

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5595

To amend title 36, United States Code, to update the Federal charter for
Future Farmers of America.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. YOUNG
of Iowa) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Com-
mittee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 36, United States Code, to update the
Federal charter for Future Farmers of America.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “National FFA Organization’s Federal Charter Amend-
6 ments Act”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Purposes of the corporation.
- Sec. 3. Membership.
- Sec. 4. Governing body.

Sec. 5. National student officers and delegates.

Sec. 6. Powers.

Sec. 7. Restrictions.

Sec. 8. Headquarters and principal office.

Sec. 9. Service of process.

Sec. 10. Distribution of assets in dissolution or final liquidation.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES OF THE CORPORATION.**

2 Section 70902 of title 36, United States Code, is
3 amended to read as follows:

4 **“§ 70902. Purposes**

5 “The purposes of the corporation are—

6 “(1) to be an integral component of instruction
7 in agricultural, food, and natural resources edu-
8 cation in the United States, including in public
9 schools, by—

10 “(A) working with secondary schools to de-
11 liver comprehensive agricultural, food, and nat-
12 ural resources education programs;

13 “(B) providing hands-on classroom and
14 laboratory instruction, work-based experiential
15 learning, and leadership development;

16 “(C) preparing students for successful
17 entry into careers related to agriculture, food,
18 and natural resources; and

19 “(D) connecting students to jobs and edu-
20 cational opportunities related to agriculture,
21 food, and natural resources;

1 “(2) to provide educational materials, con-
2 ferences, events, and technical assistance to State
3 and local agricultural, food, and natural resources
4 education agencies;

5 “(3) to seek and promote inclusion and diver-
6 sity in its membership, leadership, and staff to re-
7 flect the belief of the corporation in the value of all
8 human beings;

9 “(4) to create, foster, and assist subordinate as-
10 sociations and chapters;

11 “(5) to build character and thereby develop
12 competent and assertive leadership;

13 “(6) to increase awareness of the global and
14 technological importance of agriculture, food, and
15 natural resources and its contribution to well-being;

16 “(7) to promote careers related to agriculture,
17 food, and natural resources;

18 “(8) to make available to subordinate associa-
19 tions, chapters, and members all official supplies,
20 equipment, programs, and services of the corpora-
21 tion;

22 “(9) to cooperate with others, including State
23 boards for career and technical education, in accom-
24 plishing these purposes; and

1 “(10) to engage in other activities, consistent
2 with these purposes, determined by the governing
3 body to be for the best interests of the corporation.”.

4 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

5 Section 70903 of title 36, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “are as pro-
8 vided in the bylaws” and inserting “are as provided
9 in the constitution or bylaws of the corporation”;
10 and

11 (2) in subsection (b), to read as follows:

12 “(b) VOTING.—The voting rights of members are as
13 provided in the constitution or bylaws of the corporation.”.

14 **SEC. 4. GOVERNING BODY.**

15 (a) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—Section 70904(a) of
16 title 36, United States Code, is amended—

17 (1) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3);

18 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
19 graph (5); and

20 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(2) The board consists of—

23 “(A) individuals who—

24 “(i) represent education or agriculture; and

1 “(ii) are not employed by the corporation;

2 and

3 “(B)(i) the Secretary of Education; or

4 “(ii) a designee of the Secretary who has expe-
5 rience with agricultural, food, and natural resources
6 education, career and technical education, or the
7 corporation.

8 “(3) The chair of the board is as provided in the con-
9 stitution or bylaws of the corporation.

10 “(4) The board shall designate among the individuals
11 of the board a national advisor.

12 “(5) The board shall designate among the individuals
13 of the board described in paragraph (2)(A) an executive
14 secretary and treasurer.

15 “(6) The number of directors, the term of office for
16 the directors, and the method of selecting the directors
17 (except ex officio directors) are as provided in the constitu-
18 tion or bylaws of the corporation.”.

19 (b) GOVERNING COMMITTEE.—Section 70904(b) of
20 title 36, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
21 lows:

22 “(b) GOVERNING COMMITTEE.—

23 “(1) MEMBERS.—The board shall designate at
24 least three members of the board of directors as a
25 governing committee. The terms and method of se-

1 lecting such committee members are as provided in
2 the constitution or bylaws of the corporation, except
3 that the board shall designate to such committee—

4 “(A) the chair of the board;

5 “(B) the executive secretary; and

6 “(C) the treasurer.

7 “(2) POWERS.—When the board is not in ses-
8 sion, the governing committee shall have the powers
9 of the board subject to the board’s discretion and
10 may authorize the seal of the corporation to be af-
11 fixed to all papers that require it.”.

12 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL STUDENT OFFICERS AND DELEGATES.**

13 Section 70905 of title 36, United States Code, is
14 amended—

15 (1) in the heading, by striking, “**officers**” and
16 inserting “**student officers and delegates**”;

17 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “The national
18 officers” and all that follows through the period at
19 the end and inserting “There shall be at least 6 na-
20 tional student officers of the corporation, including
21 a student president, four student vice presidents
22 (each representing regions as provided in the con-
23 stitution or bylaws of the corporation), and a stu-
24 dent secretary.”;

25 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking “national officers” and in-
2 serting “national student officers”; and

3 (B) by striking “, except that—” and all
4 that follows through the period at the end and
5 inserting a period at the end; and

6 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “Each quali-
7 fied delegate has one vote at the annual national
8 convention” and inserting “The voting rights of del-
9 egates are as provided in the constitution or bylaws
10 of the corporation”.

11 **SEC. 6. POWERS.**

12 Section 70906 of title 36, United States Code, is
13 amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (8)—

15 (A) by striking “corporate funds” and in-
16 serting “the funds of the corporation”; and

17 (B) by striking “students and young farm-
18 ers” and inserting “subordinate associations
19 and chapters and members”;

20 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking “publish a
21 magazine and other publications” and inserting
22 “produce publications, including electronic publica-
23 tions”; and

24 (3) in paragraph (10), by striking “procure for
25 and distribute” and inserting “make available”.

1 **SEC. 7. RESTRICTIONS.**

2 Section 70908(d) of title 36, United States Code, is
3 amended by striking the second sentence.

4 **SEC. 8. AVAILABILITY OF PERSONNEL, SERVICES, AND FA-**
5 **CILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.**

6 The third sentence of section 70909 of title 36,
7 United States Code, is amended by striking “vocational”
8 and inserting “career and technical”.

9 **SEC. 9. HEADQUARTERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE.**

10 Section 70910 of title 36, United States Code, is
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “ shall be in the District of Co-
13 lumbia. However, the” and inserting “are as pro-
14 vided in the constitution or bylaws of the corpora-
15 tion. The”; and

16 (2) by striking “are not confined to the District
17 of Columbia but”.

18 **SEC. 10. SERVICE OF PROCESS.**

19 Section 70912(a) of title 36, United States Code, is
20 amended—

21 (1) in the heading, be striking “DISTRICT OF
22 COLUMBIA” and inserting “DESIGNATED AGENT”;

23 (2) by striking “in the District of Columbia”;
24 and

25 (3) by striking the second sentence.

1 **SEC. 11. DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS IN DISSOLUTION OR**
2 **FINAL LIQUIDATION.**

3 Section 70914 of title 36, United States Code, is
4 amended by striking “vocational agriculture” and insert-
5 ing “career and technical education”.

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