due
22 to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19),
23 as determined by the Secretary.

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (b) TARGETED PURCHASES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not
3 less than \$300,000,000 of the amounts appropriated
4 under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7
5 U.S.C. 612e), to purchase qualified agricultural
6 products to provide to food assistance programs, in-
7 cluding the emergency food assistance program.

8 (2) QUALIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS PUR-
9 CHASED.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Sec-
10 retary shall use—

11 (A) not less than \$100,000,000 to pur-
12 chase specialty crops;

13 (B) not less than \$100,000,000 to pur-
14 chase dairy; and

15 (C) not less than \$100,000,000 to pur-
16 chase meat and poultry products, including
17 eggs.

18 (3) DIRECT MARKET PRODUCTS.—In carrying
19 out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, to the max-
20 imum extent practicable, use not less than 10 per-
21 cent of the amount made available under that para-
22 graph to purchase qualified agricultural products
23 that would otherwise be sold through direct-to-con-
24 sumer, direct-to-institution, direct-to-retail, or di-
25 rect-to-restaurant marketing channels.

1 (4) CONSULTATION.—If applicable, the Admin-
2 istrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service shall
3 consult with the Administrator of the Food and Nu-
4 trition Service in determining which qualified agri-
5 cultural products to purchase pursuant to this sub-
6 section.

7 (c) STATE PURCHASING FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the amounts
9 used under subsection (b), the Secretary shall use
10 not less than \$200,000,000 of the amounts appro-
11 priated under section 32 of the Act of August 24,
12 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), to allocate to States, in ac-
13 cordance with paragraph (2), to use for the procure-
14 ment of additional food products to support State
15 food assistance programs.

16 (2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
17 shall allocate amounts to States under paragraph
18 (1) according to the formula described in section
19 251.3(h) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (or
20 successor regulations), as applied for fiscal year
21 2020.

22 (3) STATE AGENCY FUND RECIPIENT.—
23 Amounts allocated to a State under this subsection
24 shall be provided to the State agency responsible for

1 distributing commodities pursuant to a State plan
2 under the emergency food assistance program.

3 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—A State shall use funds
4 allocated under this subsection only—

5 (A) to purchase qualified agricultural prod-
6 ucts—

7 (i) to donate to food assistance pro-
8 grams in the State; or

9 (ii) to transfer directly to an eligible
10 recipient agency (as defined in section
11 201A of the Emergency Food Assistance
12 Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501));

13 (B) to purchase, lease, or otherwise ac-
14 quire vehicles, including refrigerated vehicles, or
15 other equipment to carry out activities relating
16 to procurement and distribution of qualified ag-
17 ricultural products;

18 (C) to reimburse travel costs relating to
19 procurement of qualified agricultural products
20 at the per mile rate established by the Commis-
21 sioner of the Internal Revenue Service; and

22 (D) to reimburse costs relating to pre-
23 paring, storing, and transporting qualified agri-
24 cultural products, including transportation to or

1 between eligible recipient agencies, as well as
2 delivery to end-consumers.

3 (5) DIRECT MARKET SUPPORT IN-STATE.—

4 Each State shall, to the maximum extent prac-
5 ticable, use not less than 10 percent of the amount
6 allocated to the State under this subsection to pur-
7 chase crops and products that would otherwise be
8 sold through direct-to-consumer, direct-to-institu-
9 tion, direct-to-retail, or direct-to-restaurant mar-
10 keting channels.

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