S. 859

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide for the conducts of activities to detect, and respond in a timely manner to, threats to animal health.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 2013

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide for the conducts of activities to detect, and respond in a timely manner to, threats to animal health.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Animal and Public Health Protection Act”.

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SEC. 2. NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK.

Subtitle E of title X of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 10409 the following:

"SEC. 10409A. NATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK.

"(a) Definition of Eligible Laboratory.—In this section, the term ‘eligible laboratory’ means a diagnostic laboratory that meets specific criteria developed by the Secretary, in consultation with State animal health officials, State veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and veterinary diagnostic laboratories at institutions of higher education.

"(b) Contracts.—The Secretary shall offer to enter into contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other legal instruments with eligible laboratories—

"(1) to enhance the capability of the Secretary—

"(A) to detect, and respond in a timely manner to, emerging or existing threats to animal health; and

"(B) to support the protection of public health, the environment, and the agricultural economy of the United States;
“(2) to provide the capacity and capability for standardized—

“(A) test procedures, reference materials, and equipment;

“(B) laboratory biosafety and biosecurity levels;

“(C) quality management system requirements;

“(D) interconnected electronic reporting and transmission of data; and

“(E) evaluation for emergency preparedness; and

“(3) to coordinate the development, implementation, and enhancement of national veterinary diagnostic laboratory capabilities, with special emphasis on surveillance planning and vulnerability analysis, technology development and validation, training, and outreach.

“(c) PRIORITY.—To the extent practicable and to the extent capacity and specialized expertise may be necessary, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible laboratories at existing Federal facilities, State facilities, and facilities at institutions of higher education.
“(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2018.”.