

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9884

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to establish a specialty crop emergency assistance framework, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself and Mr. GRAY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to establish a specialty crop emergency assistance framework, 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 “Cultivating Horti-
5 cultural Innovation in Local Economies Act of 2026” or
6 the “CHILE Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FRAME-**
2 **WORK.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Agriculture Improve-
4 ment and Reform Act of 1996 is amended by inserting
5 after section 196 (7 U.S.C. 7333) the following:

6 **“SEC. 197. SPECIALTY CROP EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**
7 **FRAMEWORK.**

8 “(a) DEFINITION OF SPECIALTY CROP.—In this sec-
9 tion, the term ‘specialty crop’ has the meaning given the
10 term in section 3 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness
11 Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note; Public Law 108–465).

12 “(b) FRAMEWORK.—The Secretary shall establish a
13 framework to provide direct assistance to producers of
14 specialty crops the production of which is impacted by an
15 adverse event (including an economic crisis or market dis-
16 ruption), as determined by the Secretary, in accordance
17 with this section.

18 “(c) PAYMENT CALCULATION.—In determining a
19 payment calculation for purposes of direct assistance to
20 a producer of specialty crops under subsection (b), the
21 Secretary shall calculate payments based on the product
22 obtained by multiplying—

23 “(1) the producer’s sales of specialty crops for
24 a calendar year that precedes the year in which the
25 adverse event described in that subsection occurred
26 or the average of those sales over a set of consecu-

1 tive calendar years that precedes the year in which
2 that adverse event occurred, as determined by the
3 Secretary; by

4 “(2) a payment factor the Secretary deter-
5 mines, subject to the availability of funds, to address
6 losses of those specialty crops from that adverse
7 event.

8 “(d) SPECIAL RULES.—Subject to subsection (e), in
9 providing direct assistance pursuant to this section, the
10 Secretary shall consider—

11 “(1) the higher value of specialty crops relative
12 to other crops;

13 “(2) the greater input costs required to grow
14 specialty crops relative to other crops; and

15 “(3) the diverse types of legal entities and busi-
16 ness structures used by specialty crop producers.

17 “(e) LIMITATIONS.—

18 “(1) TOTAL AMOUNT.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), the total amount of pay-
21 ments received, directly or indirectly, by a per-
22 son or legal entity (except a qualified pass
23 through entity) (as those terms are defined in
24 section 1001(a) of the Food Security Act of
25 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308(a))) for any crop year

1 under this section may not exceed the amount
2 specified in subsection (b) of section 1001 of
3 the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 1308),
4 as adjusted pursuant to subsection (i) of that
5 section.

6 “(B) EXCEPTION.—In the case of a person
7 or legal entity with an average gross income (as
8 calculated under subparagraph (B) of section
9 1001D(b)(4) of the Food Security Act of 1985
10 (7 U.S.C. 1308–3a(b)(4))) for which greater
11 than or equal to 75 percent of the average de-
12 rives from farming, ranching, or silviculture ac-
13 tivities (as defined in subparagraph (A) of that
14 section)—

15 “(i) subparagraph (A) of this para-
16 graph shall not apply; and

17 “(ii) the total maximum amount of
18 payments received, directly or indirectly,
19 by that person or legal entity for any crop
20 year under this section shall be set by the
21 Secretary, except that amount may not be
22 less than \$900,000.

23 “(2) NOTIFICATION OF INTERESTS; ELIGI-
24 BILITY; DENIALS.—Sections 1001A(a), 1001B, and
25 1001C of the Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C.

1 1308–1(a), 1308–2, 1308–3) shall apply to a pro-
2 ducer of a specialty crop under this section in the
3 same manner as those sections apply to a person or
4 legal entity with respect to a covered commodity, ex-
5 cept to the extent those sections relate to the appli-
6 cation of subsections (b) through (d) of section
7 1001A of that Act (7 U.S.C. 1308–1).

8 “(f) DEFAULT STRUCTURE.—The Secretary shall ad-
9 minister any program to deliver direct assistance to pro-
10 ducers of specialty crops described in subsection (b), in-
11 cluding any direct assistance administered under the au-
12 thority of section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation
13 Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c), through the framework es-
14 tablished under subsection (b).”.

15 (b) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the
16 Secretary of Agriculture, out of any amounts in the Treas-
17 ury not otherwise appropriated, \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal
18 year 2027, to remain available until expended, to provide
19 direct assistance to producers of specialty crops pursuant
20 to section 197 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement
21 and Reform Act of 1996 (as added by subsection (a)).

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