

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5203

To establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Agritourism,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 11, 2023

Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. ROUZER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office
of Agritourism, 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 “Accelerating the
5 Growth of Rural Innovation and Tourism Opportunities
6 to Uphold Rural Industries and Sustainable Marketplaces
7 Act” or the “AGRITOURISM Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) agritourism provides a range of unique ex-
2 periences to the public, including—

3 (A) education, such as school tours, garden
4 and nursery tours, winery tours, historical agri-
5 cultural exhibits, hops and microbrewery tours,
6 and distillery tours;

7 (B) outdoor recreation, such as river ac-
8 tivities, mountain biking, horseback riding,
9 wildlife viewing and photography, fee fishing
10 and hunting, wagon and sleigh rides, cross-
11 country skiing, game preserves, and clay bird
12 shooting;

13 (C) entertainment, such as concerts and
14 special events, culinary experiences, festivals,
15 fairs, interaction with farm animals, and wed-
16 dings;

17 (D) direct sales, such as on-farm sales,
18 farm stands, agriculture-related crafts and
19 gifts, u-pick operations, u-cut tree farms,
20 wineries, breweries, cideries, distilleries, and cut
21 flowers;

22 (E) accommodations, such as bed-and-
23 breakfast inns, farm and ranch vacations, yurts,
24 sheep wagons, and guest ranches; and

25 (F) dining on a farm;

1 (2) agritourism has financial, educational, and
2 social benefits to communities; and

3 (3) agritourism continues—

4 (A) to offer educational opportunities for
5 children and families;

6 (B) to generate supplemental income for
7 owners of agricultural enterprises, which are
8 often small or family-run businesses;

9 (C) to spur economic development in rural
10 communities;

11 (D) to preserve agricultural heritage; and

12 (E) to help farms diversify.

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
14 gress that, to further realize the benefits of agritourism
15 to communities, the Secretary of Agriculture should incor-
16 porate agritourism into the Department of Agriculture
17 comprehensively.

18 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Agriculture
20 Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after
21 section 216 (7 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

22 **“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF AGRITOURISM.**

23 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
2 the Director of the Office of Agritourism described
3 in subsection (c).

4 “(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means—

5 “(A) each of the several States of the
6 United States;

7 “(B) the District of Columbia; and

8 “(C) any territory of the United States.

9 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
10 lish in the Department an Office of Agritourism.

11 “(c) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint a sen-
12 ior official to serve as the Director of the Office of
13 Agritourism.

14 “(d) DUTIES.—The Director shall encourage and
15 promote, in each State, agritourism activities and
16 agritourism businesses, including—

17 “(1) educational experiences;

18 “(2) outdoor recreation;

19 “(3) entertainment and special events;

20 “(4) direct sales;

21 “(5) accommodations; and

22 “(6) any other activity or business relating to
23 agritourism, as determined by the Secretary.

24 “(e) MEANS OF ACHIEVING.—In carrying out sub-
25 section (d), the Director shall—

1 “(1) coordinate with the agencies and officials
2 of the Department;

3 “(2) advise the Secretary on issues relating to
4 agritourism;

5 “(3) ensure that the programs of the Depart-
6 ment are updated to address best agritourism prac-
7 tices;

8 “(4) conduct outreach to stakeholders and co-
9 ordinate external partnerships to share best prac-
10 tices, provide mentorship, and offer technical assist-
11 ance to agritourism businesses;

12 “(5) facilitate interagency program coordination
13 and develop interagency tools for the promotion of
14 agritourism programs and resources;

15 “(6) review and improve farm enterprise devel-
16 opment programs that provide information about fi-
17 nancial literacy, business planning, and marketing
18 for agritourism;

19 “(7) coordinate networks of agritourism busi-
20 nesses; and

21 “(8) collaborate with other Federal agencies, as
22 needed.”.

23 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The Department of
24 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by re-

1 designating the first section 225 (7 U.S.C. 6925) (relating
2 to the Food Access Liaison) as section 224A.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of
4 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
5 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
8 out section 217.”.

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