

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7883

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary awards grants to States or State departments of agriculture for the purposes of providing support to agricultural fairs for losses sustained due to COVID–19.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2020

Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. LONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program under which the Secretary awards grants to States or State departments of agriculture for the purposes of providing support to agricultural fairs for losses sustained due to COVID–19.

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 “Agricultural Fairs Res-
5 cue Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURAL FAIR RESCUE GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 months after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agri-
4 culture, acting through the Administrator of the Agricul-
5 tural Marketing Service, shall establish a program under
6 which the Secretary will award grants to States or State
7 departments of agriculture for the purposes of providing
8 support to agricultural fairs for losses sustained by such
9 fairs due to COVID–19.

10 (b) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant to
11 a State or State department of agriculture under this sec-
12 tion shall be based on the difference between the average
13 attendance at agricultural fairs in the State for a month
14 occurring in 2019 compared to the corresponding month
15 in 2020.

16 (c) CONDITIONS.—As a condition on the receipt of
17 a grant under this section, a State or State department
18 of agriculture shall agree—

19 (1) to prioritize supporting agricultural fairs in
20 the State facing the greatest financial hardship; and

21 (2) to use not more than one percent of grant
22 funds for administrative costs incurred in providing
23 support to agricultural fairs.

24 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State or State department
25 of agriculture selected to receive a grant under this section

1 may only use grant funds to assist agricultural fairs
2 that—

3 (1) host annual events that are drivers and pro-
4 moters of agribusiness in the State (as determined
5 by the State); and

6 (2) have experienced a closure, stoppage, or
7 cancellation of a local, county or State fair oper-
8 ations as a direct or indirect result of—

9 (A) the COVID–19 national emergency; or

10 (B) any associated actions taken by any
11 governmental authority at the Federal, State,
12 county, or municipal level in response to that
13 national emergency; and

14 (3) agree to, and demonstrate the intent to, re-
15 establish a fair within 12 months of the termination
16 of the declaration specified in subsection (f)(2).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to make grants under this
19 section \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, each suc-
20 ceeding fiscal year occurring during the COVID–19 na-
21 tional emergency, and the first fiscal year immediately fol-
22 lowing the termination of such national emergency.

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) AGRICULTURAL FAIR.—The term “agricul-
2 tural fair” means a local, county, or State fair that
3 helps farmers—

4 (A) promote their products;

5 (B) expand agricultural markets through
6 conservation programs, agricultural research,
7 educational programs, or other events that en-
8 courage agriculture, horticulture, and the do-
9 mestic arts.

10 (2) COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The
11 term “COVID–19 national emergency” means the
12 national emergency declared by the President under
13 the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et
14 seq.) on March 13, 2020, with respect to COVID–
15 19.

16 (3) STATE.—The term “State” means—

17 (A) a State;

18 (B) the District of Columbia;

19 (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

20 and

21 (D) any other territory or possession of the
22 United States.

23 (4) STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

24 The term “State department of agriculture” means

- 1 the agency, commission, or department of a State
- 2 government responsible for agriculture in the State.

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