

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5973

To amend the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to provide for continuous improvement of organic standards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2023

Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill

OCTOBER 25, 2023

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 to provide for continuous improvement of organic standards, 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 “Continuous Improve-
5 ment and Accountability in Organic Standards Act” or the
6 “CIAO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES.**

2 Section 2122(a) of the Organic Foods Production Act
3 of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6521(a)) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(a) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF ORGANIC
5 STANDARDS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
7 after the date of enactment of the Continuous Im-
8 provement and Accountability in Organic Standards
9 Act, and not less frequently than once every 5 years
10 thereafter, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal
11 Register a request for information soliciting the
12 public’s input with respect to which regulations im-
13 plementing this title should be prioritized for revi-
14 sion during the following five-year period.

15 “(2) IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDED
16 CHANGES.—Based upon the information received
17 pursuant to the request for information under para-
18 graph (1), and in consultation with the National Or-
19 ganic Standards Board, the Secretary shall, not
20 later than 5 years after the date on which a request
21 for information is published under paragraph (1)—

22 “(A) publish in the Federal Register a list
23 of proposed changes to the regulations imple-
24 menting this title that will be prioritized for re-
25 vision;

1 “(B) obtain from the National Organic
2 Standards Board recommendations for each of
3 the proposed changes listed under subpara-
4 graph (A), except for any such changes for
5 which the National Organic Standards Board
6 has previously provided recommendations that
7 are sufficient (as determined by the Secretary)
8 for implementation; and

9 “(C) after obtaining recommendations
10 from the National Organic Standards Board,
11 and after public notice and an opportunity for
12 comment, revise such regulations accordingly.

13 “(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—When implementing
14 paragraph (2), the Secretary and the National Or-
15 ganic Standards Board shall each consider the best
16 available information, including environmental and
17 ecological data, consumer and market data, organic
18 production and handling practices, organic research,
19 and scientific data.

20 “(4) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
21 this subsection shall be construed as—

22 “(A) altering the Secretary’s obligation to
23 consult with the National Organic Standards
24 Board pursuant to section 2104(c);

25 “(B) affecting section 2118; or

1 “(C) precluding from occurring on a more
2 frequent or urgent timeline any revisions to reg-
3 ulations implementing this title.”.

○