

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6091

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 13, 2018

Ms. ADAMS (for herself and Mr. LUETKEMEYER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, 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 “Recognizing and En-
5 couraging Agricultural Leadership Opportunity Act” or
6 the “REAL Opportunity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE AND LEADERSHIP AT**
2 **1890 INSTITUTIONS.**

3 The Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act
4 of 1990 is amended by inserting after section 1673 (7
5 U.S.C. 5926) the following:

6 **“SEC. 1673A. CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE AND LEADER-**
7 **SHIP.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish not more than 6 Centers of Excellence and Leadership
10 (in this section referred to as the ‘Centers’) to be led by
11 not fewer than three and not more than 4 lead 1890 Insti-
12 tutions selected by the Secretary of Agriculture in con-
13 sultation with the Director of the National Institute of
14 Food and Agriculture. A lead 1890 Institution may not
15 be selected to lead more than one Center.

16 “(b) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
18 lish a technical committee for each Center to man-
19 age and administer the Center—

20 “(A) to ensure the identification of appro-
21 priate priorities for the scope of the work of the
22 Center;

23 “(B) to ensure a competitive grant process
24 with respect to grants awarded by the Center;
25 and

1 “(C) to conduct appropriate assessments
2 and evaluations of activities carried out by the
3 Center.

4 “(2) COMPOSITION.—A technical committee es-
5 tablished under paragraph (1) for a Center shall be
6 composed of—

7 “(A) one representative from each 1890
8 Institution participating with the Center; and

9 “(B) a designee of the 1890 Universities
10 Foundation.

11 “(c) CENTER AREAS OF FOCUS AND GOALS.—The
12 Secretary shall designate Centers of Excellence and Lead-
13 ership to focus on one or more of the following areas and
14 corresponding activities:

15 “(1) With respect to student success and work-
16 force development, such activities as may be nec-
17 essary to ensure that students have the skills and
18 education needed to work in agriculture and food in-
19 dustries, agriculture science, technology, engineering,
20 mathematics, and related fields of study.

21 “(2) With respect to nutrition, health, wellness,
22 and quality of life, research, education, and exten-
23 sion activities that increase access to healthy food,
24 improve nutrition, mitigate preventable diseases, and

1 develop strategies to assist limited resource individ-
2 uals in accessing health and nutrition resources.

3 “(3) With respect to farming systems, rural
4 prosperity, and economic sustainability—

5 “(A) sharing best practices with farmers to
6 improve agricultural production, processing,
7 and marketing;

8 “(B) activities designed to reduce urban
9 food deserts;

10 “(C) examining new uses for traditional
11 and nontraditional crops, animals, and natural
12 resources; and

13 “(D) such activities as are carried out, as
14 of the date of the enactment of this section, by
15 the Center of Innovative and Sustainable Small
16 Farms, Ranches, and Forest Lands.

17 “(4) With respect to global food security and
18 defense—

19 “(A) engaging in international partner-
20 ships that strengthen agricultural development
21 in developing countries;

22 “(B) partnering with international re-
23 searchers regarding new and emerging animal
24 and plant pests and diseases;

1 “(C) engaging in agricultural disaster re-
2 covery; and

3 “(D) such activities as are carried out, as
4 of the date of the enactment of this section, by
5 the Center for International Engagement.

6 “(5) With respect to natural resources, energy,
7 and the environment, such activities as may be nec-
8 essary to protect and manage domestic natural re-
9 sources for current and future production of food
10 and agricultural products.

11 “(6) With respect to emerging technologies, ac-
12 tivities related to—

13 “(A) developing of emerging technologies
14 to increase the agricultural productivity;

15 “(B) enhancing small farm economic via-
16 bility; and

17 “(C) improving rural communities by—

18 “(i) developing genetic and sensor
19 technologies for food and agriculture; and

20 “(ii) providing technology training to
21 farmers.

22 “(d) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than one year
23 after the date on which funds are first allocated under
24 subsection (g)(2) and annually thereafter, the Secretary

1 shall submit to Congress a comprehensive progress report
2 describing—

3 “(1) the resources invested in the Centers; and

4 “(2) the work done by the Centers.

5 “(e) LEAD 1890 INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this
6 section, the term ‘lead 1890 Institution’ means an 1890
7 Institution (as defined in section 2 of the Agricultural Re-
8 search, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7
9 U.S.C. 7601)) that has the critical mass of faculty, special
10 facilities, and capacity to engage in and support the identi-
11 fied education, extension, and research priorities of a Cen-
12 ter.

13 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
15 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.”.

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