

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1767

To reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nu-
trition, and Forestry

A BILL

To reauthorize the farm to school program, 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 “Farm to School Act
5 of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO LOCAL FOODS: FARM TO SCHOOL PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking the paragraph designation and heading and all that follows through “In this subsection, the” and inserting the following:

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER.—The term ‘agricultural producer’ means a farmer, rancher, or fisher (including of farm-raised fish).

“(B) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated), by inserting “, including the summer food service program for children under section 13 and the early care and afterschool portions of the child and adult care food program under section 17,” after “under this Act”;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and non-profit entities through grants and technical assistance” and inserting “land-grant colleges and universities, and nonprofit entities through grants, technical assistance, and research”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by inserting “and technical assistance” after “training”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii) as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (v) the following:

“(vi) implementing agricultural literacy and nutrition education;”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) IMPROVED PROCUREMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to improve local food procurement and distribution options for agricultural producers and eligible schools.

“(ii) AGGREGATION, PROCESSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.—

In advancing local food procurement options and other farm to school objectives, the Secretary may provide funding for projects that include innovative approaches to aggregation, processing, transportation, and distribution.

“(D) AWARDS.—

1 “(i) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total
2 amount provided to a grant recipient under
3 this subsection shall not exceed \$200,000.

4 “(ii) TERM.—The term of an award
5 shall not exceed 3 years.

6 “(iii) PURPOSE AND SCOPE.—In mak-
7 ing awards under this subsection, the Sec-
8 retary shall seek to make awards of diverse
9 amounts and duration in order to best
10 match the award to the purpose and scope
11 of the project to be funded.

12 “(E) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may
13 not award a grant under this subsection if the
14 grant funds would be used solely for the pur-
15 pose of carrying out a conference.”;

16 (4) in paragraph (5)—

17 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
18 through (G) as clauses (i) through (vii), respec-
19 tively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

20 (B) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated), by
21 striking “lunches” and inserting “meals”;

22 (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as
23 so redesignated), by striking “To the maximum
24 extent practicable” and inserting the following:

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum ex-
2 tent practicable”;

3 (D) in clause (vi) (as so redesignated), by
4 striking “and” at the end;

5 (E) by redesignating clause (vii) (as so re-
6 designated) as clause (viii);

7 (F) by inserting after clause (vi) (as so re-
8 designated) the following:

9 “(vii) expand the selection of local
10 commodities for eligible schools; and”; and

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

12 “(B) TRIBAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS.—In
13 the case of projects serving tribal communities,
14 the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent
15 practicable, give highest priority to projects
16 that best use products from tribal agricultural
17 producers, as determined by the Secretary.”;

18 (5) in paragraph (7)—

19 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
20 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
21 tively, and indenting appropriately;

22 (B) by striking the paragraph designation
23 and heading and all that follows through “non-
24 profit entities—” and inserting the following:

1 “(7) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND RE-
2 SEARCH.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
4 provide technical assistance, research, and in-
5 formation to assist eligible schools, State and
6 local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agri-
7 cultural producers or agricultural producer
8 groups, and nonprofit entities—”;

9 (C) in subparagraph (A) (as so des-
10 ignated)—

11 (i) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated),
12 by striking “and” at the end;

13 (ii) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated),
14 by striking the period at the end and in-
15 serting “; and”; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(iv) to increase awareness of, and
19 participation in, farm to school programs
20 among agricultural and aquaculture pro-
21 ducers or agricultural producer groups, in-
22 cluding beginning, veteran, and socially
23 disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.”; and

24 (D) by adding at the end the following:

25 “(B) REVIEW.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Farm to School Act of 2017 and every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall review and submit to the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the progress that has been made in identifying and eliminating regulatory and other barriers related to developing farm to school programs.

“(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In preparing the report, the Secretary shall examine—

“(I) the direct and indirect regulatory compliance costs affecting the production and marketing of locally or regionally produced agricultural food products to school food programs; and

“(II) barriers to local and regional market access for small-scale production.”;

(6) in paragraph (8)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$15,000,000”;
3 and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(C) ADMINISTRATION.—Of the funds pro-
6 vided to the Secretary under subparagraph (A),
7 not more than 5 percent may be used to pay
8 administrative costs incurred by the Secretary
9 in carrying out this subsection.”; and

10 (7) in paragraph (9), by striking “2011
11 through 2015” and inserting “2018 through 2023”.

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