

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2727

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Ms. SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING PRO-**
4 **GRAM GRANTS.**

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

1 “(16) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING
2 PROGRAM GRANTS.—

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

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

13 “(I) internships;

14 “(II) apprenticeships;

15 “(III) experience-based curricula;

16 and

17 “(IV) educational programs and
18 workshops to promote technical skills.

19 “(ii) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The
20 term ‘eligible institution’ means—

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

1 “(II) an 1890 Institution (as de-
2 fined in that section);

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

8 “(IV) a non-land-grant college of
9 agriculture (as defined in section
10 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Pol-
12 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

13 “(V) Hispanic-serving agricul-
14 tural colleges and universities (as de-
15 fined in that section);

16 “(VI) a center of excellence rec-
17 ognized under section 1673;

18 “(VII) a junior or community
19 college (as defined in section 312 of
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
21 U.S.C. 1058)) that offers a program
22 of study in agriculture; and

23 “(VIII) an area career and tech-
24 nical education school (as defined in
25 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-

1 reer and Technical Education Act of
2 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a
3 program of study in agriculture.

4 “(iii) TARGETED INDUSTRY PART-
5 NER.—The term ‘targeted industry part-
6 ner’ means 1 or more of the following enti-
7 ties:

8 “(I) A member of the agriculture
9 industry, such as a company or indus-
10 try association.

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

17 “(III) A nonprofit organization
18 that aims to help individuals gain em-
19 ployment in the agriculture industry.

20 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The
21 Secretary, acting through the Director of the
22 National Institute of Food and Agriculture,
23 shall award grants in accordance with this sub-
24 section to eligible institutions to develop and

1 carry out agriculture workforce training pro-
2 grams—

3 “(i) to promote the growth of the ag-
4 riculture industry;

5 “(ii) to foster competitiveness within
6 the agriculture industry; and

7 “(iii) to improve the training and re-
8 tention of workers in the agriculture indus-
9 try.

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

16 “(i) preliminary recruitment measures
17 to encourage students to participate in the
18 agriculture workforce training program;
19 and

20 “(ii) professional development sessions
21 to train faculty to prepare students for em-
22 ployment in the agriculture industry.”.

23 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than January 31,
24 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement para-
25 graph (16) of section 2501(d) of the Food, Agriculture,

- 1 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(d))
- 2 (as added by subsection (a)).

