

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1342

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 1997

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
and Forestry

AN ACT

To provide for a one-year enrollment in the conservation reserve of land covered by expiring conservation reserve program contracts.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. ONE-YEAR ENROLLMENT OF LAND COVERED**
2 **BY EXPIRING CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-**
3 **GRAM CONTRACTS.**

4 (a) **ELIGIBLE FARM LANDS.**—This section applies
5 with respect to a farm containing land covered by a con-
6 servation reserve program contract expiring during fiscal
7 year 1997 if—

8 (1) the farm had a crop acreage base for wheat,
9 oats, or barley at the time the conservation reserve
10 program contract was executed;

11 (2) the farm is located in an area in which fall-
12 seeded crops are regularly planted, as determined by
13 the Secretary of Agriculture;

14 (3) the owner of the farm (or the operator with
15 the consent of the owner) submitted, during the en-
16 rollment period that ended on March 28, 1997, an
17 eligible bid to enroll all or part of the land covered
18 by the expiring contract in the conservation reserve
19 established under subchapter B of chapter 1 of sub-
20 title D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985
21 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.); and

22 (4) the land designated in the bid satisfies the
23 eligibility criteria in effect for enrollment of land in
24 the conservation reserve.

25 (b) **ONE-YEAR ENROLLMENT AUTHORIZED.**—

1 (1) AUTHORITY OF OWNER OR OPERATOR.—Ex-
2 cept as provided in subsection (g), the owner or op-
3 erator of a farm described in subsection (a) may en-
4 roll in the conservation reserve for a one-year term
5 to begin on October 1, 1997, the land covered by the
6 expiring conservation reserve program contract and
7 included in the owner’s or operator’s enrollment bid
8 (as described in subsection (a)(3)) if—

9 (A) the owner or operator notifies the Sec-
10 retary in writing, during the special notification
11 period required under paragraph (2), that the
12 owner or operator desires to enroll the land in
13 the conservation reserve for one year under this
14 section; and

15 (B) the Secretary does not accept, before
16 October 1, 1997, the owner’s or operator’s en-
17 rollment bid (as described in subsection (a)(3))
18 to enroll the land in a long-term conservation
19 reserve program contract.

20 (2) SPECIAL NOTIFICATION PERIOD.—Promptly
21 upon the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
22 provide a special period for owners and operators of
23 farms described in subsection (a) to permit the own-
24 ers and operators to provide the notification required
25 under paragraph (1)(A) to enter into one-year con-

1 servation reserve program contracts under this sec-
2 tion.

3 (c) RENTAL RATE.—The rental rate for a one-year
4 conservation reserve program contract under subsection
5 (b) shall be equal to the amount of the bid (as described
6 in subsection (a)(3)) that the owner or operator submitted
7 with respect to the land to be covered by the one-year con-
8 tract.

9 (d) EFFECT OF ONE-YEAR CONTRACT ON SUBSE-
10 QUENT ENROLLMENT.—If an owner or operator who en-
11 rolls eligible farm land in a one-year conservation reserve
12 program contract under subsection (b) submits a bid to
13 enroll the same land in the conservation reserve under a
14 long-term conservation reserve program contract that
15 would commence on October 1, 1998, and the Secretary
16 accepts the bid and enters into a long-term conservation
17 reserve program contract with the owner or operator, then
18 the one-year contract shall be considered to be the first
19 year of that long-term conservation reserve program con-
20 tract.

21 (e) MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT.—The maximum num-
22 ber of acres in the conservation reserve during fiscal year
23 1998, including land enrolled by the Secretary under one-
24 year conservation reserve program contracts under sub-
25 section (b), may not exceed 30,000,000 acres.

1 (f) APPLICATION OF CONSERVATION RESERVE
 2 LAWS.—Except as specifically provided in this section, the
 3 terms and conditions of subchapter B of chapter 1 of sub-
 4 title D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16
 5 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.) shall apply with respect to one-year
 6 conservation reserve program contracts authorized by this
 7 section.

8 (g) EFFECT OF COMPLETION OF 15TH ENROLL-
 9 MENT.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
 10 the Secretary has already acted on the bids submitted dur-
 11 ing the enrollment period that ended on March 28, 1997,
 12 to enroll land in the conservation reserve, either by accept-
 13 ing or rejecting the bids, then the authority provided by
 14 this section for special one-year conservation reserve pro-
 15 gram contracts shall not take effect.

16 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL EARLY TERMINATION AUTHORITY FOR**
 17 **CERTAIN CONSERVATION RESERVE PRO-**
 18 **GRAM CONTRACTS EXPIRING IN 1997.**

19 (a) EARLY TERMINATION AUTHORITY.—A farm
 20 owner or operator described in subsection (b) who is a
 21 party to a conservation reserve program contract expiring
 22 during fiscal year 1997 may terminate the contract at any
 23 time after June 30, 1997. Notwithstanding section
 24 1235(e) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
 25 3835(e)), the termination shall take effect immediately

1 upon submission of notice of the termination to the Sec-
2 retary of Agriculture and shall not result in a reduction
3 in the amount of the rental payment due under the con-
4 servation reserve program contract for fiscal year 1997.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE OWNERS AND OPERATORS.—A farm
6 owner or operator referred to in subsection (a) is a farm
7 owner or operator with respect to whom one of the follow-
8 ing circumstances apply:

9 (1) Neither the owner, operator, nor any other
10 eligible person submitted, during the enrollment pe-
11 riod that ended on March 28, 1997, an eligible bid
12 to enroll all or part of the land covered by the expir-
13 ing conservation reserve program contract in the
14 conservation reserve established under subchapter B
15 of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food
16 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.).

17 (2) An eligible bid was submitted during the en-
18 rollment period to enroll all or part of the land cov-
19 ered by the expiring contract in the conservation re-
20 serve, but the Secretary of Agriculture rejected the
21 bid and the owner or operator did not notify the
22 Secretary, in the manner provided in section 1(b),
23 that the owner or operator desired a one-year con-
24 tract under section 1.

1 (c) CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM CONTRACT
2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “conservation re-
3 serve program contract” means a contract entered into
4 under subchapter B of chapter 1 of subtitle D of title XII
5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3831 et seq.)
6 for enrollment of farm acreage in the conservation reserve
7 established under such subchapter.

Passed the House of Representatives April 29, 1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.