

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1536

To establish the Office of Agriculture Inspection within the Department of Homeland Security, which shall be headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Agriculture Inspection, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2013

Ms. HAHN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the Office of Agriculture Inspection within the Department of Homeland Security, which shall be headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Agriculture Inspection, 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 “Safeguarding Amer-
5 ican Commerce and Agriculture Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF AGRICUL-**
2 **TURAL INSPECTION.**

3 Title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
4 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
5 421 the following:

6 **“SEC. 421a. OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
8 U.S. Customs and Border Protection an Office of Agri-
9 culture Inspection, which shall be headed by an Assistant
10 Commissioner.

11 “(b) AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST CAREER TRACK.—
12 The Secretary—

13 “(1) shall identify appropriate career paths for
14 customs and border protection agriculture special-
15 ists, including the education, training, experience,
16 and assignments necessary for career progression
17 within U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

18 “(2) shall publish information on the career
19 paths identified under paragraph (1); and

20 “(3) may establish criteria by which appro-
21 priately qualified customs and border protection
22 technicians may be promoted to customs and border
23 protection agriculture specialists.

24 “(c) EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE.—
25 The Secretary shall provide customs and border protection
26 agriculture specialists the opportunity to acquire the edu-

1 cation, training, and experience necessary to qualify for
2 promotion within U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

3 “(d) AGRICULTURE SPECIALIST RECRUITMENT AND
4 RETENTION.—Not later than 270 days after the date of
5 the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop
6 a plan to more effectively recruit and retain qualified cus-
7 toms and border protection agriculture specialists. The
8 plan shall include—

9 “(1) numerical goals for recruitment and reten-
10 tion; and

11 “(2) the use of recruitment incentives, as ap-
12 propriate and permissible under existing laws and
13 regulations.

14 “(e) EQUIPMENT SUPPORT.—Not later than 270
15 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the
16 Secretary shall—

17 “(1) determine the minimum equipment and
18 other resources that are necessary at U.S. Customs
19 and Border Protection agriculture inspection sta-
20 tions and facilities to enable customs and border
21 protection agriculture specialists to fully and effec-
22 tively carry out their mission;

23 “(2) complete an inventory of the equipment
24 and other resources available at each U.S. Customs

1 and Border Protection agriculture inspection station
2 and facility;

3 “(3) identify the necessary equipment and other
4 resources that are not currently available at agri-
5 culture inspection stations and facilities; and

6 “(4) develop a plan to address any resource de-
7 ficiencies identified under paragraph (3).

8 “(f) INTERAGENCY ROTATION PROGRAM.—The Sec-
9 retary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of Agri-
10 culture are authorized to enter into an agreement that—

11 “(1) establishes an interagency rotation pro-
12 gram; and

13 “(2) provides for personnel of the Animal and
14 Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department
15 of Agriculture to take rotational assignments within
16 U.S. Customs and Border Protection and vice versa
17 for the purposes of strengthening working relation-
18 ships between agencies and promoting interagency
19 experience.

20 “(g) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the
21 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of
22 Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee
23 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
24 Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the
25 House of Representatives that describes—

1 “(1) the status of the implementation of the ac-
2 tion plans developed by the Animal and Plant
3 Health Inspection Service-U.S. Customs and Border
4 Protection Joint Task Force on Improved Agri-
5 culture Inspection;

6 “(2) the findings of the Secretary under para-
7 graphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (e);

8 “(3) the plan described in paragraph (e)(4);

9 “(4) the implementation of the remaining re-
10 quirements under such subsection (e); and

11 “(5) any additional legal authority that the Sec-
12 retary determines to be necessary to effectively carry
13 out the agriculture inspection mission of the Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security.

15 “(h) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall carry
16 out this section acting through the Commissioner of U.S.
17 Customs and Border Protection in consultation with the
18 Assistant Commissioner for Agricultural Inspection.”.

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