

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5138

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, 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 “Agriculture Skills  
5 Preparation for Industry Recruitment Efforts Act” or the  
6 “ASPIRE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM**  
 2 **GRANTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501(d) of the Food, Ag-  
 4 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.  
 5 2279(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(16) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING  
 7 PROGRAM GRANTS.—

8 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE  
 10 TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ‘agri-  
 11 culture workforce training program’ means  
 12 a training program developed by an eligible  
 13 institution in collaboration with a targeted  
 14 industry partner through which students  
 15 enrolled at that eligible institution receive  
 16 training from that targeted industry part-  
 17 ner, including through—

18 “(I) internships;

19 “(II) apprenticeships;

20 “(III) experience-based curricula;

21 and

22 “(IV) educational programs and  
 23 workshops to promote technical skills.

24 “(ii) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The  
 25 term ‘eligible institution’ means—

1           “(I) an 1862 Institution (as de-  
2           fined in section 2 of the Agricultural  
3           Research, Extension, and Education  
4           Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

5           “(II) an 1890 Institution (as de-  
6           fined in that section);

7           “(III) a 1994 Institution (as de-  
8           fined in section 532 of the Equity in  
9           Educational Land-Grant Status Act  
10          of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
11          Law 103–382));

12          “(IV) a non-land-grant college of  
13          agriculture (as defined in section  
14          1404 of the National Agricultural Re-  
15          search, Extension, and Teaching Pol-  
16          icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

17          “(V) Hispanic-serving agricul-  
18          tural colleges and universities (as de-  
19          fined in that section);

20          “(VI) a center of excellence rec-  
21          ognized under section 1673;

22          “(VII) a junior or community  
23          college (as defined in section 312 of  
24          the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 1058)) that offers a program  
2 of study in agriculture; and

3 “(VIII) an area career and tech-  
4 nical education school (as defined in  
5 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-  
6 reer and Technical Education Act of  
7 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a  
8 program of study in agriculture.

9 “(iii) TARGETED INDUSTRY PART-  
10 NER.—The term ‘targeted industry part-  
11 ner’ means 1 or more of the following enti-  
12 ties:

13 “(I) A member of the agriculture  
14 industry, such as a company or indus-  
15 try association.

16 “(II) An apprenticeship program  
17 in agriculture registered under the  
18 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly  
19 known as the ‘National Apprentice-  
20 ship Act’) (50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;  
21 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

22 “(III) A nonprofit organization  
23 that aims to help individuals gain em-  
24 ployment in the agriculture industry.

1           “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The  
2           Secretary, acting through the Director of the  
3           National Institute of Food and Agriculture,  
4           shall award grants in accordance with this sub-  
5           section to eligible institutions to develop and  
6           carry out agriculture workforce training pro-  
7           grams—

8                   “(i) to promote the growth of the ag-  
9                   riculture industry;

10                   “(ii) to foster competitiveness within  
11                   the agriculture industry; and

12                   “(iii) to improve the training and re-  
13                   tention of workers in the agriculture indus-  
14                   try.

15           “(C) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible  
16           institution awarded a grant under this para-  
17           graph shall use not less than 5 percent of the  
18           funds received through the grant to carry out  
19           an agriculture workforce training program, in-  
20           cluding—

21                   “(i) preliminary recruitment measures  
22                   to encourage students to participate in the  
23                   agriculture workforce training program;  
24                   and

1                   “(ii) professional development sessions  
2                   to train faculty to prepare students for em-  
3                   ployment in the agriculture industry.”.

4           (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than January 31,  
5 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement para-  
6 graph (16) of section 2501(d) of the Food, Agriculture,  
7 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(d))  
8 (as added by subsection (a)).

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