

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2215

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to better assist producers desiring to voluntarily transition into organic production systems.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 11, 2017

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

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to better assist producers desiring to voluntarily transition into organic production systems.

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 “Homegrown Organic
5 Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS FOR PRODUCERS TRANSITIONING TO**
7 **ORGANIC PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.**

8 (a) PAYMENTS UNDER THE CONSERVATION RE-
9 SERVE PROGRAM.—Section 1234(c) of the Food Security
10 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3834(c)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as
 2 subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indent-
 3 ing appropriately;

4 (2) by inserting after “(c) INCENTIVE PAY-
 5 MENTS.—” the following:

6 “(1) THINNING AND OTHER PRACTICES PRO-
 7 MOTING FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDLIFE HABI-
 8 TAT.—”;

9 (3) in paragraph (1)(B) (as redesignated), by
 10 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subpara-
 11 graph (A)”; and

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

13 “(2) ORGANIC FARMING AND RANCHING.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
 15 offer an incentive payment to an owner or oper-
 16 ator of eligible land in an amount that the Sec-
 17 retary determines is sufficient to encourage the
 18 voluntary transition of the eligible land to or-
 19 ganic farming or ranching immediately fol-
 20 lowing the termination of the contract under
 21 this subchapter that covers the eligible land.

22 “(B) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION PROCESS.—

23 In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Sec-
 24 retary shall allow the owner or operator to
 25 begin the organic certification process under the

Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) beginning on the date that is 1 year before the date of termination of the contract under this subchapter.

“(C) TERMS OF PAYMENT.—The Secretary—

“(i) shall make payments under subparagraph (A) for a period of not less than 2 years beginning on the date of termination of the contract under this subchapter; and

“(ii) may establish an annual limitation on the number of acres of eligible land for which an incentive payment is made under subparagraph (A) if the Secretary determines that the limitation is necessary to mitigate significant erosion of organic commodity premiums.”.

(b) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION

UNDER THE CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—

Section 1238G(h) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16

U.S.C. 3838g(h)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(h) COORDINATION WITH ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary” and inserting the following:

1 “(h) ORGANIC CERTIFICATION.—

2 “(1) COORDINATION.—The Secretary”; and

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

4 “(2) TRANSITION.—The Secretary shall estab-
5 lish suites of organic transition conservation activi-
6 ties to be available through the program for crop-
7 ping systems and grazing systems.”.

8 (c) REMOVAL OF PAYMENT LIMITATIONS UNDER
9 THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PRO-
10 GRAM.—Section 1240B(i) of the Food Security Act of
11 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–2(i)) is amended—

12 (1) by striking paragraph (3); and

13 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as
14 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

15 **SEC. 3. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

16 Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985
17 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) is amended—

18 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
19 striking “2018” and inserting “2023”; and

20 (2) in paragraph (1)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (i) by striking “section 1234(c)” and
23 inserting “section 1234(c)(1)”; and

24 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

1 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
2 subparagraph (C); and

3 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
4 the following:

5 “(B) \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal
6 years 2019 through 2023 to provide payments
7 under section 1234(c)(2); and”.

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