

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5691

To improve drought related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Ms. LETLOW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To improve drought related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, 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 “Drought Assistance
5 Improvement Act”

6 **SEC. 2. LIVESTOCK FORAGE DISASTER PROGRAM.**

7 Section 1501(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I) of the Agricultural Act
8 of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(c)(3)(D)(ii)(I)) is amended—

9 (1) by striking “at least 8 consecutive” and in-
10 serting the following: “not less than—

1 “(aa) 4 consecutive weeks
2 during the normal grazing period
3 for the county, as determined by
4 the Secretary, shall be eligible to
5 receive assistance under this
6 paragraph in an amount equal to
7 1 monthly payment using the
8 monthly payment rate deter-
9 mined under subparagraph (B);
10 or

11 “(bb) 8 consecutive”; and

12 (2) in item (bb) (as so designated), by striking
13 “1 monthly payment” and inserting “2 monthly pay-
14 ments”.

15 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR LIVESTOCK, HONEY**
16 **BEEES, AND FARM-RAISED FISH PROGRAM.**

17 (a) DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS.—Section 1501(d)
18 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(d)) is
19 amended—

20 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “drought,”
21 after “adverse weather,”;

22 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “adverse
23 weather or drought,” after “disease,”; and

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

1 “(5) DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS.—For pur-
2 poses of this subsection, the Secretary, in consulta-
3 tion with eligible producers of farm-raised fish, shall
4 establish a documentation standard for each of the
5 following:

6 “(A) Collecting data.

7 “(B) Production of crawfish, as related to
8 reductions in harvest.

9 “(C) Defining loss conditions due to
10 drought.”.

11 (b) REDUCED CRAWFISH HARVEST ELIGIBILITY.—
12 Subsection 1501(d)(2) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7
13 U.S.C. 9081(d)(2)) is further amended by inserting “and
14 loss of crawfish harvest due to adverse weather or
15 drought” after “cattle tick fever”.

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