

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4853

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2026

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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 Agricul-
2 tural Research and Development Fund (referred to
3 in this section as the “BARD Fund”)—

4 (A) was established in 1977; and

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

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

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

17 (4) research funded by the BARD Fund has led
18 to new agricultural practices, commercial engage-
19 ments, patents, and breeding rights licenses, which
20 serve as a growth engine to the United States and
21 Israeli economies.

22 **SEC. 3. BARD FUND.**

23 Section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Re-
24 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
25 U.S.C. 3291(e)) is amended—

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

3 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

6 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
 7 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(C) support mid-stage research to ad-
 10 vance cooperative agricultural research projects
 11 of mutual interest to the United States and
 12 Israel.”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(3) BARD FUND ACCELERATOR.—The BARD
 15 Fund shall establish an accelerator program that
 16 supports mid-stage research, as determined by the
 17 technology readiness level, in priority areas estab-
 18 lished by the BARD Fund, and—

19 “(A) fast-tracks cooperative research be-
 20 tween scientists participating in BARD Fund
 21 activities;

22 “(B) accelerates the successful develop-
 23 ment of agricultural research through resources
 24 and services developed or orchestrated by the
 25 BARD Fund;

1 “(C) provides management guidance, tech-
2 nical assistance, and consulting to scientists
3 participating in activities described in para-
4 graph (2); or

5 “(D) advances cooperative agricultural re-
6 search projects of mutual interest to the United
7 States and Israel.

8 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 There is authorized to be appropriated to the BARD
10 Fund to carry out activities under this subsection
11 \$8,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
12 2031.”.

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