

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7587

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to modify the BARD Fund, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

Mr. VINDMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to modify the BARD Fund, 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 “United States-Israel
5 Agriculture Cooperation Improvement and Expansion
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the United States-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (referred to
2 in this section as the “BARD Fund”)—

3 (A) was established in 1977; and

4 (B) is a competitive funding program that
5 supports collaborative agricultural research in
6 areas of mutual interest to the United States
7 and Israel;

8 (2) the primary mission of the BARD Fund is
9 to bring together United States and Israeli scientists
10 to jointly address key agricultural and food production challenges that concern both countries;

11 (3) since its establishment, the BARD Fund
12 has approved more than 1,300 research projects,
13 with a total investment of \$315,000,000 that has
14 gained \$16 for every \$1 spent; and

15 (4) research funded by the BARD Fund has led
16 to new agricultural practices, commercial engagements, patents, and breeding rights licenses, which
17 serve as a growth engine to the United States and
18 Israeli economies.

19 **SEC. 3. BARD FUND.**

20 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
21 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “entered into” and inserting “as entered into in 1977”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “sector.” and inserting “sector in the United States, Israel, signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration, done at Washington September 15, 2020, Arab States that have normalized relations with Israel, and other interested nations; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) support mid-stage research to advance cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States and Israel.”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

There is authorized to be appropriated to the BARD Fund to carry out activities under this subsection \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

1 **SEC. 4. BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.**

2 Section 1458 of the National Agricultural Research,
3 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
4 3291) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(f) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD Fund
6 shall establish an accelerator program that supports
7 midstage research, as determined by the technology readi-
8 ness level, in priority areas established by the BARD
9 Fund that—

10 “(1) fast-tracks cooperative research between
11 scientists participating in activities described in
12 paragraph (e)(2);

13 “(2) accelerates the successful development of
14 agricultural research through resources and services
15 developed by the BARD Fund;

16 “(3) provides management guidance, technical
17 assistance, and consulting to scientists participating
18 in activities described in paragraph (2); or

19 “(4) advances cooperative agricultural research
20 projects of mutual interest to the United States,
21 Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords
22 Declaration.

23 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 is authorized to be appropriated to the BARD fund to

- 1 carry out activities under this subsection \$12,000,000 for
- 2 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

