

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4199

To amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to establish and carry out a pilot program to use blockchain technology in food safety and labeling.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2023

Mr. SOTO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to establish and carry out a pilot program to use blockchain technology in food safety and labeling.

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. PILOT PROGRAM ON THE USE OF BLOCKCHAIN**
4 **TECHNOLOGY IN FOOD SAFETY AND LABEL-**
5 **ING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Agricultural Re-
7 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 is

1 amended by inserting after section 412 (7 U.S.C. 7632)
2 the following:

3 **“SEC. 413. PILOT PROGRAM ON THE USE OF BLOCKCHAIN**
4 **TECHNOLOGY IN FOOD SAFETY AND LABEL-**
5 **ING.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture,
7 acting through the Director of the National Institute of
8 Food and Agriculture, shall establish and carry out a pilot
9 program to use blockchain technology in food safety and
10 labeling.

11 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The pilot program required
12 under subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable, use
13 blockchain technology for—

14 “(1) tracing—

15 “(A) food that may be adulterated within
16 the meaning of section 402 of the Federal
17 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
18 342), the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
19 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products In-
20 spection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), or the
21 Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031
22 et seq.); and

23 “(B) food that has been subject to a vol-
24 untary recall or a mandatory recall under sec-
25 tion 423 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-

1 metac Act (21 U.S.C. 3501), the Federal Meat
2 Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the
3 Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C.
4 451 et seq.), or the Egg Products Inspection
5 Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.);

6 “(2) verifying that food labeled as organic has
7 been produced and handled in accordance with
8 standards for organic certification under the Organic
9 Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et
10 seq.); and

11 “(3) other purposes as the Secretary determines
12 appropriate.

13 “(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
14 retary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
15 with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to implement
16 the pilot program.

17 “(d) DURATION.—The pilot program shall terminate
18 on the date that is four years after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this section.

20 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
21 pilot program terminates under subsection (d), the Sec-
22 retary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on
23 Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-
25 ate a report on the results of the pilot program.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 for the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education
3 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) is amended
4 by inserting after the item relating to section 412 the fol-
5 lowing:

“413. Pilot program on the use of blockchain technology in food safety and la-
beling.”.

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