

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 569

To reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
trition, and Forestry

A BILL

To reauthorize the farm to school program, 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 “Farm to School Act
5 of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS: FARM TO SCHOOL PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking the paragraph designation
2 and heading and all that follows through “In
3 this subsection, the” and inserting the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

6 “(A) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The
7 term ‘agricultural producer’ means a farmer,
8 rancher, or fisher (including of farm-raised
9 fish).

10 “(B) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesign-
12 nated), by inserting “, including the summer
13 food service program for children under section
14 13 and the early care and afterschool portions
15 of the child and adult care food program under
16 section 17,” after “under this Act”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and non-
18 profit entities through grants and technical assist-
19 ance” and inserting “land-grant colleges and univer-
20 sities, and nonprofit entities through grants, tech-
21 nical assistance, and research”;

22 (3) in paragraph (3)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (i) in clause (i), by inserting “and
25 technical assistance” after “training”;

1 (ii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and
2 (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively;
3 and

4 (iii) by inserting after clause (v) the
5 following:

6 “(vi) implementing agricultural lit-
7 eracy and nutrition education;”; and

8 (B) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-
9 serting the following:

10 “(C) IMPROVED PROCUREMENT AND DIS-
11 TRIBUTION.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding
13 grants under this subsection, the Secretary
14 shall seek to improve local food procure-
15 ment and distribution options for agricul-
16 tural producers and eligible schools.

17 “(ii) AGGREGATION, PROCESSING,
18 TRANSPORTATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.—
19 In advancing local food procurement op-
20 tions and other farm to school objectives,
21 the Secretary may provide funding for
22 projects that include innovative approaches
23 to aggregation, processing, transportation,
24 and distribution.

25 “(D) AWARDS.—

1 “(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total
2 amount provided to a grant recipient under
3 this subsection shall not exceed \$200,000.

4 “(ii) TERM.—The term of an award
5 shall not exceed 3 years.

6 “(iii) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—In mak-
7 ing awards under this subsection, the Sec-
8 retary shall seek to make awards of diverse
9 amounts and duration in order to best
10 match the award to the purpose and scope
11 of the project to be funded.

12 “(E) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may
13 not award a grant under this subsection if the
14 grant funds would be used solely for the pur-
15 pose of carrying out a conference.”;

16 (4) in paragraph (5)—

17 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
18 through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respec-
19 tively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

20 (B) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by
21 striking “lunches” and inserting “meals”;

22 (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
23 so redesignated), by striking “To the maximum
24 extent practicable” and inserting the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
2 tent practicable”;

3 (D) in clause (vi) (as so redesignated), by
4 striking “and” at the end;

5 (E) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so re-
6 designated) as clause (viii);

7 (F) by inserting after clause (vi) (as so re-
8 designated) the following:

9 “(vii) expand the selection of local
10 commodities for eligible schools; and”;

11 (G) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(B) TRIBAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS.—In
13 the case of projects serving tribal communities,
14 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, give highest priority to projects
16 that best use products from tribal agricultural
17 producers, as determined by the Secretary.”;

18 (5) in paragraph (7)—

19 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
20 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
21 tively, and indenting appropriately;

22 (B) by striking the paragraph designation
23 and heading and all that follows through “non-
24 profit entities—” and inserting the following:

1 “(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RE-
2 SEARCH.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
4 provide technical assistance, research, and in-
5 formation to assist eligible schools, State and
6 local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agri-
7 cultural producers or agricultural producer
8 groups, and nonprofit entities—”;

9 (C) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
10 ignated)—

11 (i) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated),
12 by striking “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated),
14 by striking the period at the end and in-
15 sserting “; and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(iv) to increase awareness of, and
19 participation in, farm to school programs
20 among agricultural and aquaculture pro-
21 ducers or agricultural producer groups, in-
22 cluding beginning, veteran, and socially
23 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”; and

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

25 “(B) REVIEW.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
2 year after the date of enactment of the
3 Farm to School Act of 2015 and every 3
4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review
5 and submit to the Committee on Agri-
6 culture and the Committee on Education
7 and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives and the Committee on Agri-
9 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
10 Senate a report that describes the progress
11 that has been made in identifying and
12 eliminating regulatory and other barriers
13 related to developing farm to school pro-
14 grams.

15 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing
16 the report, the Secretary shall examine—

17 “(I) the direct and indirect regu-
18 latory compliance costs affecting the
19 production and marketing of locally or
20 regionally produced agricultural food
21 products to school food programs; and

22 “(II) barriers to local and re-
23 gional market access for small-scale
24 production.”;

25 (6) in paragraph (8)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”;
3 and

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

5 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the funds pro-
6 vided to the Secretary under subparagraph (A),
7 not more than 5 percent may be used to pay
8 administrative costs incurred by the Secretary
9 in carrying out this subsection.”; and

10 (7) in paragraph (9), by striking “2011
11 through 2015” and inserting “2016 through 2021”.

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