

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8525

To amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide for seasonal and perishable programs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2026

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 to provide for seasonal and perishable programs, 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. SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE PROGRAMS.**

4       The Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004  
5       (Public Law 108–465) is amended by adding at the end  
6       the following:

**“TITLE V—SEASONAL AND  
PERISHABLE PROGRAMS**

**“SEC. 501. SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE CROP LOSS PRO-  
GRAM.**

“(a) SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE CROP LOSS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with marketing year 2027, and each year thereafter, with respect to a producer of a seasonal and perishable crop in a geographic region described in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall make annual crop loss payments in accordance with this section if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) the effective price for the seasonal and perishable crop for such marketing year is less than the reference price for such crop; and

“(B) the crop loss described in subparagraph (A) is caused by imports of the seasonal and perishable crop.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE.—Geographic coverage described in this paragraph refers to coverage of a geographic region in the United States—

“(A) in which a seasonable and perishable commodity is grown within a seasonal marketing window; and

1                   “(B) for which an annual normal harvest  
2                   and shipment of such seasonal and perishable  
3                   crop occurs.

4           “(b) EFFECTIVE PRICE.—The effective price for a  
5           seasonal and perishable crop shall be the national average  
6           market price for the seasonal and perishable crop during  
7           the seasonal marketing window.

8           “(c) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—If seasonal perishable crop  
9           loss program payments are required to be provided under  
10          this section for the last seasonal marketing window for  
11          a covered seasonal and perishable crop, the amount of the  
12          seasonal perishable crop loss program payment to be paid  
13          to producers on a farm for the seasonal marketing window  
14          shall be equal to the product obtained by multiplying—

15                   “(1) the payment rate for the covered seasonal  
16                   and perishable crop which shall be equal to the dif-  
17                   ference between—

18                   “(A) the reference price for the covered  
19                   seasonal and perishable crop; and

20                   “(B) the effective price determined under  
21                   subsection (b) for the seasonal and perishable  
22                   crop; and

23                   “(2) the previous three-year average production  
24                   for the covered seasonal and perishable crop during  
25                   the same seasonal marketing window.

1       “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—A producer may only be eligible  
2 for a payment under this section if such producer—

3           “(1) has an average adjusted gross income of  
4 less than \$5,000,000 for the 3 tax years preceding  
5 the most recent tax year; or

6           “(2) derives at least 75 percent of the adjusted  
7 gross income of such producer from farming, ranch-  
8 ing, or forestry for the tax year for which payment  
9 under this section is sought.

10       “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11           “(1) SEASONAL MARKETING WINDOW.—The  
12 term ‘seasonal marketing window’ means, with re-  
13 spect to a seasonal and perishable crop—

14           “(A) the season of a crop year in which  
15 such crop is normally marketed within a geo-  
16 graphic region described in subsection (a)(2);  
17 and

18           “(B) the season that concludes on the date  
19 that is not later than 8 weeks after the last day  
20 on which such crops are harvested during a  
21 normal marketing window.

22           “(2) REFERENCE PRICE.—The term ‘reference  
23 price’ means the national average market price re-  
24 ceived by producers for domestically produced sea-

1       sonal and perishable crop for the period of the most  
2       recent three marketing seasons.

3               “(3) SEASONAL AND PERISHABLE CROP.—The  
4       term ‘seasonal and perishable crop’ means a crop  
5       that is—

6               “(A) a fresh or chilled specialty crop that,  
7       if imported, would be classified under HS2020  
8       tariff codes 0701, 0702, 0703, 0704, 0705,  
9       0706, 0707, 0708, 0709, 0803, 0804, 0805,  
10      0806, 0807, 0808, 0809, or 0810 (or such suc-  
11      cessor codes, as determined by the Secretary);

12              “(B) marketed in raw form for consump-  
13      tion without further processing; and

14              “(C) normally marketed not later than 8  
15      weeks after harvesting.

16              “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
17      the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

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