

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7142

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to extend and permanently authorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2026

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. FEENSTRA) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to extend and permanently authorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, 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 “Advancing Cutting  
5 Edge Agriculture Act” or the “ACE Agriculture Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF AGARDA.**

2 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-  
3 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7  
4 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking  
6 “**PILOT**”;

7 (2) in subsection (a)(6), by striking “growing,”  
8 and inserting “growing (including water conserva-  
9 tion technologies and innovation),”;

10 (3) in subsection (b)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “pilot”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2)—

13 (i) by amending subparagraph (B) to  
14 read as follows:

15 “(B) to overcome the long term and high-  
16 risk technological barriers in the development of  
17 agricultural technologies, research tools, and  
18 qualified products and projects that enhance ex-  
19 port competitiveness, environmental sustain-  
20 ability, water conservation, the reduction, avoid-  
21 ance, sequestration, or mitigation of greenhouse  
22 gas emissions, and resilience to extreme weath-  
23 er, drought, infectious diseases, plant and ani-  
24 mal pathogens, and plant and animal pests;”;  
25 and

1 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting  
2 “or economic cost” after “financial uncer-  
3 tainty”;

4 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

5 (i) in clause (ii), in the matter pre-  
6 ceding subclause (I), by striking “advise  
7 the Chief Scientist on, and”;

8 (ii) by amending clause (iii) to read as  
9 follows:

10 “(iii) RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE DE-  
11 PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

12 “(I) CHIEF SCIENTIST.—The Di-  
13 rector shall report to the Chief Sci-  
14 entist.

15 “(II) OTHER PROGRAMS.—No  
16 other official who is the head of any  
17 other program of the Department of  
18 Agriculture shall report to the Direc-  
19 tor.”;

20 (D) in paragraph (6), by striking “pilot”  
21 each place it appears in subparagraphs (A) and  
22 (B); and

23 (E) by amending paragraph (9) to read as  
24 follows:

25 “(9) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

1           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-  
2           tablish and maintain within the AGARDA a  
3           staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise  
4           to enable the AGARDA to carry out the respon-  
5           sibilities of the AGARDA under this section in  
6           conjunction with other operations of the De-  
7           partment of Agriculture.

8           “(B) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AU-  
9           THORITIES.—In carrying out this subsection,  
10          the Secretary may appoint highly qualified indi-  
11          viduals to scientific or professional positions on  
12          the same terms and conditions as provided in  
13          subsections (b)(3), (b)(4), (c), (d), (e), and (f)  
14          of section 620 of the Agricultural Research, Ex-  
15          tension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7  
16          U.S.C. 7657).”;

17          (4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the  
18          following:

19          “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary  
20          shall use the strategic plan developed under para-  
21          graph (1) to inform the administration of the  
22          AGARDA under this section.”;

23          (5) in subsection (d)—

24                  (A) in paragraph (2), by striking subpara-  
25                  graph (C);

1           (B) in paragraph (3), by striking  
2           “\$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019  
3           through 2023” and inserting “\$100,000,000  
4           for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2032”;  
5           and

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

7           “(4) OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to amounts  
8           otherwise made available to carry out this section,  
9           the Secretary may use to carry out this section other  
10          funds available to the Secretary for any other pur-  
11          pose.

12          “(5) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in paragraph  
13          (2) or (4) authorizes the use of the funds of the  
14          Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this sec-  
15          tion.”; and

16          (6) by striking subsection (e).

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