

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9344

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, to provide for marijuana agricultural research program at 1890 institutions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2026

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Ms. TITUS) 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 provide for marijuana agricultural research program at 1890 institutions, 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 “Establishing and De-
5 veloping University Cannabis Agriculture Techniques and
6 Excellence Act of 2026” or the “EDUCATE Act of
7 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARIJUANA RESEARCH AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.**

2 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
3 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“Subtitle P—Marijuana Research**
6 **at 1890 Institutions**

7 **“SEC. 1492. MARIJUANA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PRO-**
8 **GRAM AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
10 the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agri-
11 culture (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Secretary’),
12 shall establish a program under which the Secretary will
13 award, on a competitive basis grants to authorized institu-
14 tions to conduct research on the cultivation (including agri-
15 conomic best practices) and processing of marijuana. Such
16 research may include research on the following topics:

17 “(1) The optimization of cultivation and har-
18 vesting practices for marijuana crops.

19 “(2) The examination of soil health, water con-
20 servation, pest management, and sustainability im-
21 pacts of marijuana agriculture.

22 “(3) The evaluation of economic development
23 opportunities for minority and disadvantaged farm-
24 ers in emerging marijuana markets.

25 “(4) Workforce development, training, and ex-
26 tension activities related to marijuana agriculture.

1 “(b) APPLICATION.—An authorized institution seek-
2 ing a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
3 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
5 including documentation of the registration of the institu-
6 tion as described in section 1492D(2).

7 “(c) SELECTION OF GRANTEES.—In selecting au-
8 thorized institutions to receive a grant under this section,
9 the Secretary shall—

10 “(1) give priority to institutions that have part-
11 nerships with minority and small-scale farmers or
12 community-based agricultural organizations; and

13 “(2) ensure an equitable distribution of grant
14 funds among such institutions.

15 “(d) CONDITION.—An authorized institution receiv-
16 ing a grant under this section shall agree, as a condition
17 on receipt of such grant, to coordinate with the Secretary
18 and other Federal agencies to ensure compliance with ap-
19 plicable Federal laws relating to the possession, handling,
20 study, or other research activity involving marijuana.

21 “(e) FUNDING.—

22 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
23 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
24 this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
25 through 2030.

1 “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds
 2 made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year,
 3 the Secretary shall reserve not less than 25 percent
 4 to award grants to authorized institutions that are
 5 Hispanic-serving institutions.

6 **“SEC. 1492A. MARIJUANA AGRICULTURE STUDIES SCHOL-**
 7 **ARSHIP PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 9 program (to be known as the Marijuana Agriculture Stud-
 10 ies Scholarship Program) under which the Secretary will
 11 award grants to authorized institutions for purposes of
 12 awarding scholarships to individuals who—

13 “(1)(A) have been accepted for admission at
 14 such institution and will be enrolled full-time at such
 15 institution in an undergraduate or graduate program
 16 in the food and agricultural sciences not later than
 17 one year after the date of such acceptance; or

18 “(B) are enrolled full-time at such institution in
 19 such an undergraduate or graduate program; and

20 “(2) intend to pursue, or are pursuing a career
 21 in marijuana or hemp agriculture, marijuana cultiva-
 22 tion, plant science, agricultural technology, agricul-
 23 tural science, or agricultural policy.

24 “(b) APPLICATION.—An authorized institution seek-
 25 ing a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-

1 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and
2 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
3 including documentation of the registration of the institu-
4 tion as described in section 1492D(2).

5 “(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

6 “(1) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The amount of a
7 scholarship awarded pursuant to this section shall
8 not exceed \$10,000 per student, per academic year.

9 “(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—Of the funds made
10 available under subsection (c), the Secretary may
11 use not more than \$100,000 to award grants under
12 this subsection for the academic year beginning on
13 July 1, 2027, and each succeeding academic year for
14 which such funds remain available.

15 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
17 \$100,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

18 **“SEC. 1492B. REPORTING.**

19 “Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this subtitle, and annually thereafter, the Sec-
21 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of
22 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
23 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report
24 describing—

1 “(1) grants awarded under the program estab-
2 lished under section 1492;

3 “(2) the outcomes and findings of research con-
4 ducted pursuant to such section; and

5 “(3) the participation in the scholarship pro-
6 gram under section 1492A and outcomes of such
7 program.

8 **“SEC. 1492C. NONDISCRIMINATION; SAFE HARBOR; RULE**
9 **OF CONSTRUCTION.**

10 “(a) NO DENIAL OF FEDERAL BENEFIT.—Notwith-
11 standing any other provision of law, an institution of high-
12 er education, faculty member, researcher, employee, or
13 student that receives funding under, conducts research
14 pursuant to, or participates in a program or activity au-
15 thorized by, this Act shall not be denied any Federal ben-
16 efit, grant, or contract, solely because of the cultivation,
17 possession, handling, study, or other research activity in-
18 volving marijuana conducted in accordance with this Act.

19 “(b) NO FEDERAL PROSECUTION OR CIVIL PEN-
20 ALTIES FOR ALLOWED CONDUCT.—An individual or enti-
21 ty who receives funding under, conducts research pursuant
22 to, or participates in a program or activity authorized by
23 this Act shall not be subject to criminal prosecution or
24 civil or administrative penalties under Federal law relating
25 to that receipt of funding, research, or participation so

1 long as the individual or entity, in receiving such funds,
2 conducting such research, or participating in such a pro-
3 gram or activity is acting within the scope of the applica-
4 ble registration under section 303 of the Controlled Sub-
5 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) and such other requirements
6 as may be imposed by the Secretary under this Act.

7 **“SEC. 1492D. DEFINITIONS.**

8 “In this Act:

9 “(1) The term ‘1890 Institution’ has the mean-
10 ing given such term in section 2 of the Agricultural
11 Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of
12 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).

13 “(2) The term ‘authorized institution’ means a
14 covered institution that, as of the date on which the
15 institution submits an application under section
16 1492 or 1492A (as applicable), has a registration in
17 effect under section 303 of the Controlled Sub-
18 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) to conduct research
19 with marijuana.

20 “(3) The term ‘marijuana’ has the meaning
21 given such term in section 102 of the Controlled
22 Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

23 “(4) The term ‘covered institution’ means—

24 “(A) an 1890 Institution;

1 “(B) a Hispanic-serving institution (as de-
2 fined in section 502 of the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)); and

4 “(C) a part B institution (as defined in
5 section 322 of the Higher Education Act of
6 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)) that—

7 “(i) is not an 1890 Institution; and

8 “(ii) has an accredited program offer-
9 ing education in the food and agricultural
10 sciences.”.

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