

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7488

To create an Office of the Chief Economist at the Commodity Futures
Trading Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Mr. BRESNAHAN (for himself and Mrs. McCLAIN DELANEY) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To create an Office of the Chief Economist at the Commodity
Futures Trading Commission.

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 “CFTC Office of the
5 Chief Economist Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(a) of the Commodity
8 Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 2(a)) is amended by adding at
9 the end the following:

10 “(16) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST.—

1 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
2 lished in the Commission the Office of the Chief
3 Economist.

4 “(B) HEAD.—The Office of the Chief
5 Economist shall be headed by the Chief Econo-
6 mist.

7 “(C) FUNCTIONS.—The Chief Economist
8 shall serve as economic advisor to the Commis-
9 sion and perform functions such as economic
10 analysis, regulatory cost-benefit analysis, and
11 research.

12 “(D) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—

13 “(i) APPOINTMENT AUTHORITY.—The
14 Commission may appoint an individual to
15 a position described in clause (ii)—

16 “(I) in accordance with the stat-
17 utes, rules, and regulations governing
18 appointments to positions in the ex-
19 cepted service (as defined in section
20 2103 of title 5, United States Code);
21 and

22 “(II) without regard to any stat-
23 ute, rule, or regulation governing ap-
24 pointments to positions in the com-

1 petitive service (as defined in section
2 2102 of such title).

3 “(ii) POSITION DESCRIBED.—A posi-
4 tion referred to in clause (i) is a position
5 at the Commission that—

6 “(I) serves the Office of the
7 Chief Economist;

8 “(II) is in the competitive service
9 (as defined in section 2102 of such
10 title); and

11 “(III)(aa) is an economist, re-
12 search analyst, or data specialist; or

13 “(bb) requires specialized knowl-
14 edge of futures, swaps, or commod-
15 ities markets, financial and capital
16 market formation or regulation, finan-
17 cial market structures or surveillance,
18 data collection or analysis, or informa-
19 tion technology.

20 “(iii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The
21 appointment of a candidate to a position
22 under authority of this subsection shall not
23 be considered to cause such position to be
24 converted from the competitive service to
25 the excepted service.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 15(a) of
2 such Act (7 U.S.C. 19(a)) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, after co-
4 ordinating with the Office of the Chief Economist,”
5 before “shall”;

6 (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “futures
7 markets” and inserting “markets under the jurisdic-
8 tion of the Commission”;

9 (3) in paragraph (2), by redesignating subpara-
10 graphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F);
11 and

12 (4) in paragraph (2), by inserting after sub-
13 paragraph (C) the following:

14 “(D) considerations of market liquidity;”.

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