

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6351

To establish the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to modernize the data collection and reporting processes of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Mr. LANGWORTHY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service Modernization to modernize the data collection and reporting processes of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, 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. COMMISSION ON NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL**
4 **STATISTICS SERVICE MODERNIZATION.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a com-
6 mission to be known as the Commission on National Agri-
7 cultural Statistics Service Modernization (referred to in
8 this section as the “Commission”).

1 (b) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a study
2 of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and provide
3 recommendations on—

4 (1) how data collection can be modernized and
5 streamlined to—

6 (A) improve the quality of statistics re-
7 ported;

8 (B) account for differences of national, re-
9 gional, and local production;

10 (C) accelerate adoption of new and innova-
11 tive technologies to reduce the number of sur-
12 veys needed;

13 (D) improve producer response rates in
14 statistical surveys and identifying ways to re-
15 duce survey fatigue;

16 (E) increase transparency and confidence
17 in statistical reports through improved collabo-
18 ration with agricultural stakeholders; and

19 (F) use more real-time statistical and envi-
20 ronmental data to complement existing survey-
21 based data and reporting; and

22 (2) how the modernization and streamlining de-
23 termined under paragraph (1) can be implemented
24 and the estimated costs of such implementation.

25 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall consist of the following 11 members:

(A) The Administrator of the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the Department of Agriculture.

(B) The Administrator of the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture.

(C) The Chief Economist of the Department of Agriculture.

(D) The Chair of the World Agricultural Outlook Board of the Department of Agriculture.

(E) A representative from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(F) 3 members appointed by the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, of which—

(i) 1 shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee;

(ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Ranking Member of the Committee; and

(iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee.

1 (G) 3 members appointed by the Com-
2 mittee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives, of which—

4 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the Chair-
5 man of the Committee;

6 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Rank-
7 ing Member of the Committee; and

8 (iii) 1 shall be appointed jointly by the
9 Chairman and Ranking Member of the
10 Committee.

11 (2) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
12 ment of all members of the Commission shall be
13 made not later than 60 days after the date of enact-
14 ment of this Act.

15 (3) TERM; VACANCIES.—

16 (A) TERM.—A member shall be appointed
17 for the duration of the Commission.

18 (B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Com-
19 mission—

20 (i) shall not affect the powers of the
21 Commission; and

22 (ii) shall be filled in the same manner
23 as the original appointment was made.

24 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 60 days
25 after the date on which all members of the Commis-

1 sion have been first appointed, the Commission shall
2 hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

3 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
4 Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction
5 of business, but a lesser number of members may hold
6 hearings.

7 (e) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Commis-
8 sion shall be selected by a majority of the Members of
9 the Commission.

10 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date
11 of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to
12 the President, the Committee on Agriculture of the House
13 of Representatives, and the Committee on Agriculture,
14 Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report containing
15 the results of the study required by subsection (b), includ-
16 ing—

17 (1) an inventory of surveys conducted by the
18 National Agricultural Statistics Service and the fre-
19 quency with which they are conducted; and

20 (2) such recommendations for administrative,
21 regulatory, and legislative changes as the Commis-
22 sion considers appropriate.

23 (g) HEARINGS.—The Commission shall hold such
24 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such

1 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission
2 considers appropriate to carry out this section.

3 (h) STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.—The Commission
4 shall establish a process to collect feedback from agricul-
5 tural stakeholders to inform the results of the study re-
6 quired under subsection (b) and the report required under
7 subsection (f).

8 (i) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may secure
10 directly from a Federal agency such information as
11 the Commission considers necessary to carry out this
12 section.

13 (2) AUTHORITY TO REQUEST INFORMATION.—

14 At the request of the Chairperson of the Commission
15 for information described in paragraph (1), the head
16 of a Federal agency shall provide such information
17 to the Commission.

18 (j) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use
19 the United States mail in the same manner and under the
20 same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Govern-
21 ment.

22 (k) ASSISTANCE FROM THE SECRETARY.—The Sec-
23 retary of Agriculture shall provide to the Commission ap-
24 propriate office space and such reasonable administrative
25 and support services as the Commission may request.

1 (l) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

2 (1) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
3 the Commission who is not an officer or employee of
4 the Federal Government shall be compensated at a
5 rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate
6 of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive
7 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
8 States Code, for each day (including travel time)
9 during which the member is engaged in the perform-
10 ance of the duties of the Commission.

11 (2) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of the
12 Commission who is an officer or employee of the
13 Federal Government shall serve without compensa-
14 tion in addition to the compensation received for the
15 services of the member as an officer or employee of
16 the Federal Government.

17 (3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the
18 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
19 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
20 ized for an employee of an agency under subchapter
21 I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
22 away from the home or regular place of business of
23 the member in the performance of the duties of the
24 Commission.

1 (m) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Sec-
2 tions 1008 and 1013 of title 5, United States Code, shall
3 not apply to the Commission or any proceeding of the
4 Commission.

5 (n) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate
6 on September 30, 2028.

7 (o) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
8 priated to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2024, to remain available until expended.

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