

A RESOLUTION

23-218

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

October 8, 2019

To declare the existence of an emergency, due to congressional review, with respect to the need to amend the Food Production and Urban Gardens Program Act of 1986 to clarify that, under the Urban Farming Land Lease Program, the District may enter into a lease agreement with a qualified applicant to create and maintain an urban farm on vacant land and to authorize the Department of Energy and Environment to waive soil testing requirements for a lessee who agrees not to plant in or use the site soil.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Urban Farming Land Lease Congressional Review Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2019”.

Sec. 2. (a) On July 9, 2019, the Council passed the Urban Farming Land Lease Emergency Amendment Act of 2019, enacted on July 24, 2019 (D.C. Act 23-100; 66 DCR 9732) (“emergency act”), which is set to expire on October 22, 2019.

(b) On September 17, 2019, the Council passed the Urban Farming Land Lease Temporary Amendment Act of 2019, passed on 2nd reading on September 17, 2019 (Enrolled version of Bill 23-377) (“temporary act”). The temporary act was signed by the Mayor on October 7, but has not yet completed congressional review.

(c) This congressional review emergency legislation is necessary to prevent a gap in the law between the expiration of the emergency act and the effective date of the temporary act.

Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it necessary that the Urban Farming Land Lease Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 2019 be adopted after a single reading.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.