

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3254

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2025

Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. FROST, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CHU, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, 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 “Disaster Relief for
5 Farm Workers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FARM WORKERS.**

2 Section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,
3 and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a) is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 2281. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FARM WORKERS.**

6 “(a) EMERGENCY RELIEF.—For fiscal year 2026 and
7 each succeeding fiscal year, during any period where the
8 Secretary determines there is a covered disaster, the Sec-
9 retary, acting through the Under Secretary for Rural De-
10 velopment, shall make grants to eligible farm worker orga-
11 nizations to provide emergency relief to farm workers af-
12 fected by such covered disaster.

13 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible farm worker orga-
14 nization may use funds received pursuant to a grant
15 awarded under subsection (a) to—

16 “(1) provide emergency relief (including
17 through direct distribution of funding) to farm
18 workers to address loss and damage due to a covered
19 disaster;

20 “(2) build capacity to provide such emergency
21 relief;

22 “(3) build resiliency in farm worker commu-
23 nities to address future losses and damages due to
24 covered disasters;

25 “(4) provide infrastructure support, including
26 shelter; and

1 “(5) provide emergency services (including such
2 types of assistance the Secretary determines appro-
3 priate) to farm workers in response to a covered dis-
4 aster.

5 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds provided
6 to an eligible farm worker organization under this section
7 shall remain available until expended.

8 “(d) PROMOTIONAL PLAN.—The Secretary shall de-
9 velop and execute a promotional plan prior to, and
10 throughout the distribution of, emergency relief grants
11 under subsection (a).

12 “(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
13 the Secretary shall consult with eligible farm worker orga-
14 nizations.

15 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

16 “(1) COVERED DISASTER.—The term ‘covered
17 disaster’ means—

18 “(A) an adverse weather event, such as a
19 drought, wildfire, earthquake, hurricane, flood,
20 derecho, excessive heat, tornado, winter storm,
21 freeze, hail, polar vortex, smoke exposure, or ex-
22 cessive moisture;

23 “(B) an unexpected health crisis, such as
24 a pandemic; and

1 “(C) such other event or condition that has
2 caused farm workers to lose income, be unable
3 to work, or stay home or return home in antici-
4 pation of work shortages.

5 “(2) ELIGIBLE FARM WORKER ORGANIZA-
6 TION.—The term ‘eligible farm worker organization’
7 means an organization that is—

8 “(A) a farm worker membership-based or-
9 ganization; or

10 “(B) an organization that—

11 “(i) is described in section 501(c)(3)
12 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and
13 exempt from taxation under section 501(a)
14 of such Code; and

15 “(ii) has experience in providing sup-
16 port or relief services to farm workers, in-
17 cluding migrant or seasonal farm workers.

18 “(3) MIGRANT OR SEASONAL FARM WORKER.—
19 The term ‘migrant or seasonal farm worker’ means
20 an individual—

21 “(A) who has, during any consecutive 12-
22 month period within the preceding 24-month
23 period, performed farm work for wages; and

24 “(B) who has received not less than one-
25 half of such individual’s total income, or been

- 1 employed at least one-half of total work time in
- 2 farm work.”.

