

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2608

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2025

Mr. THUNE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve the conservation reserve program, 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 “CRP Improvement and
5 Flexibility Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM IMPROVE-**
7 **MENTS.**

8 (a) STATE ACRES FOR WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT
9 CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT.—Section 1231(d)(6)(A)(i) of

1 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
2 3831(d)(6)(A)(i)) is amended—

3 (1) in subclause (II), by striking “and” at the
4 end; and

5 (2) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(IV) land that will be enrolled
7 under the State acres for wildlife en-
8 hancement practice established by the
9 Secretary; and”.

10 (b) EMERGENCY HAYING DURING THE PRIMARY
11 NESTING SEASON; CONDITIONS ON HAYING AND GRAZ-
12 ING.—Section 1233(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985
13 (16 U.S.C. 3833(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1)(B)(i)—

15 (A) by redesignating subclauses (I)
16 through (VI) as subclauses (II) through (VII),
17 respectively;

18 (B) by inserting before subclause (II) (as
19 so redesignated) the following:

20 “(I) emergency haying in re-
21 sponse to a localized or regional
22 drought, flooding, wildfire, or other
23 emergency, on all practices, during
24 the final 2 weeks of, and outside of,
25 the primary nesting season, on not

1 more than 50 percent of contract
2 acres, as identified in the site-specific
3 plan, when—

4 “(aa) the county is des-
5 ignated as D2 (severe drought)
6 or greater according to the
7 United States Drought Monitor;

8 “(bb) there is at least a 40
9 percent loss in forage production
10 in the county; or

11 “(cc) the Secretary, in co-
12 ordination with the State tech-
13 nical committee, determines that
14 the program can assist in the re-
15 sponse to a natural disaster event
16 without permanent damage to
17 the established cover;”;

18 (C) in subclause (II) (as so redesignated),
19 in the matter preceding item (aa), by striking
20 “emergency haying, emergency grazing, or
21 other emergency use” and inserting “emergency
22 grazing or other emergency use”; and

23 (D) in subclause (III) (as so redesignated),
24 by striking “payments” and inserting “the con-

ditions described in item (aa), (bb), or (cc) of
subclause (I) are met or payments”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(A) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause
(iii); and

(B) by inserting after clause (i) the fol-
lowing:

“(ii) DAMAGE TO COVER FOR WILD-
LIFE POPULATIONS.—Haying or grazing
described in paragraph (1) shall not be
permitted on land subject to a contract
under the conservation reserve program, or
under a particular practice, if haying or
grazing during the final 2 weeks of the pri-
mary nesting season under that practice,
as applicable, would cause long-term dam-
age to vegetative cover for wildlife popu-
lations supported by the applicable practice
on that land.”.

(c) COST SHARING PAYMENTS FOR ESTABLISHMENT
OF GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) COST SHARING PAYMENTS; OTHER FED-
ERAL COST SHARE ASSISTANCE.—Section 1234(b) of
the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(b))
is amended—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) by striking “establishing water”
 3 and inserting the following: “establishing—
 4 “(A) water”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
 6 ignated), by striking the period at the end
 7 and inserting “; and”; and

8 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(B) grazing infrastructure, including inte-
 11 rior cross fencing, perimeter fencing, and water
 12 infrastructure (such as rural water connections,
 13 water wells, pipelines, and water tanks), under
 14 each contract, for all practices, if grazing is in-
 15 cluded in the conservation plan and addresses a
 16 resource concern.”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “land”
 18 and inserting “activities required by the con-
 19 tract entered into under this subchapter”.

20 (2) REENROLLMENT OF LAND WITH GRAZING
 21 INFRASTRUCTURE.—Section 1231(h) of the Food
 22 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831(h)) is amend-
 23 ed by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) LAND WITH GRAZING INFRASTRUCTURE.—
 25 On the expiration of a contract entered into under

1 this subchapter that covers land that includes graz-
 2 ing infrastructure established with cost sharing as-
 3 sistance under section 1234(b)(1)(B)—

4 “(A) the Secretary shall consider that land
 5 to be planted for purposes of subsection
 6 (b)(1)(B); and

7 “(B) that land shall be eligible for reenroll-
 8 ment in the conservation reserve, subject to the
 9 requirements of this subchapter.”.

10 (d) MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT FOR ACTIVITIES
 11 NOT RELATING TO HAYING OR GRAZING.—

12 (1) DEFINITION OF MANAGEMENT.—Section
 13 1232(a)(5) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 14 U.S.C. 3832(a)(5)) is amended by inserting “(as de-
 15 fined in section 1231A(a))” after “management”.

16 (2) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—Section
 17 1234(b)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 18 U.S.C. 3834(b)(2)) is amended by striking subpara-
 19 graph (B) and inserting the following:

20 “(B) MANAGEMENT PAYMENTS.—The Sec-
 21 retary shall make cost sharing payments to an
 22 owner or operator under this subchapter for
 23 any management activity described in section
 24 1232(a)(5), except for those management ac-
 25 tivities relating to haying or grazing.”.

1 (e) PAYMENT LIMITATION FOR RENTAL PAY-
2 MENTS.—Section 1234(g)(1) of the Food Security Act of
3 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(g)(1)) is amended by striking
4 “\$50,000” and inserting “\$125,000”.

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