

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1604

To establish a national historic barn preservation program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2001

Mr. JEFFORDS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To establish a national historic barn preservation program.

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 “National Historic Barn
5 Preservation Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) historic barns are—

9 (A) viable elements of food production in
10 the United States; and

11 (B) a vital component of the cultural herit-
12 age of the United States;

1 (2) historic barns shed light on the earliest ag-
2 ricultural achievements of the United States;

3 (3) historic barns are endangered by deteriora-
4 tion and demolition; and

5 (4) the United States must—

6 (A) protect historic barns for continued ag-
7 ricultural use so that future generations can
8 understand how the United States was built;

9 (B) keep records on the number, condition,
10 and variety of historic barns;

11 (C) develop better techniques to preserve
12 and protect historic barns; and

13 (D) take every step necessary to avoid fur-
14 ther loss of those national treasures.

15 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) BARN.—The term “barn” means a building
18 (other than a dwelling) on a farm, ranch, or other
19 agricultural operation for—

20 (A) housing animals;

21 (B) storing or processing crops;

22 (C) storing and maintaining agricultural
23 equipment; or

24 (D) serving an essential or useful purpose
25 related to agriculture on the adjacent land.

1 (2) HISTORIC BARN.—The term “historic barn”
2 means a barn that—

3 (A) is at least 50 years old;

4 (B) retains sufficient integrity of design,
5 materials, and construction to clearly identify
6 the barn as an agricultural building; and

7 (C) meets the criteria for listing on Na-
8 tional, State, or local registers or inventories of
9 historic structures.

10 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Un-
12 dersecretary of Rural Development.

13 (4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—The term “eligible
14 applicant” means—

15 (A) a State department of agriculture (or
16 a designee);

17 (B) a national or State nonprofit organiza-
18 tion that—

19 (i) is exempt from tax under section
20 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
21 1986; and

22 (ii) has experience or expertise, as de-
23 termined by the Secretary, in the identi-
24 fication, evaluation, rehabilitation, preser-
25 vation, or protection of historic barns; and

1 (C) a State historic preservation office.

2 **SEC. 4. HISTORIC BARN PRESERVATION PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
4 a historic barn preservation program—

5 (1) to assist States in developing a listing of
6 historic barns;

7 (2) to collect and disseminate information on
8 historic barns;

9 (3) to foster educational programs relating to
10 the history, construction techniques, rehabilitation,
11 and contribution to society of historic barns; and

12 (4) to sponsor and conduct research on—

13 (A) the history of barns; and

14 (B) best practices to protect and rehabili-
15 tate historic barns from the effects of decay,
16 fire, arson, and natural disasters.

17 (b) GRANTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make
19 grants to, or enter into contracts or cooperative
20 agreements with, eligible applicants to carry out an
21 eligible project under paragraph (2).

22 (2) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A grant under this
23 subsection may be made to an eligible entity for a
24 project—

1 (A) to rehabilitate or repair a historic
2 barn;

3 (B) to preserve a historic barn through—

4 (i) the installation of a fire protection
5 system, including fireproofing or fire detec-
6 tion system and sprinklers; and

7 (ii) the installation of a system to pre-
8 vent vandalism; and

9 (C) to identify, document, and conduct re-
10 search on a historic barn to develop and evalu-
11 ate appropriate techniques or best practices for
12 protecting historic barns.

13 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible applicant that
14 receives a grant for a project under this subsection
15 shall comply with any standards established by the
16 Secretary of the Interior for historic preservation
17 projects.

18 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

19 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
20 this Act, \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2002
21 through 2006, to remain available until expended.

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