

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3509

To authorize certain citrus programs, to increase the limitations on assistance for the tree assistance program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2017

Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. VELA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize certain citrus programs, to increase the limitations on assistance for the tree assistance program, 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 “Citrus Investment in
5 Treatment and Research for U.S. Sustainability Act” or
6 the “CITRUS Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The citrus industry is grappling with the
2 most serious threat in its history: a bacterial disease
3 called citrus greening or Huanglongbing that on the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, does not have a
5 cure.

6 (2) Huanglongbing has caused a reduction in
7 citrus production by over 60 percent since 2007 in
8 Florida.

9 (3) All citrus-producing counties in Texas are
10 under quarantine, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (the vec-
11 tor of the disease) has been found in backyard trees
12 in California, and the disease has also been found in
13 Arizona.

14 (4) The spread of this disease places the domes-
15 tic citrus industry's future into question and has
16 caused the loss of thousands of jobs and millions in
17 revenue.

18 (5) Great progress has been made through Fed-
19 eral, State and industry collaboration, but it is im-
20 perative that Congress provide further research
21 funding and grower assistance.

22 (6) The citrus industry will only eradicate the
23 disease through research funding for short-term and
24 long-term cures and by ensuring there are adequate
25 incentives for growers to replace diseased trees.

1 (7) The Emergency Citrus Disease Research
2 and Extension Program is a program to discover
3 and develop tools for early detection, control, and
4 eradication of diseases and pests that threaten do-
5 mestic citrus production and processing that receives
6 \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding through
7 the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

8 (8) The Citrus Health Response Program
9 (CHRP) is a national effort to protect the domestic
10 citrus industry from invasive citrus pests and dis-
11 eases through partnerships with State departments
12 of agriculture and industry groups.

13 (9) The Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordina-
14 tion Group (HLB-MAC) is instrumental in helping
15 respond to critical issues that impact the health of
16 the citrus industry.

17 (10) The Tree Assistance Program has aided
18 growers in replacing diseased trees, but expanding
19 access to this assistance is needed.

20 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY CITRUS DIS-**
21 **EASE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.**

22 (a) REAUTHORIZATION OF EMERGENCY CITRUS DIS-
23 EASE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM.—Section
24 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Edu-
25 cation Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (j)—

2 (A) by striking paragraph (5); and

3 (B) by redesignating paragraph (6) as
4 paragraph (5); and

5 (2) in subsection (k)(1)(C), by striking “fiscal
6 years 2014 through 2018” and inserting “fiscal
7 years 2018 through 2023”.

8 (b) EXTENSION OF CITRUS DISEASE SUBCOMMITTEE
9 TERMINATION DATE.—Section 1408A(a)(2)(D) of the
10 Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
11 3123a(a)(2)(D)) is amended by striking “on September
12 30, 2018” and inserting “on the date Huanglongbing and
13 the Asian Citrus Psyllid no longer pose a threat to United
14 States citrus production, as determined by the citrus dis-
15 ease subcommittee”.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR CITRUS HEALTH RESPONSE**
17 **PROGRAM.**

18 For purposes of carrying out the citrus health re-
19 sponse program of the Animal and Plant Health Inspec-
20 tion Service, there is authorized to be appropriated such
21 sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2018 through
22 2023.

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR MULTI-AGENCY COORDINA-**
2 **TION GROUP.**

3 For purposes of carrying out the activities of the
4 Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group (HLB-
5 MAC) under the Department of Agriculture, there is au-
6 thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
7 essary for fiscal years 2018 through 2023.

8 **SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE FOR THE TREE AS-**
9 **SISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 (a) LIMITATIONS ON ASSISTANCE.—Section
11 1501(e)(4) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
12 9081(e)(4)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (A) by striking “exceed \$125,000” and in-
15 serting the following: “exceed—

16 “(i) \$125,000”;

17 (B) by striking the period and inserting “;
18 or”; and

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new
20 clause:

21 “(ii) if the person or legal entity is a
22 citrus producer (as defined in paragraph
23 (5) of section 412(j) of the Agricultural
24 Research, Extension, and Education Re-
25 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(j))),

1 \$250,000, for any crop year, or an equiva-
2 lent value in tree seedlings.”;

3 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

4 (A) by striking “exceed 500 acres.” and in-
5 serting the following: “exceed—

6 “(i) 500 acres; or

7 “(ii) if the person or legal entity is a
8 citrus producer (as defined in paragraph
9 (5) of section 412(j) of the Agricultural
10 Research, Extension, and Education Re-
11 form Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(j))),
12 1500 acres.”.

13 (b) ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME REQUIREMENT.—Sec-
14 tion 1001D(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.
15 1308–3a(b)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “except as
17 provided in paragraph (3),” after “provision of
18 law,”;

19 (2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “A pay-
20 ment” and inserting “Except as provided in para-
21 graph (3), a payment”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(3) EXCEPTION FOR CITRUS PRODUCERS
24 UNDER TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—A person or
25 legal entity that is a citrus producer (as defined in

1 paragraph (5) of section 412(j) of the Agricultural
2 Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of
3 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(j))) shall not be eligible to re-
4 ceive a benefit under the tree assistance program
5 under section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of
6 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)), during a crop year if the
7 average adjusted gross income of the person or legal
8 entity exceeds \$1,800,000.”.

○