

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 784

To expand agricultural opportunities for military veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 2013

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. JOHANNIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To expand agricultural opportunities for military veterans,
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 “Agricultural Opportu-
5 nities for Military Veterans Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURAL MARKET DEVELOP-**
7 **MENT PROGRAM GRANTS.**

8 Section 231(b) of the Agricultural Risk Protection
9 Act of 2000 (7 U.S.C. 1632a(b)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (6)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
2 “and” at the end;

3 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(D) veteran farmers or ranchers (as de-
7 fined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agri-
8 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
9 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).”; and

10 (2) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking “2012”
11 and inserting “2017”.

12 **SEC. 3. OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DIS-**
13 **ADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS AND**
14 **VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS.**

15 (a) OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR SOCIALLY DIS-
16 ADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS AND VETERAN
17 FARMERS AND RANCHERS.—Section 2501 of the Food,
18 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
19 U.S.C. 2279) is amended—

20 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
21 **VETERAN FARMERS AND RANCHERS**” after
22 “**RANCHERS**”;

23 (2) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)(i), by inserting
2 “and veteran farmers or ranchers” after
3 “ranchers”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (4)—

5 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

6 (I) in the heading, by striking
7 “FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2012”
8 and inserting “MANDATORY FUND-
9 ING”;

10 (II) in clause (i), by striking
11 “and” at the end;

12 (III) in clause (ii), by striking
13 the period at the end and inserting “;
14 and”;

15 (IV) by adding at the end the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(iii) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2013 through 2017.”; and

19 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
20 inserting the following:

21 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
22 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
23 to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each
24 of fiscal years 2013 through 2017.”;

1 (3) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “or vet-
 2 eran farmers and ranchers” after “socially disadvan-
 3 tagged farmers and ranchers”; and

4 (4) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “vet-
 6 eran farmers or ranchers and” before “mem-
 7 bers”; and

8 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting “vet-
 9 eran farmers or ranchers and” before “mem-
 10 bers”.

11 (b) DEFINITION OF VETERAN FARMER OR RANCH-
 12 ER.—Section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
 13 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)) is amend-
 14 ed by adding at the end the following:

15 “(7) VETERAN FARMER OR RANCHER.—The
 16 term ‘veteran farmer or rancher’ means a farmer or
 17 rancher who served in the active military, naval, or
 18 air service, and who was discharged or released from
 19 the service under conditions other than dishonor-
 20 able.”.

21 **SEC. 4. BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER DEVELOPMENT**
 22 **PROGRAM UNDER FARM SECURITY AND**
 23 **RURAL INVESTMENT ACT OF 2002.**

24 Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
 25 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3319f) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (c)(8)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3 “and” at the end;

4 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

7 “(D) beginning farmers and ranchers who
8 are veterans (as defined in section 101 of title
9 38, United States Code).”; and

10 (2) by redesignating subsection (h) as sub-
11 section (i);

12 (3) by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(h) STATE GRANTS.—

15 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
16 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

17 “(A) an agency of a State or political sub-
18 division of a State;

19 “(B) a national, State, or regional organi-
20 zation of agricultural producers; and

21 “(C) any other entity determined appro-
22 priate by the Secretary.

23 “(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall use such
24 sums as are necessary of funds made available to
25 carry out this section for each fiscal year under sub-

1 section (i) to make grants to States, on a competi-
 2 tive basis, which States shall use the grants to make
 3 grants to eligible entities to establish and improve
 4 farm safety programs at the local level.”; and

5 (4) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by para-
 6 graph (2))—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) in the heading, by striking “FOR
 9 FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2012”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 11 “and” at the end;

12 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 13 the period at the end and inserting “;
 14 and”; and

15 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
 16 lowing:

17 “(C) \$17,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 18 2013 through 2017, to remain available until
 19 expended.”;

20 (B) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in the heading, by striking “FOR
 22 FISCAL YEARS 2009 THROUGH 2012”; and

23 (ii) by striking “2012” and inserting
 24 “2017”; and

25 (C) by striking paragraph (3).

1 **SEC. 5. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of
3 Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by in-
4 serting after section 218 (7 U.S.C. 6918) the following:

5 **“SEC. 219. MILITARY VETERANS AGRICULTURAL LIAISON.**

6 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
7 in the Department the position of Military Veterans Agri-
8 cultural Liaison.

9 “(b) DUTIES.—The Military Veterans Agricultural
10 Liaison shall—

11 “(1) provide information to returning veterans
12 about, and connect returning veterans with, begin-
13 ning farmer training and agricultural vocational and
14 rehabilitation programs appropriate to the needs and
15 interests of returning veterans, including assisting
16 veterans in using Federal veterans educational bene-
17 fits for purposes relating to beginning a farming or
18 ranching career;

19 “(2) provide information to veterans concerning
20 the availability of and eligibility requirements for
21 participation in agricultural programs, with par-
22 ticular emphasis on beginning farmer and rancher
23 programs;

24 “(3) serving as a resource for assisting veteran
25 farmers and ranchers, and potential farmers and

1 ranchers, in applying for participation in agricul-
 2 tural programs; and

3 “(4) advocating on behalf of veterans in inter-
 4 actions with employees of the Department.

5 “(c) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREE-
 6 MENTS.—For purposes of carrying out the duties under
 7 subsection (b), the Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison
 8 may enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with
 9 the research centers of the Agricultural Research Service,
 10 institutions of higher education, or nonprofit organizations
 11 for—

12 “(1) the conduct of regional research on the
 13 profitability of small farms;

14 “(2) the development of educational materials;

15 “(3) the conduct of workshops, courses, and
 16 certified vocational training;

17 “(4) the conduct of mentoring activities; or

18 “(5) the provision of internship opportunities.”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 296(b) of
 20 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
 21 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking the “or” at
 23 the end;

24 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at
 25 the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

2 “(8) the authority of the Secretary to establish
3 in the Department the position of Military Veterans
4 Agricultural Liaison in accordance with section
5 219.”.

6 **SEC. 6. CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM TRANSITION**
7 **INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1235(f) of the Food Secu-
9 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3835(f)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding
11 subparagraph (A) by inserting “, a veteran farmer
12 or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the
13 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
14 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)),” before “or socially dis-
15 advantaged farmer or rancher”; and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
18 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
19 this section \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal
20 years 2013 through 2017.”.

21 **SEC. 7. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.**

22 Section 1240B(d)(4)(A) of the Food Security Act of
23 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(d)(4)(A)) is amended in the
24 matter preceding clause (i) by inserting “, a veteran farm-
25 er or rancher (as defined in section 2501(e) of the Food,

1 Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7
2 U.S.C. 2279(e)),” before “or a beginning farmer or
3 rancher”.

4 **SEC. 8. RESERVATION OF FUNDS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE**
5 **TO CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCHERS FOR**
6 **CONSERVATION ACCESS.**

7 Section 1241(g) of the Food Security Act of 1985
8 (16 U.S.C. 3841(g)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “2012” and
10 inserting “2017”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(4) PREFERENCE.—In providing assistance
13 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give pref-
14 erence to a veteran farmer or rancher (as defined in
15 section 2501(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
16 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)))
17 that qualifies under subparagraph (A) or (B) of
18 paragraph (1).”.

19 **SEC. 9. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVA-**
20 **TION PROGRAMS.**

21 Section 1244(a)(2) of the Food Security Act of 1985
22 (16 U.S.C. 3844(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 “(E) Veteran farmers or ranchers (as de-
25 fined in section 2501(e) of the Food, Agri-

1 culture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990
2 (7 U.S.C. 2279(e)).”.

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