

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 932

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a National Advisory and Implementation Board on Imported Fire Ant Control, Management, and Eradication and, in conjunction with the Board, to provide grants for research or demonstration projects related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18 (legislative day, JUNE 17), 1997

Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mr. BUMPERS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. CLELAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a National Advisory and Implementation Board on Imported Fire Ant Control, Management, and Eradication and, in conjunction with the Board, to provide grants for research or demonstration projects related to the control, management, and possible eradication of imported fire ants, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Imported Fire Ant
3 Control, Management, and Eradication Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) imported fire ants infest at least 13 south-
7 ern and southeastern States and over 275,000,000
8 acres;

9 (2) the annual fire ant impact on Texas alone
10 is estimated at \$300,000,000, including—

11 (A) an annual fire ant impact on the cattle
12 industry in Texas of an estimated \$67,000,000;

13 (B) fire ant infestation of approximately
14 56,000,000 acres, or $\frac{2}{3}$, of Texas; and

15 (C) an annual expenditure, in the 5 major
16 metropolitan areas of Texas, of an estimated
17 \$93,000,000 on treatment, medical costs, and
18 repairs from fire ant infestation;

19 (3) the annual fire ant impact on Georgia is es-
20 timated at \$46,000,000, including an annual fire ant
21 impact on households in Georgia of an estimated
22 \$12,000,000;

23 (4)(A) row crop farmers in southern Arkansas
24 experience average annual losses in excess of \$1,100
25 due to fire ants;

1 (B) catfish farmers in Arkansas experience av-
2 erage annual losses of approximately \$20,000 due to
3 fire ants;

4 (C) the annual fire ant impact on homeowners
5 in Arkansas is estimated at \$106,000,000; and

6 (D) the annual fire ant impact on paper mills
7 in Arkansas is estimated at \$3,000,000;

8 (5) 25 counties in North Carolina are infested
9 with fire ants;

10 (6) the annual fire ant impact on Tennessee is
11 estimated at \$1,330,000;

12 (7) the annual fire ant impact on Mississippi is
13 estimated at \$12,326,000, including an annual fire
14 ant impact on the cattle industry in Mississippi of
15 an estimated \$9,217,000;

16 (8) the annual fire ant impact on Alabama is
17 estimated at \$16,000,000;

18 (9) the annual fire ant impact on Louisiana is
19 estimated at \$23,818,250, including an annual fire
20 ant impact on the feed grain industry of \$790,000;
21 and

22 (10) demonstration of fire ant control meth-
23 odology may provide property owners with timely in-
24 formation, helpful in reducing costs associated with
25 fire ant damage.

1 **SEC. 3. BOARD AND GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON IMPORTED**
 2 **FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT, AND**
 3 **ERADICATION.**

4 Subtitle C of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-
 5 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by
 6 inserting after section 1419A (7 U.S.C. 3155) the
 7 following:

8 **“SEC. 1419B. BOARD AND GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON IM-**
 9 **PORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGEMENT,**
 10 **AND ERADICATION.**

11 **“(a) NATIONAL ADVISORY AND IMPLEMENTATION**
 12 **BOARD ON IMPORTED FIRE ANT CONTROL, MANAGE-**
 13 **MENT, AND ERADICATION.—**

14 **“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—**The Secretary shall es-
 15 tablish a National Advisory and Implementation
 16 Board on Imported Fire Ant Control, Management,
 17 and Eradication.

18 **“(2) MEMBERSHIP.—**The Board shall consist of
 19 12 members who are experts on entomology, ant
 20 ecology, wildlife biology, electrical engineering, eco-
 21 nomics, and agribusiness and who are appointed by
 22 the Secretary from academia, research institutes,
 23 and the private sector.

24 **“(3) COMPENSATION.—**

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
2 Board shall not receive any compensation by
3 reason of service on the Board.

4 “(B) EXPENSES.—A member of the Board
5 shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence, and
6 other necessary expenses incurred by the mem-
7 ber in the performance of a duty of the
8 member.

9 “(4) TERMINATION.—The Board shall termi-
10 nate 60 days after the date on which the national
11 plan is submitted to the Secretary under subsection
12 (d)(2).

13 “(b) INITIAL GRANTS.—

14 “(1) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—The Board
15 shall publish a request for proposals to colleges, uni-
16 versities, research institutes, Federal laboratories,
17 and private entities for grants for research or dem-
18 onstration projects related to the control, manage-
19 ment, and possible eradication of imported fire ants.

20 “(2) SELECTION.—Not later than 1 year after
21 the date of publication of the request for proposals,
22 the Board shall evaluate and select not less than 4,
23 nor more than 13, research or demonstration
24 projects related to the control, management, and
25 possible eradication of imported fire ants.

1 “(3) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award a
 2 total of \$6,000,000 in grants to colleges, univer-
 3 sities, research institutes, Federal laboratories, or
 4 private entities selected under paragraph (2), for a
 5 term of not to exceed 5 years, for the purpose of
 6 conducting research or demonstration projects relat-
 7 ed to the control, management, and possible eradi-
 8 cation of imported fire ants. Each project shall be
 9 completed not later than the end of the term of the
 10 grant.

11 “(c) SUBSEQUENT GRANTS.—

12 “(1) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—The Board
 13 shall—

14 “(A) evaluate all of the research or dem-
 15 onstration projects conducted under subsection
 16 (b)(3) for their use as the basis of a national
 17 plan for the control, management, and possible
 18 eradication of imported fire ants by the Federal
 19 government, State and local governments, and
 20 owners and operators of land; and

21 “(B) on the basis of the evaluation, select
 22 2 of the 13 grant projects for additional re-
 23 search or demonstration related to the control,
 24 management, and possible eradication of im-

1 ported fire ants and notify the Secretary of the
2 selection.

3 “(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award a
4 grant of \$4,000,000 to each of the 2 colleges, uni-
5 versities, research institutes, Federal laboratories, or
6 private entities selected under paragraph (1)(B) for
7 the purpose of conducting research or demonstration
8 projects for the preparation of a national plan for
9 the control, management, and possible eradication of
10 imported fire ants. Each project shall be completed
11 not later than 2 years after the grant is made.

12 “(d) NATIONAL PLAN.—

13 “(1) EVALUATION; SELECTION.—The Board
14 shall—

15 “(A) evaluate all of the research or dem-
16 onstration projects conducted under subsection
17 (c)(2) for their use as the basis of a national
18 plan for the control, management, and possible
19 eradication of imported fire ants by the Federal
20 government, State and local governments, and
21 owners and operators of land; and

22 “(B) on the basis of the evaluation, select
23 1 of the 2 grant projects, or a combination of
24 both grant projects, as the basis for the plan
25 and notify the Secretary of the decision.

1 “(2) GRANT.—The Secretary shall award a
2 grant of up to \$5,000,000 to the sponsor or spon-
3 sors of the grant project selected under paragraph
4 (1)(B) for the purpose of the final preparation of
5 the national plan for the control, management, and
6 possible eradication of imported fire ants that is
7 based on the project. The national plan shall be
8 completed, and submitted to the Secretary, not later
9 than 1 year after the grant is made.

10 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
11 60 days after the plan is submitted to the Secretary
12 under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall submit to
13 Congress the national plan for the control, manage-
14 ment, and possible eradication of imported fire
15 ants.”.

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