

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 174

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2023

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, 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 “Conservation Reserve
5 Program Improvement Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IMPROVE-**
7 **MENTS.**

8 (a) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT
9 CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d)(6)(A)(i) of

1 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
2 3831(d)(6)(A)(i)) is amended—

3 (1) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the
4 end; and

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

6 “(IV) land that will be enrolled
7 under the State acres for wildlife en-
8 hancement practice established by the
9 Secretary; and”.

10 (b) COST SHARING PAYMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT
11 OF GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1234(b)(1) of the
13 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b)(1))
14 is amended—

15 (A) by striking “establishing water” and
16 inserting the following: “establishing—

17 “(A) water”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
19 ignated), by striking the period at the end and
20 inserting “; and”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(B) grazing infrastructure, including inte-
23 rior cross fencing, perimeter fencing, and water
24 infrastructure (such as rural water connections,
25 water wells, pipelines, and water tanks), under

1 each contract, for all practices, if grazing is in-
 2 cluded in the conservation plan and addresses a
 3 resource concern.”.

4 (2) REENROLLMENT OF LAND WITH GRAZING
 5 INFRASTRUCTURE.—Section 1231(h) of the Food
 6 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(h)) is amend-
 7 ed by adding at the end the following:

8 “(3) LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—
 9 On the expiration of a contract entered into under
 10 this subchapter that covers land that includes graz-
 11 ing infrastructure established with cost sharing as-
 12 sistance under section 1234(b)(1)(B)—

13 “(A) the Secretary shall consider that land
 14 to be planted for purposes of subsection
 15 (b)(1)(B); and

16 “(B) that land shall be eligible for reenroll-
 17 ment in the conservation reserve, subject to the
 18 requirements of this subchapter.”.

19 (c) MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FOR ACTIVITIES
 20 NOT RELATING TO HAYING OR GRAZING.—

21 (1) DEFINITION OF MANAGEMENT.—Section
 22 1232(a)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 23 U.S.C. 3832(a)(5)) is amended by inserting “(as de-
 24 fined in section 1231A(a))” after “management”.

1 (2) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—Section
 2 1234(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 3 U.S.C. 3834(b)(2)) is amended by striking subpara-
 4 graph (B) and inserting the following:

5 “(B) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
 6 retary shall make cost sharing payments to an
 7 owner or operator under this subchapter for
 8 any management activity described in section
 9 1232(a)(5), except for those management ac-
 10 tivities relating to haying or grazing.”.

11 (d) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAY-
 12 MENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of
 13 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking
 14 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$125,000”.

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