

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5824

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to improve assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2018

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico (for herself and Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to improve assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers and ranchers, 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 “Assist Socially Dis-  
5 advantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Act of  
6 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DIS-**  
2 **ADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS AND**  
3 **VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

4 Section 2501(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
5 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(a)) is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “agricul-  
8 tural” and inserting “agricultural, forestry, and re-  
9 lated”;

10 (2) in paragraph (3)—

11 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
12 through (D) as subparagraphs (E) through (G),  
13 respectively;

14 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
15 the following:

16 “(B) MAXIMUM TERM AND AMOUNT OF  
17 GRANT, CONTRACT, OR AGREEMENT.—A grant,  
18 contract, or agreement entered into under this  
19 paragraph shall be—

20 “(i) for a term that is not more than  
21 3 years; and

22 “(ii) in an amount that is not more  
23 than \$200,000 for each year of the grant,  
24 contract, or agreement.

1           “(C) PEER REVIEW.—The Secretary shall  
2           establish a fair and efficient external peer re-  
3           view process that—

4                   “(i) the Secretary shall use in making  
5                   grants and entering into contracts and  
6                   other agreements under subparagraph (A);  
7                   and

8                   “(ii) shall include a broad representa-  
9                   tion of peers of the eligible entity.

10           “(D) INPUT FROM ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—  
11           The Secretary shall seek input from eligible en-  
12           tities providing technical assistance under this  
13           subsection not less than once each year to en-  
14           sure that the program is responsive to the eligi-  
15           ble entities providing that technical assist-  
16           ance.”; and

17                   (C) in subsection (G) (as so redesignated),  
18           by adding at the end the following:

19                   “(v) The number of farms or ranches  
20                   started, maintained, or improved as a re-  
21                   sult of funds made available under the pro-  
22                   gram.

23                   “(vi) Actions taken by the Secretary  
24                   in partnership with eligible entities to en-  
25                   hance participation in agricultural pro-

1                   grams by veteran farmers or ranchers and  
2                   socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.

3                   “(vii) The effectiveness of the actions  
4                   described in clause (vi).”; and

5                   (3) in paragraph (4)—

6                   (A) in subparagraph (A)—

7                   (i) in the subparagraph heading, by  
8                   striking “2018” and inserting “2023”;

9                   (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at  
10                  the end;

11                  (iii) in clause (iii), by striking the pe-  
12                  riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13                  (iv) by adding at the end the fol-  
14                  lowing:

15                  “(iv) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal  
16                  years 2019 through 2023, to remain avail-  
17                  able until expended.”; and

18                  (B) in subparagraph (E), by striking  
19                  “2018” and inserting “2023”.

1 **SEC. 3. TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SO-**  
2 **CIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND**  
3 **RANCHERS AND VETERAN FARMERS AND**  
4 **RANCHERS.**

5 Section 2501A of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-  
6 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279–1) is amend-  
7 ed—

8 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**  
9 **VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS**” before the  
10 period at the end;

11 (2) in subsection (a), by inserting “and veteran  
12 farmers and ranchers” before “in programs”;

13 (3) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) by striking the subsection designation  
15 and heading and all that follows through “the  
16 term” the first place it appears and inserting  
17 the following:

18 “(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

19 “(1) **SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMER OR**  
20 **RANCHER.**—The term”; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(2) **VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.**—The  
23 term ‘veteran farmer or rancher’ has the meaning  
24 given the term in section 2501(e).”; and

25 (4) in subsection (c)—

26 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
2 graph (A), by inserting “and veteran farm-  
3 ers or ranchers” after “ranchers”; and

4 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
5 “and gender” and inserting “gender, and  
6 veteran status”;

7 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (2)  
8 through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), re-  
9 spectively;

10 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the  
11 following:

12 “(2) 5-YEAR REQUIREMENT.—Not later than  
13 March 31, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, for  
14 each county and State in the United States, the Sec-  
15 retary shall—

16 “(A) compile data on—

17 “(i) the number of base acres of each  
18 program crop owned by farmers or ranch-  
19 ers;

20 “(ii) payment yields for each program  
21 crop made by farmers or ranchers;

22 “(iii) the number of fee waivers and  
23 premium reductions provided to farmers or  
24 ranchers under the noninsured crop dis-  
25 aster assistance program established by

1 section 196 of the Federal Agriculture Im-  
2 provement and Reform Act of 1996 (7  
3 U.S.C. 7333);

4 “(iv) the number of loans guaranteed  
5 by the Secretary to farmers or ranchers;

6 “(v) the allocation of grazing permits  
7 by the Forest Service to farmers or ranch-  
8 ers; and

9 “(vi) the race, ethnicity, gender, and  
10 veteran status of each farmer or rancher  
11 under clauses (i) through (v), subject to  
12 appropriate privacy protections, as deter-  
13 mined by the Secretary; and

14 “(B) organize the data compiled under  
15 clauses (i) through (v) of subparagraph (A) ac-  
16 cording to the categories described in clause (vi)  
17 of that subparagraph.”;

18 (D) in paragraph (3) (as so redesign-  
19 nated)—

20 (i) by striking “and ethnicity” and in-  
21 sserting “ethnicity, and veteran status”;  
22 and

23 (ii) by striking “paragraph (1)” and  
24 inserting “paragraphs (1) and (2)”;

1 (E) in paragraph (4) (as so redesign-  
2 nated)—

3 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs  
4 (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through  
5 (iii), respectively, and indenting appro-  
6 priately;

7 (ii) by striking the paragraph designa-  
8 tion and heading and all that follows  
9 through “Using” and inserting the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(4) REPORTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Using”;

13 (iii) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesi-  
14 gnated), in the matter preceding clause (i)  
15 (as so redesignated), by striking “under  
16 paragraph (1)” and inserting the following:

17 “under—

18 “(i) paragraph (1); and

19 “(ii) in a separate report, under para-  
20 graph (2).

21 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted  
22 under subparagraph (A) shall contain data”;

23 (iv) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesi-  
24 gnated), in the matter preceding clause (i)  
25 (as so redesignated), by striking “that



1 paragraph” and inserting “paragraphs (1)  
2 and (2), as applicable,”; and  
3 (F) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated),  
4 by striking “the report described in paragraph  
5 (3)” and inserting “the reports described in  
6 paragraph (4)”.

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