

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1246

To amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide support for facilities providing healthcare, education, child care, public safety, and other vital services in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide support for facilities providing healthcare, education, child care, public safety, and other vital services in rural areas.

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 “Investing in Rural
5 America Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF FARM CREDIT SYSTEM INSTITU-**
2 **TIONS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR**
3 **ESSENTIAL RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES**
4 **PROJECTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Farm Credit Act of 1971 is
6 amended by inserting after section 4.18A (12 U.S.C.
7 2206a) the following:

8 **“SEC. 4.18. ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit Bank, direct
10 lender association, or bank for cooperatives chartered
11 under this Act may, for the purpose of making available
12 capital to develop, build, maintain, improve, or provide re-
13 lated equipment or other support for essential community
14 facilities in rural areas, make and participate in loans and
15 commitments, and extend other technical and financial as-
16 sistance for projects for essential community facilities eli-
17 gible for financing under section 306(a) of the Consoli-
18 dated Farm and Rural Development Act.

19 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—Only an entity eligible for financ-
20 ing under section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and
21 Rural Development Act may receive financing or any other
22 assistance under subsection (a) of this section.

23 “(c) LIMITATIONS.—

24 “(1) FINANCING.—A Farm Credit System insti-
25 tution described in subsection (a) shall not provide
26 financing or assistance under this section in an ag-

gregate amount that exceeds 15 percent of the total of all outstanding loans of the institution.

“(2) OFFER REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A Farm Credit System institution shall not provide financing or assistance under this section unless the institution—

“(i) has offered, under reasonable terms and conditions acceptable to the borrower involved, an interest in the financing to at least 1 domestic lending institution not referred to in subsection (a) other than the Department of Agriculture; and

“(ii) has reported the offer to the Farm Credit Administration.

“(B) RURAL COMMUNITY BANK PRIORITY.—In offering an interest in a financing to a domestic lending institution described in subparagraph (A)(i), the Farm Credit System institution shall give priority to community banks located in the service area of the essential community facility being financed.

“(d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Farm Credit Administration shall

1 provide a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the
2 House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
3 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the ac-
4 tivities undertaken pursuant to this section by Farm Cred-
5 it System institutions during the period covered by the re-
6 port, including through partnerships between such an in-
7 stitution and other lending institutions, which shall also
8 be posted on the website of the Farm Credit Administra-
9 tion.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2025.

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