

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6598

To modernize the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to conduct research, development, demonstration, and information programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself and Ms. McDONALD RIVET) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To modernize the authority of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to conduct research, development, demonstration, and information programs.

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 “Commodity Futures
5 Trading Commission Research and Development Mod-
6 ernization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODERNIZATION OF AUTHORITY OF THE COMMIS-**
2 **SION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH, DEVELOP-**
3 **MENT, DEMONSTRATION, AND INFORMATION**
4 **PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 18 of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C.
6 22) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 18. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.**

8 “(a) PROGRAMS.—The Commission, as part of its on-
9 going operations, shall establish and maintain research,
10 development, demonstration, and information programs
11 that further the purposes of this Act, including programs
12 that—

13 “(1) facilitate the understanding by the Com-
14 mission of emerging technologies, technological ad-
15 vances, and innovations and their potential applica-
16 tion to and effect on the transactions and markets
17 under the jurisdiction of the Commission, and asso-
18 ciated implications for cybersecurity, data security,
19 and systemic risk;

20 “(2) provide an environment where emerging
21 technologies, technological advances, and innovations
22 may be explored by the Commission with developers
23 and potential users to evaluate potential effects on
24 the Commission and the markets under the jurisdic-
25 tion of the Commission;

1 “(3) identify areas where the Commission
2 should adapt its administration of this Act in light
3 of emerging technologies, technological advances,
4 and innovations to benefit the markets under the ju-
5 risdiction of the Commission; and

6 “(4) develop educational and other informa-
7 tional materials for dissemination and use among
8 producers, market-users, and the general public re-
9 garding—

10 “(A) the activities, products, entities, and
11 markets regulated under or subject to the re-
12 quirements of this Act;

13 “(B) emerging technologies, technological
14 advances, and innovations in commodity or fi-
15 nancial markets; and

16 “(C) applicable requirements of this Act
17 and the regulations prescribed under this Act
18 with regard to the subjects described in sub-
19 paragraphs (A) and (B).

20 “(b) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission may, by
22 rule or by order, adopt a research and development
23 plan for a program established under subsection (a).

1 “(2) CONDITIONS.—A research and develop-
2 ment plan adopted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
3 identify—

4 “(A) specific areas of interest to the Com-
5 mission;

6 “(B) potential activities the Commission
7 will undertake to investigate an area of interest;
8 and

9 “(C) the means by which the authority de-
10 scribed in subsection (c) will be used in the ap-
11 plicable program established under subsection
12 (a).

13 “(c) OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Office
15 of Federal Procurement Policy Act of 1974 and the
16 Competition in Contracting Act, the Commission
17 may enter into a transaction (other than a contract)
18 for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the pro-
19 grams and activities under subsection (a).

20 “(2) CONDITIONS.—The Commission may enter
21 into a transaction under this subsection only if—

22 “(A) the transaction is used only in fur-
23 therance of a research and development plan es-
24 tablished under subsection (b);

1 “(B) the Commission endeavored to use a
2 competitive process, where appropriate, when
3 determining the parties to the transaction; and

4 “(C) using a contract to do so is either not
5 feasible or not appropriate.

6 “(3) POLICIES.—The Commission shall estab-
7 lish and publish written policies setting forth the
8 manner and criteria for utilizing the authority pro-
9 vided by this subsection.

10 “(d) ACCEPTANCE OF NON-MONETARY CONTRIBU-
11 TIONS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS,
12 PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES.—

13 “(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Commission may
14 accept and use, on behalf of the United States and
15 in accordance with this subsection, any covered non-
16 monetary contribution.

17 “(2) CONDITIONS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered non-mone-
19 tary contribution may be accepted pursuant to
20 this subsection only if it is in furtherance of a
21 research and development plan adopted under
22 subsection (b).

23 “(B) LIMITATIONS ON SOLICITATION AND
24 ACCEPTANCE.—The Commission (including any
25 Commissioner, employee, or contractor) may

1 not solicit or accept a covered non-monetary
2 contribution if—

3 “(i) conditions inconsistent with appli-
4 cable laws or regulations apply to the cov-
5 ered non-monetary contribution;

6 “(ii) the covered non-monetary con-
7 tribution is conditioned on, or will require,
8 the expenditure of appropriated funds not
9 available to the Commission;

10 “(iii) using a contract or other trans-
11 action authority under subsection (c) to ac-
12 quire the covered non-monetary contribu-
13 tion is either feasible or appropriate; or

14 “(iv) the solicitation or acceptance of
15 the covered non-monetary contribution
16 would—

17 “(I) reflect unfavorably on the
18 ability of the Commission to carry out
19 its responsibilities or official duties in
20 a fair and objective manner, or com-
21 promise the integrity or the appear-
22 ance of the integrity of its programs
23 or any official involved in its pro-
24 grams; or

1 “(II) give the endorsement or the
2 appearance of the endorsement by the
3 Commission or Commission staff of
4 the products, services, activities, or
5 policies of the person providing the
6 covered non-monetary contribution.

7 “(C) DURATION.—To the extent applica-
8 ble, the Commission shall return any covered
9 non-monetary contribution accepted pursuant to
10 this subsection as soon as practicable after the
11 purpose for accepting the covered non-monetary
12 contribution has been met.

13 “(D) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission
14 shall, by rule or by order, establish and publish
15 written requirements setting forth the manner
16 and criteria to be used in determining whether
17 a covered non-monetary contribution meets the
18 conditions of this paragraph.

19 “(3) DISCLOSURE.—Within 14 days of agreeing
20 to accept a covered non-monetary contribution pur-
21 suant to this subsection, the Commission shall pro-
22 vide notice and details of such agreement to the
23 Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
25 trition, and Forestry of the Senate.

1 “(4) DEFINITION OF COVERED NON-MONETARY
2 CONTRIBUTION.—In this subsection, the term ‘cov-
3 ered non-monetary contribution’ means a non-mone-
4 tary contribution of provision of access, use of facili-
5 ties, personal property, or services that is related
6 to—

7 “(A) sharing of research, data, or other in-
8 formation;

9 “(B) public presentations; or

10 “(C) noncommercially available services or
11 systems.

12 “(5) SUNSET.—The authority provided in this
13 subsection may not be exercised on or after October
14 1, 2031.

15 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
16 the end of each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit
17 to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
18 of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the
19 House of Representatives a report on all transactions en-
20 tered into under subsection (c) and all covered non-mone-
21 tary contributions accepted under subsection (d) in the fis-
22 cal year, which shall include the following:

23 “(1) A brief description of the subject of each
24 such transaction or covered non-monetary contribu-
25 tion, with an explanation of—

1 “(A) its potential utility to the Commission
2 or the markets regulated by the Commission;

3 “(B) how it fulfills the goals and objectives
4 of the research and development plan estab-
5 lished under subsection (b); and

6 “(C) the status of all related projects.

7 “(2) With respect to each covered non-monetary
8 contribution, a description of—

9 “(A) the source of the covered non-mone-
10 tary contribution;

11 “(B) the nature of the covered non-mone-
12 tary contribution; and

13 “(C) how the covered non-monetary con-
14 tribution meets the conditions set forth in sub-
15 section (d)(2).

16 “(3) A description of all sums expended by the
17 Commission in connection with a transaction entered
18 into under subsection (c), and, if readily ascertain-
19 able, the value of any covered non-monetary con-
20 tribution accepted under subsection (d).”.

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