

SECTION-BY-SECTION FOR THE FARM, FOOD, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2024

TITLE I—COMMODITIES

SUBTITLE A—COMMODITY POLICY

Sec. 1101. Reference Prices.

Section 1101 amends section 1111 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to update the references prices for all listed commodities as follows:

- (A) For wheat, \$6.35 per bushel.
- (B) For corn, \$4.10 per bushel.
- (C) For grain sorghum, \$4.40 per bushel.
- (D) For barley, \$5.45 per bushel.
- (E) For oats, \$2.65 per bushel.
- (F) For long grain rice, \$16.90 per hundredweight.
- (G) For medium grain rice, \$16.90 per hundredweight.
- (H) For soybeans, \$10.00 per bushel.
- (I) For other oilseeds, \$23.75 per hundredweight.
- (J) For peanuts, \$630.00 per ton.
- (K) For dry peas, \$13.10 per hundredweight.
- (L) For lentils, \$23.75 per hundredweight.
- (M) For small chickpeas, \$22.65 per hundredweight.
- (N) For large chickpeas, \$25.65 per hundredweight.
- (O) For seed cotton, \$0.42 per pound.

Sec. 1102. 1-Time Opportunity to Add New Base Acres.

Section 1102 amends section 112 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to provide for a 1-time allocation of new base. Subsection (a) of the new section requires the Secretary to, as soon as practicable, provide notice to owners of a farm regarding the allocation of new base acres. Such notice must include information that the allocation is occurring, information regarding the eligibility of the owner for an allocation, and information on how an owner can appeal a determination of eligibility. The section provides for an opt-out option for an owner who may be eligible to receive an allocation of new base acres but does not want to receive new base acres.

An owner of a farm is eligible under this section if the 5-year average sum of their farm is greater than the total number of base acres for covered commodities on the farm (excluding unassigned crop base). The section further provides that the acres eligible for allocation to base acres shall be equal to the difference subtracting the total number of base acres for a covered commodity from the 5-year average sum of the owner's farm and shall include unassigned crop base. The Secretary is required to allocate the eligible acres among covered commodities planted on the farm at any time during the 2019 through 2023 crop years. Such allocation shall be proportional to the 5-year of the acreage planted on the farm to each covered commodity for 2019 through 2023 crop years and any acres that producers were prevented from planting to the 5-year average sum. The 5-year average shall not include any crop year in which a covered commodity was not planted. In the case of an owner of a farm who, because of double cropping, planted or was prevented from planting another commodity in the same crop year, the owner may elect which commodity to be used in determining the 5-year average, but may not include both. The allocation to base acres may not result in a total number of base acres for a farm in excess of the total number of acres on a farm.

The section further requires a pro-rated reduction by the Secretary if the total number of eligible acres allocated to base acres across all farms in the U.S. would exceed 30,000,000 acres. The pro-rated reduction shall be across the board to ensure the number of assigned base acres is equal to 30,000,000.

The section requires the Secretary, beginning in crop year 2025, to establish payment yields to new base acres for the purpose of making PLC payments. The payment yields shall be equal to the payment yield established on the farm for the applicable covered commodity. If no such payment yield exists, then the new payment yield shall be equal to the average payment yield for the covered commodity for the county in which the farm is located or the Secretary shall make a determination of the payment yield under section 113 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Finally, the section extends the requirement to maintain all base acres and payment yields for farms on which all cropland was planted to grass or pasture between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2017, except no payment shall be made with respect to those acres.

Sec. 1103. Producer Election.

Section 1103 amends section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The section requires producers to make a one-time irrevocable election to obtain PLC or ARC coverage on a covered-commodity-by-covered-commodity basis. The section further prohibits payments under ARC or PLC for the 2025 crop year and deems an election of PLC for the 2026 through 2029 crop year in the case where all producers on a farm fail to make a unanimous election.

Sec. 1104. Price Loss Coverage.

Section 1104 amends section 1116 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to extend PLC through crop year 2029.

Sec. 1105. Agriculture Risk Coverage.

Section 1105 amends section 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 extends ARC through crop year 2029. The section increases the agricultural risk coverage guarantee to 90 percent of the benchmark revenue for crop year 2025 through 2029. It further increases the payment rate calculation to include 12.5 percent of the benchmark revenue in crop years 2025 through 2029.

SUBTITLE B—MARKETING LOANS

Sec. 1201. Loan Rates for Nonrecourse Marketing Assistance Loans.

Section 1201 amends section 1202 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The section updates the loan rates for a marketing assistance loan as follows:

- (1) In the case of wheat, \$3.72 per bushel.
- (2) In the case of corn, \$2.42 per bushel.
- (3) In the case of grain sorghum, \$2.42 per bushel.
- (4) In the case of barley, \$2.75 per bushel.
- (5) In the case of oats, \$2.20 per bushel.
- (6) In the case of base quality of upland cotton, \$0.55 per pound.
- (7) In the case of extra long staple cotton, \$1.00 per pound.
- (8) In the case of long grain rice, \$7.70 per hundredweight.
- (9) In the case of medium grain rice, \$7.70 per hundredweight.
- (10) In the case of soybeans, \$6.82 per bushel.
- (11) In the case of other oilseeds, \$11.10 per hundredweight for each of the following kinds of oilseeds:
 - (A) Sunflower seed.
 - (B) Rapeseed.
 - (C) Canola.
 - (D) Safflower.
 - (E) Flaxseed.
 - (F) Mustard seed.
 - (G) Crambe.

(H) Sesame seed.

(I) Other oilseeds designated by the Secretary.

(12) In the case of dry peas, \$6.87 per hundredweight.

(13) In the case of lentils, \$14.30 per hundredweight.

(14) In the case of small chickpeas, \$11.00 per hundredweight.

(15) In the case of large chickpeas, \$15.40 per hundredweight.

(16) In the case of graded wool, \$1.60 per pound.

(17) In the case of nongraded wool, \$0.55 per pound.

(18) In the case of mohair, \$5.00 per pound.

(19) In the case of honey, \$1.50 per pound.

(20) In the case of peanuts, \$390 per ton.

The section establishes a special rule for seed cotton and corn for the purposes of the effective price for PLC. For that purpose the loan rate shall be equal to \$0.30 per pound for seed cotton and \$3.30 per bushel for corn.

Sec. 1202. Repayment Rates for Upland Cotton, Long Grain Rice. And Medium Grain Rice.

Section 1202 amends section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. Subsection (a) updates the formula for the prevailing world market price for upland cotton that, for any period which price quotations for Middling (M) one and three-thirty-second inch cotton are available, is based on the average of the 3 lowest-priced growths that are quoted. Subsection (b) provides for a reimbursement of a marketing loan for upland cotton that is repaid by a producer on or after the enactment of this bill. In such case, the Secretary shall reimburse the producer in an amount the is equal to the amount the producer paid minus the amount the producer would have paid under the loan if the lowest prevailing world market price during the 30-day period beginning on the date on which such loan was repaid was used.

Sec. 1203. Repayment Rates for Extra Long Staple Cotton.

Section 1203 amends section 1204 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The section establishes the repayment rate of a marketing assistance loan for extra long staple cotton to be the lesser of the loan rate established for the commodity or the prevailing world market price. The prevailing world market price for extra long staple cotton shall be adjusted to U.S. quality and location, as well as include the average costs to market the commodity taking into account transportation costs.

Sec. 1204. Modification to Storage Credits.

Section 1204 amends section 1204(g) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The section requires the Secretary to make cotton storage payments for upland cotton and extra long staple cotton in the same manner as provided in 2006 for upland cotton. The payment rate shall be equal to the lesser of the submitted tariff rate for the current marketing year and the maximum storage payment rate of \$4.90 for California and Arizona and \$3.00 in all other states.

Sec. 1205. Economic Assistance Adjustment for Textile Mills.

Section 1205 amends section 1207(c) of the Agricultural Act of 2014. The section increases the Economic Adjustment Assistance for Textile Mills payment rate from \$0.03/lb. to \$0.05/lb. of upland cotton used by the mill.

SUBTITLE A—COMMODITY POLICY

Sec. 1301. Loan Rate Modifications.

Section 1301 amends section 156 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. The section increases the loan rate for sugarcane to \$0.24 per pound. The section further increases the loan rate for sugar beets to 136.55 percent of the loan rate for raw sugar. The increases are for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 1302. Adjustments to Commodity Credit Corporation Storage Rates.

Section 1302 amends section 167 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. The section increases the storage payments to \$0.34 per hundredweight per month for refined sugar and \$0.27 per hundredweight per month for raw cane sugar.

Sec. 1303. Modernizing Beet Sugar Allotments.

Subsection 1303 amends section 359c(g) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to require the Secretary to give priority to sugar beet processors that have sugar available, if the Secretary makes an upward adjustment in an allotment. Subsection (b) amends section 359e of that Act to reassign beet sugar allotments within 30 days of the publication of the January WASDE.

Sec. 1304. Reallocation of Tariff Rate Quota Shortfall.

Section 1304 amends section 359k of Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. The section requires USTR, in consultation with the Secretary, to provide an upfront reallocation of the TRQ

shortfall at the beginning of the quota year and then a subsequent reallocation of any remaining shortfall to quota holding countries by March 1st of each year.

The section further requires the Secretary to, within 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, carry out a study on whether additional terms and conditions for refined sugar imports are necessary and appropriate. In doing so, the Secretary must look at the need for defining “refined sugar” as having a minimum polarization of 99.8 degrees or higher, establishing a standard for color or reflectance, prescribing specifications for packaging and transportation modes, and appropriate terms and conditions to avoid circumventing U.S. law. The Secretary shall also consider the potential impacts of addressing each of those needs and whether those needs and resulting impacts are necessary and appropriate. After completing the study, the Secretary shall report the funding of such study to Congress. Further, the Secretary may, based on the findings of the study, establish identified additional terms and conditions through a rulemaking process as long as such additional terms and conditions do not have an adverse impact of the domestic sugar industry and are consistent with international obligations.

Sec. 1305. Clarification of Tarriff Rate Quota Adjustments.

Section 1305 amends section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to clarify that the Secretary has the authority to take action to increase the supply of sugar before April 1st only if it is for the sole purpose of responding directly to an emergency shortage of sugar in the United States market that is caused by a war, flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster, or other similar event.

SUBTITLE D—DAIRY

Sec. 1401. Dairy Margin Coverage Production History.

Subsection (a) amends section 1401 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to update the definition of “production history” to eliminate the requirement that the determination be made when the participating dairy operation first registers for the DMC program. Subsection (b) amends section 1405 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to update the production history for dairy operations participating in the program to the highest annual milk marketings of such dairy during any one of the 2021, 2022, or 2023 calendar years.

Sec. 1402. Premiums for Dairy Margins.

Section 1402 amends section 1407 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to increase the tier I and tier II coverage limit under the DMC program from the first 5 million pounds of milk to the first 6,000,000 pounds of milk. Subsection (c) provides an option for producers to receive a 25 percent discount on their DMC premiums if they lock in coverage for all 5 years of the farm bill.

Sec. 1403. Mandatory Reporting of Dairy Product Processing Costs.

Section 1403 amends section 273 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to implement a mandatory cost survey conducted by AMS to ensure that the data that is being used to update make allowances accurately reflects the true cost of making dairy products by requiring the manufacturer to report production costs and product yield information for any product manufactured. The section further requires the Secretary to publish a report every two years containing such information.

Sec. 1404. Class I Skim Milk Price.

Section 1401 amends section 8 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to require a temporary reversion to the “higher of” Class I mover formula for the period of time from the enactment of this Act until the FMMO hearing decision is ratified by the order.

Sec. 1405. Extensions.

Section 1405 extends authorities for Dairy Forward Contracting, the dairy farmer indemnity program, and the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Sec. 1406. Dairy Reports.

Section 1406 amends section 301 of the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 is a technical amendment to allow for 18 months for USDA to submit to Congress a report describing activities conducted under the dairy products promotion and research order.

SUBTITLE E—SUPPLEMENTAL AGRICULTURAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEC. 1501. Livestock Indemnity Payments.

Section 1501(b) amends section 1501 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the livestock indemnity program. Subsection (a) establishes a payment rate for predation losses at 100 percent of the market value of the animal. A producer is only eligible for a payment under this section if the loss was caused by a federally protected species.

The section further establishes a supplemental payment for the loss of unborn livestock. Incurred since January 1, 2024. The payment rate for such loss shall be 85 percent of the payment rate for the lowest rate class of the applicable livestock and multiples by the average number of birthed animals for one gestation period for the species of such livestock.

Subsection (d) requires the Secretary to accept documentation the probability or confirmation of predation attack for the purpose of qualifying for a payment under LIP. It further requires the Secretary to exclude attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the Federal

Government or protected by Federal law when calculating the normal mortality for the purposes of payments under the program. Finally, the subsection codifies the lowest weight category for bovine.

Section 1502. Emergency Assistance for Honeybees.

Section 1502 established “normal” mortality for honeybees at a level that does not include losses due to colony collapse disorder.

Sec. 1503. Tree Assistance Program.

Section 1503 amends section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014, the tree assistance program. Subsection (a) amends the definitions section to expand the definition of “eligible orchardist” to include a person who grows trees for commercial purposes on a biannual basis. The subsection further expands the definition of “natural disaster” to include plant pests for the purposes of the program.

Subsection (b) decreases the threshold for producers to qualify for the program to a tree mortality rate that exceeds normal mortality. The subsection further increases the reimbursement rate from 50 percent to 65 percent of the cost of pruning, removal, and other costs incurred by an eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower to salvage existing trees or, in the case of tree mortality, to prepare the land to replant trees.

Subsection (c) is a conforming amendment. Subsection (d) requires that a participant in the program to agree to replant new trees and salvage existing trees within a year of the approval of their application if practicable for tree survival. It further allows participants to replant an alternative variety of tree, have an alternative stand density, and replant in an alternative location.

Subsection (e) imposes a deadline of 120 days for the Secretary to act upon an application and notify the applicant of the decision.

Sec. 1504. Assistance in the Form of Block Grant.

Section 1504 creates a standing block grant authority to States for future supplemental disaster payments authorized by Congress.

SUBTITLE F—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1601. Suspension of Permanent Price Support Authority.

Section 1601 suspends permanent price support authority through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 1602. Implementation.

Section 1601 amends section 1602 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to provide for the implementation authority and funding for Title I of this Act. The section requires the Secretary in the implementation of the Title to establish a system for producers to repay a marketing assistance loan during a lapse in appropriations.

The section further provides CCC funds to implement Title I programs and authorities, including to carry out dairy mandatory cost surveys and for USDA to update and modernize their technology.

Sec. 1603. Equitable Treatment of Certain Farmers.

Section 1603 amends section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to define the term “qualified pass through entity” to include LLCs, S-Corps, LLPs. The section requires the Secretary to treat such entities in the same manner as current law treats general partnerships and joint ventures for the purposes of applying payment limitations.

Sec. 1604. Payment Limitations.

Section 1604 amends section 1001 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase the payment limitation for Title I payments from \$125,000 to \$155,000, adjusted annually to account for inflation for operations that derive more than 75% of their income from farming, ranching, or silviculture activities. Farming, ranching, and silviculture activities include agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products, the sale of agricultural equipment owned by an operation.

Sec. 1605. Adjusted Gross Income Limitation.

Section 1605 amends section 1001(b) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide an exception to the AGI means test for purposes of determining eligibility for disaster and conservation programs if the person or entity derives more than 75 percent of their income from farming, ranching, and silviculture activities. Farming, ranching, and silviculture activities include agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer marketing of agricultural products, the sale of agricultural equipment owned by an operation.

Sec. 1606. Storage Facility Loans.

Section 1606 amends section 1614 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the storage facility loan program to producers to construct or upgrade storage facilities for propane that is primarily used for agricultural production.

Sec. 1607. Strengthening Domestic Food Production Supply Chains.

Section 1607 requires the President to set the preservation and domestic production of covered agricultural commodities from which food ingredients that serve an important function throughout the domestic supply chain is derived as a priority objective.

Sec. 1608. Limitation on CCC Authority.

Section 1608 limits the discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation during fiscal years 2025 through 2034. The only authorized use of the Commodity Credit Corporation is to carry out operations as Congress provides for. The limitation applies only to future uses of the authority and does not affect funds that have already been obligated.

TITLE II—CONSERVATION

SUBTITLE A—DEFINITIONS

Sec. 2001. Definitions.

Section 2001 adds the definitions for “precision agriculture” and “precision agriculture technology” to the definitions section for the Food Security Act of 1985. The section also includes a technical amendment related to the definition of “Indian Tribe.”

SUBTITLE B—CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

Sec. 2101. Definitions.

Section 2101 creates a definitions section in Subtitle B of title XII of the section Food Security Act of 1985. The definitions are specific to the conservation reserve program (CRP).

Sec. 2102. Conservation Reserve.

Section 2102 amends section 1231 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) reauthorizes CRP through fiscal year 2029. The subsection further requires the Secretary to carry out the program in each State, to the maximum extent practicable.

Subsection (b) establishes criteria for land that is eligible to be enrolled in CRP. The section puts a further emphasis on marginal land by generally requiring that in order to be eligible cropland must have at least 85% of its soils designated as land capability class of III through VII. The subsection maintains other eligibility categories such as land devoted to conservation buffers, grasslands, and portions of land incidental to a field that is otherwise enrolled.

Subsection (c) restates current law related to the requirements for land to be considered planted to an agricultural commodity for the purposes of eligibility of land in CRP in a more appropriate place in the statute. (See subsection (g) where the language is removed from its original location in statute).

Subsection (d) established the different enrollment options available to owners and operators to enroll land in CRP. For the general enrollment option, the Secretary is required to make the program available on an annual basis with one or more ranking periods. For the continuous enrollment option, the Secretary is required to make the program available on a continuous basis. For the grasslands enrollment option, the Secretary is required to make the program available on an annual basis with one or more ranking periods. For the partnership initiative option, the Secretary is required to use the enrollment process agreed to in the partnership agreement.

Subsection (d) further established the maximum number of acres allowed in the conservation reserve at any one time at 27,000,000 acres. The subsection eliminates the “clear initiative.” It also eliminates the requirement that the Secretary allocate 60 percent of the available acres at a rate in line with the historical State enrollment rates. Subsection (d) also establishes a floor for the enrollment of grasslands at 6,000,000 acres for fiscal year 2025, 7,000,000 acres for fiscal year 2026, and 8,000,000 acres for fiscal year 2027 through 2029.

Subsection (e) establishes the allowable length of the contracts depending on the applicable enrollment option. Land enrolled under the general enrollment option or the grasslands enrollment option shall have a 10 year contract. Land enrolled under the general enrollment option or the partnership initiative option shall have a contract that is not less than 10 but no more than 15 years. The subsection further provides for a new 30-year contract for land that is devoted to conservation buffers that improve water quality.

Subsection (f) is a conforming amendment that moves language from one section of the statute to a more appropriate section.

Subsection (g) restates current law generally allowing for consideration for reenrollment in the final year of a contract. The subsection further establishes specific reenrollment conditions for eligible land that is established to trees. Land that is established to pine trees other than shortleaf or longleaf pine trees is not eligible to reenroll in the program. Land that is established to all other trees is eligible for one reenrollment if the land is devoted to shelterbelts, riparian forest buffers, or trees of high conservation value or if the land consists of forested wetlands. The subsection provides that land enrolled in pine trees other than shortleaf or longleaf pine trees can be eligible to reenroll if those trees have been harvested and different permanent cover is established.

The subsection further moves language related to ensuring an equitable balance among conservation purposes and cropping history for eligibility to more appropriate places in the statute.

Sec. 2103. Partnership Initiatives.

Section 1231 amends section 1231A of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the header of the section.

Subsection (b) establishes the partnership initiatives which builds off current law to add the authorities for the State acres for wildlife enhancement program to the existing conservation reserves enhancement program.

Subsection (c) expands the requirements of the partnership agreements to the wildlife enhancement program. The language makes it clear that existing partnership agreements may be modified. It adds a requirement that the agreement the methods and processes that will be used to enroll land be included in such agreements. The language further subjects conservation reserves enhancement program agreements to a matching requirement. The State acres for wildlife enhancement program are not subject to the matching requirements.

Subsection (d), (e) and (f) include conforming amendments to the payments section to reflect the codification of the partnership initiatives.

Subsection (g) eliminates the status report for the former CREP agreements.

Sec. 2104. Duties of Owners and Operators.

Section 2104 amends section 1232 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to incorporate conforming amendments.

Sec. 2105. Duties of the Secretary.

Section 2105 amends section 1233 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) includes a conforming amendment to reflect the new definition of “eligible lands.”

Subsection (b) amends the specified permitted activities to clarify that a producer who engages in emergency grazing during a drought is not subject to a 50 percent carrying capacity reduction unless such producer has received a payment under the livestock forage disaster program. The subsection further includes a conforming amendment to reflect the codification of the partnership initiatives.

Subsection (c) includes conforming amendments to the resource conserving use transition for farmers who intend on no longer participating in CRP. Subsection (d) includes a conforming amendment to clarify that the plan required under CRP is a “conservation reserve plan.”

Subsection (e) codifies a new subsection (f) that requires the Secretary to allocate the program acres to the States to enroll in the program. The Secretary is required to base such allocation primarily on the portion of eligible land that is in each State compared to the total acreage of eligible land in all States. The Secretary should also consider the historical State enrollment rates into the program, the conservation needs of the State (including the impact of

production on water, wetlands, and wildlife habitat), the degree to which the implementation of the program would be effective in addressing those needs, and equitable geographic distribution of the acres.

Sec. 2106. Payments.

Section 2106 amends section 1234 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) provides more specificity to the list of practices for which an owner or operator can receive 50 percent cost share. Such practices include establishing permanent vegetation, carrying out erosion control practices, installing certain kinds of fencing, and conducting mid-contract management.

Subsection (b) is in part a conforming amendment to codify all the authorized incentive payments in the same subsection. The subsection further includes conforming amendments to the practice incentives, sign-up incentives, and forest management incentives to reflect the change in enrollment options of the program. Finally, the subsection includes a requirement that, for the purposes of a forest management incentive payment, the Secretary shall reduce such payment by the amount of any income the owner or operator receives from such practices.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to reduce an owner or operator's annual payment for each enrollment into the program and provides for a formula for such reduction. For the first reenrollment, the owner or operator will receive 85 percent of what the payment would otherwise be. For each subsequent reenrollment, the percentage will be reduced by 10 percentage points.

Subsection (c) further provides that this limitation on annual payments may be waived or modified for partnership initiative contracts as part of the negotiation with the Secretary to enter into such contract. The subsection further requires consult with the State technical committees when taking into consideration the environmental benefits of the land related to the acceptability of a contract. The Secretary must also consult with the State technical committees when establishing conservation priority areas.

Subsection (c) also amends the authority of the Secretary to establish new rental rates. The subsection requires the Secretary to provide an opportunity of not less than 60 days for entities to review any proposed change to the rental rates and propose an alternative soil rental rate. The language further expands the list of entities the Secretary must provide such opportunity to include Country Operating Committees, State Conservationists, conservation districts and State technical committees. The subsection also adds transparency to the process by requiring the Secretary to publish a justification for not adopting any proposed alternative rental rate.

Finally, subsection (c) provides a new formula for the calculation of the average county rental rates. The average county rental rate for land enrolled under the general enrollment option consisting of prime farmland is 85 percent of the estimated rental rate. The average county rental rate for land that has a land capability class of III and enrolled under the general enrollment option is 100 percent of the estimated rental rate. The average county rental rate for marginal

land enrolled under the general enrollment option is 115 percent of the estimated county rental rate. The average county rental rate for land enrolled under the continuous option is 100 percent of the estimated county rental rate. Land enrolled under the partnership initiative enrollment option has an average county rental rate for the category of land enrolled as described above. The payment limitation for the program is increased to \$125,000.

Sec. 2107. Contracts.

Section 2107 amends section 1235 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) and (b) include conforming amendments.

Subsection (c) allows for the early termination of a CRP contract at any point during the contract. The language maintains the existing limitations of lands that are not subject to early termination. The new authority also requires the Secretary to collect prorated recovery costs proportional to the percentage of years remaining on the terminated contract.

Subsection (d) includes conforming amendments.

Subsection (e) adds a new subsection (i) that allows for an owner or operators to receive certain cost-share assistance under the emergency conservation program on their CRP land as long as they have not received payment from CRP for the same practice.

SUBTITLE C—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Sec. 2201. Definitions.

Section 2201 amends section 1240A of the Food Security Act of 1985 to include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology in the definition of the term “practice” for the purposes of the environmental quality incentive program (EQIP).

Sec. 2202. Establishment and Administration.

Section 2202 amends section 1240B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) extends the authority for EQIP through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (b) clarifies that producers who participate in the EQIP program can also receive a loan or loan guarantee under the Conservation Loan Program to cover the costs of the same practices on the same land. The subsection further requires the Secretary to inform producer participating in EQIP of the availability of the loans and loan guarantees for the same practices. The language includes practices that increase carbon sequestration or reduce greenhouse gases as a new category for State-determined practices that can be eligible for increased cost-share. Finally, the subsection provides an increased cost-share of 90 percent for the costs of adopting precision agriculture practices or acquiring precision agriculture technology.

Subsection (c) extends the 50 percent reservation of funding from the program for livestock practices as well as the 10 percent reservation of funding for practices benefiting wildlife.

Subsection (d) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or the acquisition of precision agriculture technology to the list of practices for which the Secretary may provide water conservation and system efficiency payments.

Subsection (e) increases the payment limit for fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to \$200,000. Subsection (f) adds the adoption of precision agriculture practices or adoption of precision agriculture technologies to the incentive practice payments.

Subsection (g) establishes the “Southern Boarder Initiative” which authorized the Secretary to enter into one-year contracts to pay for the repair of damages that are accruing on the southern border.

Sec. 2203. Limitation on Payments.

Section 2203 amends section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a new 5-year period from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029 in which the payment limit of \$450,000 is accrued.

Sec. 2204. Conservation Grants and Payments.

Section 2204 amends section 1240H of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsections (a) expands the grants for innovative conservation approaches to include the development and evaluation of new and innovative technologies that may be incorporated into conservation practice standards.

Subsection (b) extends the funding for practices to address air quality concerns through fiscal year 2029. Subsection (c) adds perennial production systems to the definition of new or innovative conservation approach for the purpose of On-farm Conservation Innovation Trials. The subsection also extends the funding for such trials through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (d) adds data used to evaluate new and emerging technologies and recommendation for the application of such technologies to the data required to be reported on and made publicly available.

SUBTITLE D—CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2301. Conservation Stewardship Program.

Section 2301 amends section 1240J of the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend the authority for the conservation stewardship program (CSP) through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 2302. Duties of the Secretary.

Section 2302 amends section 1240L of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) clarifies that the increased costs associated with using precision agriculture and related technologies can be considered as costs incurred by the producer when the Secretary determines a producer's annual payment under the program. The subsection further increases the minimum payment under the program to \$2,500.

Subsection (b) adds precision agriculture to the list of practices for which producers are eligible to receive supplemental payments under the program.

Subsection (c) establish a new 5-year period from fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029 in which the payment limit of \$200,000 is accrued. Subsection (d) extends reservation of funding for organic transition under the program.

Sec. 2303. State Assistance for Soil Health

Section 2303 creates a new subprogram under CSP for grants to States and Indian Tribes in order to improve soil health on agricultural lands in those states. There is a priority for States and Indian Tribes that already have climate action plans in place. The language provides for audits and reviews for the expenditures of any grant money. There is \$100,000,000 available out of CSP funding to carry out the grant program.

SUBTITLE E—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 2401. Conservation of Private Grazing Land.

Section 2401 amends section 1240M of the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend the conservation of private grazing land program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec 2402. Feral Swine Eradication and Control Program.

Section 2402 move the feral swine eradication and control pilot program from the 2018 Farm Bill into the Food Security Act of 1985 and makes it a full program. The language provides for \$150,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 out of EQIP funds to carry out the program. Further, the distribution of funds is amendment with 40 percent allocated to NRCS and 60 percent allocated to APHIS.

Sec. 2403. Grassroots Source Water Protection Program.

Section 2403 amends section 1240O of the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide mandatory money out of the funding for EQIP of \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available, to carry out the grassroots source water protection program.

Sec. 2404. Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program.

Section 2404 amends section 1240R of the Food Security Act of 1985 to provide \$150,000,000 for the period of fiscal year 2025 through 2029 out of the funding for EQIP to carry out the voluntary public access program.

Sec. 2405. Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Section 2405 amends the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. Subsection (a) expands the program to cover technical and financial assistance for remedial actions under the program. Such remedial actions include addressing any deterioration of a work of improvement that is occurring at an accelerated rate, a service life of a work that does not meet the planned service life, and structural damaged that was caused by a storm event that was greater than the maximum storm event for which the work was designed. Subsection (a) further requires the Secretary to streamline the work occurring under the program by engaging with Federal agencies to reduce barriers to timely completion of projects, provide procedures for reviews and permitting to ensure that the requirements are commensurate with the size and scale of the project, provide for best-practices for internal procedures at USDA, and prioritize agreements and contacts with local organization to carry out the projects.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to collect, maintain, and make publicly available certain data related to the expenditures, contracts, and resulting benefits of the projects carried out under the program. The Secretary is required to keep all data aggregated so to protect the privacy of landowners participating in the program.

Subsection (c) increases the cost share for rehabilitation projects under the program to 90 percent. It further allows for rehabilitation projects to not be subject to the requirement that the project contain benefits directly related to agricultural to provide for the fact that many existing projects under this program we built when an area as primarily rural but has since been changed due to sprawl. It further allows for such projects to not be subject to the requirement that the project contain not less than 50 per centum of the lands situated in the drainage area above each retention reservoir. Finally, the subsection extends the authorization of appropriations for the rehabilitation project through 2029. Subsection (d) increases funding for the entire Act to \$100,000,000 each fiscal year.

Sec. 2406. Emergency Conservation Program.

Section 2406 amends section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to allow for advanced payments under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). A producer may receive up to 75% of the costs for replacement or rehabilitation under ECP and 50 percent of the costs of

repair under ECP in advance of carrying out the replacement, rehabilitation or repair. The subsection further defines wildfires, for the purposes of ECP, to include a fire that was not caused naturally if the damage was caused by the spread of the fire due to natural causes.

Sec. 2407. Emergency Watershed Program.

Section 2407 amends section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978. Subsection (a) provides the Secretary the authority to restore vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The subsection further provides the Secretary the authority to monitor, maintain, and enhance the vegetative cover and hydrological functions on the land subject to a floodplain easement under the program. The Secretary may carry out these activities through contracts directly with landowners or by entering into agreements with States, NGOs, or Tribes. Finally, the subsection allows for the landowner to carry out compatible economic use activities on the land if such uses are consistent with the protection of the floodplain easement.

Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to undertake measures that would increase the level of protection of the floodplain easement if necessary to address immediate impairment of the watershed and it is in the best interest of the long-term health of the watershed.

Sec. 2408. National Agriculture Flood Vulnerability Study.

Section 2408 requires the Secretary to submit to Congress a report on the results of a Conservation Effects Assessment Project assessment of flood risk on agricultural lands.

SUBTITLE F—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2501. Commodity Credit Corporation.

Section 2501 amends section 1241 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) extends and amends the funding for the conservation programs provided by the Commodity Credit Corporation at the following levels:

CRP is funded at current levels including the carveouts for CRP-TIP and the forest thinning practices.

ACEP is funded at:

- \$600,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- \$625,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
- \$650,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- \$675,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and

\$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

EQIP is funded at:

\$2,100,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
\$2,200,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
\$2,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
\$2,450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
\$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

CSP is funded at:

\$1,275,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
\$1,300,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
\$1,325,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
\$1,350,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
\$1,375,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

FCEP is funded at:

\$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
\$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

RCPP is funded at:

\$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
\$425,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
\$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
\$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
\$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (b) makes the funding under this section available until extended.

Subsection (c) is a conforming amendment to the regional equity provision. Subsection (d) includes conforming amendments related to the acceptance and use of contributions for public-private partnerships. Subsection (e) and (f) extend the reservation for funds for beginning

and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and the report on enrollment and assistance, respectively.

Sec. 2502. Recissions.

Section 2502 rescinds the unobligated funds from the conservation programs under the Inflation Reduction Act to incorporate such funds into the CCC for the conservation program carried out by the Secretary.

Sec. 2503 Delivery of Technical Assistance

Section 2503 amends section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) defines the term “non-Federal certifying entity.” Subsection (b) adds the word ‘timely’ to the purpose of technical assistance. Subsection (c) adds ‘(including private sector entities)’ to the list of entities eligible for non-Federal assistance to clarify their eligibility.

Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to ensure that persons (including commercial entities, non- profits, State or local governments, and other Federal agencies) with certain expertise are eligible to become approved providers of technical assistance. Subsection (d) also provides for how third-party providers may be certified including through a process by the Secretary, by a non-Federal entity, by an Indian Tribe, or a State agency. Subsection (d) further establishes an approval process for a non-Federal certifying entity, including a timeline, and eligibility criteria. The Subsection also provides for the duties of non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides for a thirty-day timeline after which the Secretary receives an application from a third-party provider to be certified. The subsection provides a 10-day timeline for the Secretary to include the name of the certified third-party provider on a registry after the Secretary receives a notification from a non-Federal certifying entity. Finally, the subsection direct the Secretary within 180 days to establish a streamlined process for certification of third-party providers that have a relevant professional certification.

Subsection (e) extends the authority to utilize and expend technical assistance funds from all programs administered by the Secretary for third-party provider technical assistance. Subsection (e) further clarifies the term of an agreement with a third-party provider to include non-Federal certifying entities. The subsection provides new language directing the Secretary, within 1 year of enactment, to review the certification process, make necessary adjustments, conduct outreach and set target utilization rates for delivery of technical assistance through third-party providers. Technical assistance for the design and implementation of conservation practices is adjusted to include technical assistance to program participants on maintenance of established practices. Subsection (e) adds new language providing direction to the Secretary in establishing payment amounts for third-party providers including use of specialized equipment, site visits, necessary travel and transportation, and other appropriate factors while excluding the payments from being considered as a cost-share calculation to the program participant. Additionally, the new text requires the Secretary to establish, within 1 year following enactment, a transparent,

publicly available reporting of the use of third-party providers in the delivery of services and the actual certification process. The final addition to this section requires the Secretary to place emphasis on the use of third-party providers in soil health planning, cover crops, precision agriculture, comprehensive nutrient management planning and other innovative plans.

Subsection (f) provides direction to the Secretary in the establishment and review of conservation practice standards. The subsection is amended to require a complete review of all conservation practice standards within 1 year of enactment and at least every 5 years thereafter. The subsection expands the criteria for the review process to require solicitation of public input, summary of input received, decisions relating to the input, and the revision of the standard following the review. New language is added by subsection (f) describing the process the Secretary shall follow for establishing interim and new conservation practice standards. This language sets 1 year following enactment as the date for the Secretary to develop and describe a streamlined process for interim and new conservation practice standards that ensures public engagement and is responsive to the public. State Technical Committee input, technology success from Conservation Innovation Grants and On-Farm Demonstrations, state and local partnership input, as well as, Native or traditional ecological knowledge or principles will inform the development and establishment of interim and new standards in an open, publicly available, transparent process. The Secretary will report these results of these activities and recommendations for improvement to Congress within 2 years of enactment with updates every 2 years thereafter. To ensure USDA's continued responsiveness to the ongoing innovation in agriculture technology and cultural considerations, the Subsection establishes and mandates staffing of an Office of Conservation Innovation within the Office of the Chief of NRCS. The funding and staffing of this new office will be through the annual conservation operation appropriations to the agency.

Subsection (g) provides direct hire authority to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for positions providing technical assistance under the conservation programs administered by the agency.

Sec. 2504 Administrative Requirements for Conservation Programs

Section 2504 amends section 1244 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) is a conforming amendment adding the Forest Conservation Easement Program to the existing tenant protection provisions.

Subsection (b) amends the county cropland acreage limitation for the conservation reserve program and the wetlands reserve easements into a single combined limitation acreage limitation removing the sub-limitation for the wetlands reserve easements. The Subsection revises the exception to waive the limitations when the Secretary determines that exceeding the county cropland acreage limitation will not adversely affect the local economy of a county or addressing producer's highly erodible lands compliance difficulties. Subsection (b) further amends the exclusions from the cropland acreage calculation to include land capability class IIIw soils within the county.

Subsection (c) updates current law for review and guidance for conservation practice costs and payment rates. The Secretary will annually review the actual costs of implementing the practices, account for gaps in available data, consider the variability in costs across the eligible lands in establishing the payment rates. The Subsection further directs the Secretary to monitor and identify significant changes within each year, seek input from the State Technical Committee regarding the significant changes and adopt or adjust current contracts to reflect the accepted change.

Subsection (d) instructs the Secretary to identify a State source water protection coordinator to promote collaborative effort with community water systems in implementing the source water protection provisions of current law. This Subsection adds annual reporting requirements for the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to make publicly available through an interactive map aggregate data with respect to priority areas, conservation programs, numbers of contracts, acres enrolled, practices adopted, and funds obligated and expended in source water protection areas.

Subsection (e) encourages the Secretary to use USDA's conservation program authorities in support of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife movement corridors.

Sec. 2505 Experienced Services Program.

Section 2505 amends section 1252 of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) streamlines the establishment and purpose of the experienced services program to apply to any individual 55 or older that is not currently employed by USDA or a State agriculture department to broadly provide technical, professional, and administrative services in support of conservation programs administered by the Secretary. The Subsection continues to authorize the use of program funds made available through this title, excluding the conservation reserve program, for individuals providing these services.

SUBTITLE G—AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2601. Definitions.

Section 2601 amends section 1265A of the Food Security Act of 1985. This section amends the program definitions by striking the definition for “buy-protect-sell transactions” and renumbers the paragraphs and makes an additional revision to the “eligible land” definition to conform to striking the previous definition.

Sec. 2602. Agricultural Land Easements.

Section 2602 amends section 1265B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the availability of technical assistance to remove buy-protect-sell transactions. Subsection (b) increases the maximum Federal share from 50 to 65 percent and provides the

Secretary the authority to increase the maximum Federal share to 90 percent for a socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher holding an ownership interest of not less than 50 percent. This Subsection also includes a structural change to bring forward the previously authorized grassland exception with respect to the Federal share into the amended structure.

Subsection (b) includes language clarifying the eligible entities responsibility for providing the non-Federal share. Subsection (b) further provides new language for an option to exclude the Federal right of enforcement from the easement terms and conditions. To exercise this option the eligible entity will receive Federal cost-share that does not exceed 25 percent of the fair market value, provide cash contribution of at least 50 percent of the fair market value and use it own easement deed terms with approval of the Secretary. To provide greater opportunity for access to the program, the Subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to evaluate and rank applications from entities that include farms or ranches owned by socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers in separate pools. This Subsection, includes a restructuring of the text flow in current law with respect to the easement minimum terms and conditions without changing the base text in current law. The Subsection includes a new provision facilitating the transfer of an easement to another eligible entity if the holding entity ceases to exist or cannot comply with the easement terms and conditions of their agreement with USDA. Finally, language has been added granting authority to entities to include and modify easement terms and conditions specific to their objectives if such inclusion or modification is not in conflict with the term prescribed by the Secretary.

With respect to certification of eligible entities, Subsection (b) provides a clear objective for the certification process to promote efficiency and minimize agency oversight. It further reduces the minimum number of acquired easements from 10 to 5 for certification of accredited land trusts and state agencies. New language is provided in this Subsection to address certification of eligible entities that are not accredited or a State agency when they hold 10 or more easements. Finally, the Subsection clarifies the easement review requirements for eligible entities to maintain their certification.

Sec. 2603. Wetland Reserve Easements.

Section 2603 amends section 1265C of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) provided socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers the wetlands reserve 30-year contract option in addition to easements. The option is currently available to Indian Tribes and will continue to be an available option. The Subsection provides clear authority for the Secretary to maintain separate evaluation and ranking pools specific to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Subsection (b) makes a conforming change in a subsection citation.

Subsection (c) provides new language elevating stewardship of existing wetland reserve easements as a program priority. The Subsection provides authority and parameters for providing financial assistance on existing easements, requires evaluation of needs, prioritization, planning and execution of stewardship activities, payment authority and reporting requirements of the

Secretary. The Subsection requires the Secretary to compile and transmit the report to Congress within 2 years of enactment.

Subsection (d) expands the Secretary's existing wetlands reserve easement authority for restoration and enhancement contracts and agreements to include Federal and local agencies or private entities. It further expands the eligible activities to include maintenance, repair, assessment and monitoring of easements.

Subsection (e) instruct the Secretary to use not less than 15 percent of the wetlands reserve easement funds to carry out the wetlands reserve enhancement option through agreements with partnering organizations.

Sec. 2604 Administration

Section 2604 amends section 1265D of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) breaks out modifications from exchanges and lowers the bar for modifications while keeping exchanges similar to current law. The subsection clarifies that any modification is not to be considered a major Federal action under NEPA. Subsection (a) provides authority to approve and make de minimis adjustments to any interest in land. The subsection describes types of de minimis adjustments that would be allowed. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to AGI limitations under this subtitle.

SUBTITLE G—FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM

Sec. 2701 Forest Conservation Easement Program

Section 2701 established a new program called the Forest Conservation Easement Program. The section provides for conforming amendments by redesignating subtitle I as subtitle J and by inserting the program as subtitle H.

Section 1267 is the Establishment and Purposes. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to establish a forest conservation easement program. Subsection (b) provides for the purposes of the program to include protecting the viability and sustainability of working forest land, protecting, and enhancing forest and ecosystems and landscape functions and values, promoting the restoration and protection of habitat species, and carrying out the purpose and functions of the healthy forests reserve program.

Section 1267A is the Definitions. The Section provides for definitions for the subtitle including acreage owned by an Indian tribe, eligible entity, eligible land, forest land easement, forest management plan, forest reserve easement, program, and socially disadvantaged forest landowner.

Section 1267B is the Forest Land Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding for the purchase by eligible entities of forest land easements, the development of a forest management plan, and technical assistance to implement the section. Subsection (b)

provides for the terms of cost-share assistance including the federal share of 50 percent of the fair market value of the forest land easement with an exception of not more than 75 percent for forests of special environmental significance or land owned by a socially disadvantaged forest owners. Subsection (b) also provides for the non-Federal share which is the equivalent of the remainder of the fair market value. The subsection provides for the permissible forms the non-Federal share may comprise. The subsection also provides for how the Secretary shall determine the fair market value. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection continues by directing the Secretary to enter into agreements with eligible entities and the length of those agreements. The subsection also authorizes eligible entities to use their own minimum terms and conditions if they are consistent with certain conditions. The subsection also allows for substitution of qualified projects and provides for effects of a violation. Finally, Subsection (b) directs the landowner to work with an eligible entity to develop a forest management plan and directs the Secretary to reimburse the landowner for the cost of the plan. Subsection (c) provides for the method of enrollment using permanent easements or easements for the maximum durations allowed by State law. Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary may provide technical assistance to assist in compliance with terms and conditions of forest land easements.

Section 1267C is the Forest Reserve Easements. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to provide funding to owners of eligible land to restore, protect, and enhance eligible lands through forest reserve easements, related forest reserve easement plans, and technical assistance. Subsection (b) describes the method of enrollment using permanent easements, 30-year easements, and easements for the maximum duration allowed under State law. The subsection also describes the method of enrollment for acreage owned by an Indian Tribe. The subsection sets a limitation on the amount for each fiscal year dedicated to 30-year easements. Subsection (b) also provides for evaluation and ranking of applications including the criteria, priority, and other considerations. The subsection provides for the term and conditions of easements and provides for the ability for a landowner to request certain terms and conditions. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide certain compensation for permanent easements and other compensation for 30-year easements. The subsection also directs the Secretary to determine the fair market value of the easement using certain standards.

Subsection (c) directs the Secretary to provide financial assistance to owners to carry out activities and practices described in the forest reserve easement plan. Subsection (c) describes the amounts the Secretary shall pay for those activities and practices, the costs eligible and the timing of such payments. Finally, the subsection provides for a limitation of the amount of financial assistance the Secretary may provide. Subsection (d) directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to owners of eligible land to assist owners in developing a forest reserve easement plan and complying with the terms and conditions of a forest reserve easement. The subsection also allows the Secretary to enter into contracts with entities to provide technical assistance. Subsection (e) directs the Secretary to make available to the landowners safe harbor or similar protections under the Endangered Species Act. The subsection also allows for costs associated with additional measures and the cost of a permit to be considered eligible costs for payment under subsection (c)(2).

Subsection (f) allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management, monitoring, and enforcement responsibilities under this section to other Federal or State agencies. Subsection (f) also allows the Secretary to delegate any of the management responsibilities to a nonprofit organization if the Secretary determines the organization has the appropriate expertise. Finally, the subsection allows the Secretary to consult with landowners and other entities.

Section 1267D is the Administration. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to not use amounts available to carry out the program on certain ineligible land. Subsection (b) authorizes the Secretary to allow subordination, modification, exchange, and termination under certain conditions. The subsection directs the Secretary to obtain consent, if applicable, from the landowner and eligible entity for any subordination, exchange, modification, or termination. Subsection (b) directs the Secretary to provide written notice to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees before taking any termination action. Subsection (c) says that in accordance with provisions of section 2902, land enrolled in the healthy forests reserve program on the day before enactment shall be considered enrolled in the program.

SUBTITLE I—REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Sec. 2801 Establishment and Purposes

Section 2801 amends section 1271 of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends the purposes of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to include the prevention and mitigation of the effects of flooding and drought and improvement or expansion of flood resiliency.

Sec. 2802 Definitions

Section 2802 amends section 1271A of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section adds the forest conservation easement program established under subtitle I to the list of covered programs.

Sec. 2803 Regional Conservation Partnerships

Section 2803 amends section 1271B of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary to enter into partnership agreements with eligible entities to implement projects. Subsection (a) directs the Secretary to streamline the partnership agreement process ensuring the partnership agreement process takes less than 180 days and that the agreement contains only information described under (e)(3) to fund and initiate the project and any adjustments to the requirements of a covered program determined necessary by the Secretary under paragraph (2) of section 1271E(f) and any waiver provided under paragraph (3). Finally, subsection (a) directs the Secretary to make available information on the process for requesting a waiver or adjustment.

Subsection (b) provides for a conforming amendment on an annual report on technical assistance funds. The subsection also ensures that payments to eligible partners are made not later than 30 days after the date on which the eligible partner submits to the Secretary a request for payment.

Subsection (c) amends section 1271B(e)(3) to add any requests of a waiver or an adjustment to a covered program in the application section.

Sec. 2804 Assistance to Producers

Section 2804 amends section 1271C of the Food Security Act of 1985. The section amends 1271C(d)(3) to ensure eligible entities under an AFA provide not less than 50 percent of the overall costs of the project in direct funding.

Sec. 2805 Funding

Section 2805 amends section 1271D of the Food Security Act of 1985 to make certain conforming amendments. Subsection (b) amends the limitation of administration expenses to allow not more than 10 percent to reimburse the eligible partner for administrative expenses relating to the projects. The subsection also clarifies that any remaining amount not reimbursed that is expended by an eligible partner for administrative expenses may be a part of the contribution of the eligible partner under section 1271B(c)(2).

Subsection (c) authorizes the Secretary to identify the total amount of funds that will be used for technical assistance and the share of funds provided to eligible partners. Subsection (c) also clarifies that the Secretary may reimburse partners for the cost of technical assistance including the costs of technical assistance to facilitate the maximum conservation benefit, the costs of providing outreach, the costs of establishing baseline metrics to support the development of the assessment required under section 1271B(c)(1)(E), and other costs necessary to support the implementation of the project. The subsection also authorizes the Secretary to advance funds to eligible partners. The subsection also limits the costs of the Secretary for technical assistance. Finally, the subsection directs the Secretary to provide a single, simplified process for reimbursements and advancements, along with strategies for third-party providers to participate in the program.

Sec. 2806 Administration

Section 2806 amends section 1271E of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the reporting provision to ensure the report is made publicly available.

Subsection (b) adds subsection (f) to 1271E that directs the Secretary to ensure that the terms and conditions of a program contract are consistent with the requirements of the applicable covered program while also authorizing the Secretary to adjust a regulatory requirement of a covered program if requested by a partner. The subsection also provides for a limitation on that provision to not adjust statutory requirements. Subsection (b) also provides waiver authority of

eligible land considerations for an Agricultural Land Easement. The subsection also ensures that certified eligible entities under the Agricultural Land Easement program shall have the same benefits in RCPP as they do in ACEP. Subsection (b) provides an exemption to the prior irrigation history requirement for an eligible activity under EQIP in which irrigation has not been used significantly for agricultural purposes. The subsection provides that paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to AFAs.

Sec. 2807 Critical Conservation Areas

Section 2807 amends section 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985. Subsection (a) amends the definition of priority resource concerns to include restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors. Subsection (b) makes a conforming amendment to 1271D.

SUBTITLE II—REPEALS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 2901 Superseded Conservation Reserve Program Authorities

Subsection (a) repeals the farmable wetland program and the SHIPP pilot program. Subsection (b) provides language to ensure current contracts are not affected by the changes in this Act to CRP. The subsection also provides the ability to modify existing contracts if the signatories of a contract mutually agree. Subsection (b) also allows a one-year extension if that contract or agreement expires on or before September 30, 2025, under the terms and payment rate of the existing contract or agreement. The subsection allows for funds for any fiscal years 2019 through 2024 to be available to carry out contracts that were entered into prior to the date of enactment.

Sec. 2902 Healthy Forest Reserve Program

Subsection (a) repeals Title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. The subsection makes a conforming amendment to amend the table of contents to reflect the repeal. Subsection (b) provides for transitional authorities to ensure that it does not affect the validity or terms of contract, agreement, easement, payments, or technical assistance required entered into under title V of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. Subsection (b) authorizes the use of prior year funds.

TITLE III—TRADE

SUBTITLE A—FOOD FOR PEACE ACT

Sec. 3101. Food aid quality assurance.

Paragraph (1) of section 3101 amends Section 202(a) of the Food for Peace Act to require the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to receive consent from the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance, including in the form of agricultural commodities, to meet emergency food needs under the Emergency and Private Assistance Programs title of the Food for Peace Act. Paragraph (1) also transfers the discretionary authority to respond to emergency needs from the Administrator to the Secretary.

Paragraph (2) of section 3101 amends Section 202(b)(1) of the Food for Peace Act to expand nonemergency assistance to include aid beyond agricultural commodities.

Paragraph (3) of Section 3101 amends section 202(d) to provide that eligible organizations to receive nonemergency assistance shall include private voluntary organizations or cooperatives registered with the Administrator, intergovernmental organizations, or a nongovernmental organization, as determined by the Administrator.

Paragraph (4) of Section 3101 amends section 202(e) to limit the funds used to procure agricultural commodities and for ocean transportation to not exceed 50 percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year under the Food for Peace Act.

Paragraph (5) of Section 3101 amends section 202(h)(3) to extend the \$4,500,000 funding limitation for food aid program oversight, monitoring, and evaluation through 2029.

Sec. 3102. Minimum levels of assistance.

Section 3102 amends section 204(a) of the Food for Peace Act to require the USAID Administrator to make agricultural commodities, available for food distribution for each fiscal year under the Emergency and Private Assistance Programs title of the Food for Peace Act, to be an amount equivalent to not less than 30 percent of the funds available in each fiscal year under the Emergency and Private Assistance Programs title. Section 3102 also updates an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3103. Food aid consultative group.

Section 3103 amends section 205(f) of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the Food Aid Consultative Group through December 31, 2029.

Sec. 3104. Issuance of regulations; oversight, monitoring, and evaluation.

Paragraph (1) of Section 3104 amends section 207(c) of the Food for Peace Act to allow the Administrator 270 days after the date of enactment of [the Agricultural Act of 2024] to issue regulations and revisions to agency guidance necessary to implement the Act.

Paragraph (2) of Section 3104 amends section 207(f)(4)(A) of the Food for Peace Act to permit the Administrator to use up to 1.5 percent of the funds made available under Title II of the Food for Peace Act through fiscal year 2029 for monitoring of emergency food assistance.

Paragraph (3) amends section 207(f)(4)(B) to provide that not more than \$8,000,000 of the funds made available under subsection (f)(4)(A) above through fiscal year 2029 may be used by the Administrator to carry out early warning assessments and systems to help prevent famines.

Sec. 3105. International food relief partnership.

Section 3105 amends section 208 of the Food for Peace Act to authorize appropriations of \$15,000,000 for the International Food Relief Partnership program for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3106. Use of commodity credit corporation.

Section 3106 amends section 406 of the Food for Peace Act to provide that the Commodity Credit Corporation may pay all associated and incidental costs of commodities made available for emergency and private assistance programs and food for development under the Food for Peace Act.

Sec. 3107. Pre-positioning of agricultural commodities and annual report regarding food aid programs and activities.

Subsection (a) of section 3107 amends section 407(c) of the Food for Peace Act to provide that the Administrator of the USAID shall transfer, arrange for the transportation, and take other steps necessary to make available agricultural commodities provided for emergency and private assistance programs and food for development under the Food for Peace Act.

Subsection (b) of Section 3107 amends section 407(f) of the Food for Peace Act to expand the food aid programs and activities annual report requirements to include an assessment of activities specifically targeting women and girls and the impact of those activities in addressing the unique needs of women and girls. Subsection (b) also amends the annual report requirements to include a statement of the amount of funds provided to each eligible organization that received assistance and how those funds were used, including for commodity transportation, and administrative costs.

Sec. 3108. Deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance.

Section 3108 amends section 408 of the Food for Peace Act to extend the deadline for agreements to finance sales or to provide other assistance until December 31, 2029.

Sec. 3109. Minimum level of nonemergency food assistance.

Paragraph (1) of section 3109 amends section 412(e)(1) Section 3014 to provide not less than \$365,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out title II of the Act, nor more than

30% of such funds, through fiscal year 2029, be expended for nonemergency food assistance programs.

Paragraph (2) of section 3109 amends section 412(f) of the Food for Peace Act to provide, for each fiscal year through 2029, if the most recent Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates annually report a rate of children under 5 years of age affected by child wasting above 5 percent, in addition to the amounts made available under the Food for Peace Act, not less than \$200,000,000 of the amounts made available to carry out non-emergency food assistance shall be expended for the procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic foods, provided that the total amount made available to carry out emergency and private assistance programs is not less than \$1,925,000,000 for a fiscal year. If the amount made available to carry out emergency and private assistance programs is less than \$1,925,000,000, the level of funding to address child wasting shall be the product of \$200,000,000, multiplied by the quotient of the total amount made available for that fiscal year divided by \$1,925,000,000.

Sec. 3110. Termination date for micronutrient fortification programs.

Section 3110 amends section 415(c) of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the micronutrient fortification program until 2029.

Sec. 3111. John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program.

Section 3113 amends subsections (e) and (f) of section 501 of the Food for Peace Act to reauthorize the authorization of appropriations and the establishment of a grant program to create new partners and innovation until 2029.

SUBTITLE B—AGRICULTURAL TRADE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 3201. Agricultural trade promotion and facilitation.

Section 3201(a) amends section 203(c) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to provide \$1,000,000 in authorized funding for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the Secretary to enter into contracts with trade organizations to provide technical assistance to enhance the capabilities of infrastructure in new and developing foreign markets, including infrastructure related to cold chain capacity, port improvements, and other developments.

Section 3201(b) amends section 203(e) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to establish a biennial report that the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, to submit every two years to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report detailing the competitiveness of U.S. specialty crops.

Section 3201(c) amends section 203(f) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to authorize appropriations, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, of \$489,500,000, to remain available until expended, to fund agricultural trade promotion and facilitation. Of the \$489,500,000 authorized in funding for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, \$400,000,000 is allocated to

the Market Access Program, \$69,000,000 is allocated to the Foreign Market Development Cooperator Program, \$8,000,000 is allocated to the E (Kika) de la Garza Emerging Markets Program, \$9,000,000 is allocated to the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program, and \$3,500,000 is allocated to the Priority Trade Fund.

Section 3201(d) repeals the prohibition on using funds to provide assistance to, or to pay the salaries of personnel to carry out a market promotion/market access program that provides assistance to the United States Mink Export Development Council or any mink industry trade association.

Sec. 3202. Preserving foreign markets for goods using common names.

Section 3202(a) amends Section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to create a definition for “Common Name”, meaning a name that, as determined by the Secretary, is ordinarily or customarily used for an agricultural commodity or food product, is typically placed on the packaging and product label of the agricultural commodity or food product, and the use of the name is consistent with standards of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. Additionally, with respect to wine, the common name should be ordinarily or customarily used for a wine grape varietal name or be a traditional term or expression that is typically placed on the packaging and label of the wine; and does not mean any appellation of origin for wine listed in subpart C of part 9 of title 27, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

Section 3202(b) amends the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to add a new section at the end of Title III that requires the Secretary to coordinate efforts with the United States Trade Representative to secure the right of U.S. agricultural producers, processors, and exporters to use common names for agricultural commodities or food products in foreign markets through the negotiation of bilateral, plurilateral, or multilateral agreements, memoranda of understanding, or exchanges of letters that assure the current and future use of each common name identified by the Secretary in connection with United States agricultural commodities or food products. Section 3202(b) also requires the Secretary and the U.S. Trade Representative to provide the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Nutrition a biannual briefing on their efforts and success in carrying out negotiations to defend the use of common names.

Sec. 3203. Interagency Seasonal and Perishable Fruits and Vegetable Working Group.

Section 3203 amends subtitle b of title IV of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the Secretary (acting through the Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs), the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other Federal agencies or entities as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary, to jointly establish an interagency working group composed of representatives from each agency to monitor and assess, on an ongoing basis, seasonal and perishable fruits and vegetables trade data and related information.

Sec. 3301. Growing American Food Exports.

Section 3301 amends Section 1543A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize the \$2,000,000 authorization of appropriations of the Biotechnology and Agricultural Trade Program for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 3302. Food for Progress Act of 1985.

Paragraph (1) of section 3302 amends section 1110(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary to annually enter into two or more agreements with two or more eligible entities to furnish developing countries and countries that are emerging democracies with eligible commodities.

Paragraphs (2) through (5)(A) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to reauthorize the program until 2029.

Paragraph (5)(B) and (6) of section 3302 amends section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 to narrow the scope of authority that the Secretary may use proceeds to pay the costs incurred by eligible entities under the Food for Progress Act to development purposes and programs.

Paragraph (7) of section 3302 amends section 1110(n) of the Food Security Act of 1985 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Sec. 3303. Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act.

Paragraphs (1) and (5) of section 3303 amends section 302 of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to reauthorize the trust through 2029.

Paragraph (2) of section 3303 amends section 302(c)(1)(B) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide that without undue delay, any funds or commodities held in the trust may be released by the Secretary, which shall be informed by information provided by the Administrator regarding the ongoing programs of the Administrator, to provide food, and cover any associated costs, for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act.

Paragraph (3) of section 3303 amends section 302(c)(1)(C) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide the Secretary with the authority to determine if funds and commodities held in the trust are available for emergency and private assistance programs under the Food for Peace Act for a fiscal year if funds for such fiscal year are insufficient to meet emergency needs.

Paragraph (4) of section 3303 amends section 302(f)(2)(A) of the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Act to provide that the Secretary shall reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for the release of eligible commodities from funds made available to carry out the Food for Peace Act and the funds that shall be available to replenish the trust.

Sec. 3304. Promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets.

Section 3304 amends section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for the promotion of agricultural exports to emerging markets through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3305. International agricultural education fellowship program.

Section 3305 amends section 3307 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize funding for the International Agricultural Fellowship Program through fiscal year 2029. Section 3305 also requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to implement the fellowship program in each participating host country for not fewer than 3 consecutive years and to ensure that contracts awarded to outside organizations are multi-year.

Sec. 3306. International agricultural cultural immersion and exchange program.

Section 3306 amends the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to add a new section at the end of Title III that establishes an International Agriculture Cultural Immersion and Exchange Program, authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to develop globally minded citizens of the U.S. and to strengthen and enhance trade between eligible countries and the U.S. in agricultural, food, nutrition, and environmental industries.

Sec. 3307. International food security technical assistance.

Section 3307 amends section 1543B(f) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize funding for international food security technical assistance through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 3308. McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Paragraph (1) of section 3308 amends section 3107(c)(2)(B)(ii) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that low or lower-middle income, net food-importing countries that meets the poverty criteria established by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for Civil Works Preference; and has a national government that is committed to or is working toward, through a national action plan, the goals of the World Declaration on Education for All and the Dakar Framework for Action of the World Education Forum, may be reimbursed by the Secretary for all or any part of the internal transportation, storage, and handling costs incurred in moving the eligible commodity if such costs are appropriate.

Paragraph (2) of section 3308 amends section 3107(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to update an outdated reference to the Committee on International Relations with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

Paragraph (3) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program through fiscal year 2029.

Paragraph (4) of section 3308 amends section 3107(l)(4) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that of the funds available to carry out the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, not less than 8 percent, but not more than 15 percent, shall be used to purchase agricultural commodities that are produced in and procured from developing countries that are McGovern-Dole recipients.

Sec. 3309. Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Section 3309 amends section 3202 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to limit the aggregate contribution of funds of the Federal Government to the Trust to 33% and authorizes appropriations through 2029.

Sec. 3310. Local and regional food aid procurement projects.

Section 3310 amends section 3206(e)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to authorize appropriations for local and regional food aid procurements projects until 2029.

TITLE IV—NUTRITION

SUBTITLE A—SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Sec. 4101. Declaration of Policy.

Section 4101 amends section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, adding subsections (b) and (c) relating to Congress's Declaration of Policy on SNAP.

Section 4102. Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

Section 4102(a) adds a new section 112 to the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, allowing for Indian tribes to enter into self-determination contracts for SNAP with the Secretary.

Subsection (b) amends section 4(b)(6)(E) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 4103. Exclusions from Income and Resources.

Section 4103 amends section 5(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding as an exclusion from household income for purposes of SNAP any payment made to household members derived from programs defined in section 6(o)(1), established in 6(d)(4), certain vocational rehabilitation programs, and any refugee employment program established under section 412(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Subsection (b) repeals section 5(l) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

Subsection (c) amends section 5(g) by excluding from financial resources under this section 5(g) of the Food and Nutrition Act the value of any earnings made to household members derived from programs defined in section 6(o)(1), established in 6(d)(4), certain vocational rehabilitation programs, and any refugee employment program established under section 412(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Section 4104. Earned Income Deduction.

Section 4101 amends section 5(e)(2)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by increasing the allowed deduction of all earned income to compensate for taxes from 20% to 22%.

Section 4105. SNAP Employment and Training Provider Service Referrals.

Section 4105 amends Section 6(d)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act by adding a new paragraph (P), allowing the State, in certain circumstances, to use personnel exempt from Merit System requirements specified in section 11(e)(6)(B) to screen the recipient for appropriateness for participation in the service program.

Section 4106. Prohibited Fees.

Section 4106 amends section 7(h)(13)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prohibit the imposition of fees on a SNAP authorized retailer for EBT transactions including switching or routing such benefits, for costs to implement subsections (d) and (f)(5)(B), except that the prohibition against fees does not apply towards costs associated with equipment rentals.

Section 4107. Prohibition on Benefit Redemption by Owners of Retail Food Stores.

Section 4107 amends section 7 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (l) to prohibit covered persons from being able to redeem benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program at a retail food store owned by the covered person or a member of the household of the covered person.

Section 4108. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefit Transfer Transaction Data Report.

Section 4108 amends section 9 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (k) requiring the Secretary to collect transaction data for retail food store transactions to assist in making improvements to SNAP design and requiring the secretary to make a report available to the public summarizing that aggregated data.

Section 4109. Availability of State Plans.

Section 4109 amends Section 11(d) of the Food and Nutrition Act to require the Secretary to maintain a publicly available database of the parts of each State agency approved plan of operation in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary not later than 180 days after the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

Section 4110. National Accuracy Clearinghouse.

Section 4110 amends Section 11(x) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by specifying certain information from members of participating SNAP households that the Secretary must require State agencies make available to the National Accuracy Clearinghouse.

Section 4111. SNAP Staffing Flexibility.

Section 4111 amends section 11 of the Food and Nutrition Act by adding a new subsection (y), allowing a State agency to hire a contractor to undertake supplemental nutrition assistance program certification or carry out any other function of the State agency under SNAP.

Paragraph (2) stipulates a state agency may only use the authority to hire a contractor when the State experiences increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or an inability to timely process such applications from certain causes.

Paragraph (4) requires the State agency to notify the Secretary of its intent to use the authority provided in this section and shall provide any information or data supporting State agency increases in supplemental nutrition assistance program applications or any inability to timely process such applications.

Paragraph (7) directs the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress on SNAP Staffing Flexibility.

Section 4112. Updates to Administrative Processes for SNAP Retailers.

Section 4112 amends section 14(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Subsections (a)(1) – (3) amends how notices of administered actions shall be delivered, extends the time for a

party aggrieved by the administrative action to file a request for an opportunity to submit information in support of its positions from 10 to 30 days, states that in the absence of such a request the administrative determination shall be a final determination, and provides rules by which the administrative proceedings shall proceed in the event such a request is filed by the aggrieved party.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to file a report to Congress containing the results of a study on SNAP fraud.

Subsection (c) makes this section effective one year after passage of this Act.

Section 4113. Adjustment to Percentage of Recovered Funds Retained by States.

Section 4113 amends section 16(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by increasing from 35% to 50% the value a State is permitted to retain of all funds recovered under section 6(b) and 13(c).

Paragraph (2) adds that a State agency shall use such funds retained only to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program, including investments in technology, improvements in administration and distribution, and actions to prevent fraud (including skimming).

Section 4114 Tolerance Level for Payment Errors.

Section 4114 amends section 16(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adjusting the permitted tolerance for payment errors to \$0.

Section 4115. Public Comment On Quality Control Guidance.

Section 4115 amends section 16(c) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new paragraph (10) requiring the Secretary to provide notice and public comment for at least 60 days, any new or updated guidance proposing substantive changes for conducting quality control reviews prior to any such guidance being finalized.

Section 4116. Office of Program Integrity.

Section 4116 amends section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new subsection (j) establishing an Office of Program Integrity. The mission of the Office of Program Integrity shall be to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse in nutrition programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service, and improve the development, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring of nutrition programs and policies administered by the Food and Nutrition Service

Section 4117. Authorization of Appropriations.

Section 4117 amends section 18(a)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending through 2029 the authorization for appropriations for section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act (Research, Demonstration, and Evaluations).

Section 4118. Assistance for Community Food Products

Section 4118 amends section 25(b)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by increasing from \$5,000,000 to \$10,000,000 the total amount of funds that may be provided as grants under this section for assistance for community food projects.

Section 4119. Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Section 4119(a) amends section 202 of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by adding a new subsection (b) providing that the Secretary shall allow an eligible State to elect to receive all of the entitlement funds of the eligible State as cash to make direct purchases of commodities through the private commercial marketplace.

Subsection (b) amends section 203D(d)(5) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by increasing from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal year through 2029, funding for the projects to harvest, process, package, or transport donated commodities subsection.

Subsection (c) amends section 204(a)(1) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by doubling to \$200,000,000 the authorization of appropriations for each fiscal year for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Subsection (d) amends Section 209(d) of the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 by extending the authorization of funds through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (e) amends section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending the authority of the Secretary to carry out the purchase of commodities for the emergency food assistance program, and increases from \$35,000,000 to \$40,000,000 beginning in fiscal year 2025, the figure to be added to the dollar amount for commodities before making adjustments for inflation.

Section 4120 Nutrition Education

Section 4120 amends section 28 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by expanding that state agencies may deliver nutrition education and obesity prevention services through agreements with nonprofit organizations, schools, Reserve Officers' Training Corps, or community organizations.

Subparagraph (1)(B) expands the requirements of a nutrition education State plan to include how the projects will reach a broad age range of individuals and how each local project will be evaluated by the local partner.

Subparagraph (1)(C) adds that health care practitioners and community health workers, and educators, must be consulted in identifying allowable uses of funds under section 28.

Subparagraph (1)(F) adds a new paragraph (c)(10) requiring project recipients to use not less than 5 percent of funds received for process and impact evaluation and may contract with land-grant colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) to carry out the evaluation.

Paragraph (2) increases funding to \$521,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and makes \$521,000,000 the new figure to base future inflation increases off of in determining funding levels.

Paragraph (3) adds a new subsection (f) directing the Comptroller General submit to the United States House of Representatives Committees on Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, a report that examines policy options to unify the nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program under this section with the expanded food and nutrition education program under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977. Subsection (f) further directs the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue recommendations to Congress on how to unify the nutrition education and obesity prevention grant program under this section with the expanded food and nutrition education program under section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

Section 4121. Retail Food Store and Recipient Trafficking.

Section 4121 amends section 29(c)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 4122. Repeal of the Denial of Benefits for Certain Drug-Related Convictions.

Section 4122 amends section 115 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 by repealing subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2), which prevented persons convicted of drug-possession related felonies from receiving benefits under section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act.

Subsection (c) amends section 6(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act to prevent a State agency from imposing a disqualification for benefits for a felony-drug conviction or for a failure to satisfy an action required under a Federal, State, or local law relating to a means-tested public assistance program that was required as a result of a felony drug conviction.

Section 4123. Residents of Institutions.

Section 4123 amends section 3(m)(5) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to add that incarcerated individuals who are scheduled to be released from an institution within 30 days shall not be considered to be residents of institutions but shall be considered to be individual households.

Section 4124. Block Grants for Puerto Rico and American Samoa.

Section 4124 amends Section 19(a)(2)(A)(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by increasing the Block Grant by \$50,000,000 to \$1,451,000,000.

Section 4125. Elderly Simplified Application Program.

Section 4125 amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding at the end a new section 31, requiring that the Secretary shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘elderly simplified application program’, under which a State, in carrying out the supplemental nutrition assistance program, may elect to implement a streamlined application and certification process for households in which all adult members are elderly or disabled members, and have no earned income.

Section 4126. Amendment to Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023

Section 4126 amends Section 501 of title IV of division HH of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 by adding a new subsection (e) requiring State agencies to review and, where appropriate, suspend the accounts of households for which EBT card transactions are made exclusively out-of-State for a period longer than 90 days, until: (1) the household affirmatively provides substantiating evidence that the members of the household who are program participants still reside in the State from which they receive benefits; or (2) an inquiry is conducted and conclusively determines that the members of the household who are program participants still reside in the State from which they receive benefits.

Section 4127. Modification of State Plan Requirements.

Section 4127 amends section 11(e) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by striking paragraph 24, relating to how a state agency shall request wage data relevant to determining eligibility to receive supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits and determining the correct amount of those benefits at the time of certification.

Section 4128. Food Security and Diet Quality Report.

Section 4128 amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding a new section 32, requiring the Secretary to submit annual reports to Congress relating to food security and diet quality of participants and nonparticipants in SNAP.

Section 4129. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Study and Report.

Section 4129 requires the Secretary to contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to carry out a study to assess the efficacy of allowing hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption to be purchased with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits issued under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, including the impact on diet quality, purchasing power, and access to food.

Subsection (c) requires the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives a report on the study carried out under to determine whether a pilot program for the termination of the prohibition on hot foods or hot food products ready for immediate consumption is warranted.

Subsection (d) provides \$1,000,000 from the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out this section.

SUBTITLE B—COMMODITY DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Section 4201. Commodity Distribution Program.

Section 4201(a) amends Section 4402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase funding by \$2,000,000 to \$22,600,000 and extend funding through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (b) adds maple syrup as a permitted resource to be provided in the senior farmers' market.

Subsection (c) amends section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2029.

Section 4202. Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

Section 4202 amends section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 by extending its authority through fiscal year 2029.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (g) by adding that any amount deducted from social security payments for premiums paid under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act shall not be considered income for the purposes of this section.

Paragraph (4) adds as a new subsection (n), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program Delivery Pilot Program. The purpose of the program is to award grants for the operation of

projects that increase the access of low-income elderly persons to commodities through home delivery or other means and to evaluate such projects. This paragraph authorizes there to be \$10,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2029 for the program.

Section 4203 Distribution of Surplus Commodities To Special Nutrition Projects.

Section 4203 amends section 1114(a)(2)(A) of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 by extending the authority through fiscal year 2029.

Section 4204. Commodity Supplemental Food Program Demonstration Project for Tribal Organizations.

Section 4202 creates a demonstration project for tribal organizations under which 1 or more Tribal organizations may enter into self-determination contracts to purchase agricultural commodities under the food distribution program for the Indian reservation of that Tribal organization. Paragraph (6) authorizes \$5,000,000 to carry out the demonstration project.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to appoint an existing office of the United States Department of Agriculture to administer Tribal self-determination contracts, and authorizes \$1,200,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 for the payment of Department contract officers and program staff salaries and benefits..

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Section 4301. Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Distribution to Schools and Service Institutions.

Section 4301 amends section 10603(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the purchase of specialty crops through fiscal year 2029.

Section 4302. Food Box Pilot Program.

Section 4302 establishes a food box pilot program for the purpose of procuring and distributing foods from the categories of staple foods listed in section 3(q) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(q)) that align with dietary patterns as defined in the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

Subsection (b) explains that the goals of the program are to: (1) supplement, not supplant, the nutrition of food insecure households in a manner complementary to other food nutrition programs administered by the Department; (2) expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations, including community-based and faith-based organizations; and (3) support local and regional food systems to improve food access.

Subsection (d) requires the secretary to submit a report to Congress on the status and activities carried out in the program.

Subsection (f) provides \$100,000,000 from the Commodity credit Corporation for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

Section 4302. Nutrition Standards for Food Distribution Programs.

Section 4203(a) requires the Secretary to promulgate rules with respect to nutrition guidelines for food distributed under the programs established under section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, and section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

Subsection (b) requires that in promulgating rules the Secretary shall ensure that the food products distributed under the programs described in such subsection are consistent with the goals of the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and ensure that the nutrition standards reflect the different cultural and religious dietary needs of the populations being served food products under the programs described in such subsection.

Section 4304. Guidance Regarding Notifying Certain Students Regarding SNAP Benefits.

Section 4304 amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 by adding at the end a new section 33, requiring the Secretary to issue guidance to States on how to identify and notify eligible students who are likely to qualify for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

Section 4305. Buy American Requirements for Certain School Meals.

Section 4305 amends Section 12(n)(2)(A) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by codifying that the Secretary shall require that a school food authority purchase, with respect to each food purchase category designated by the Agricultural Marketing Service, at least 95 percent domestic products and commodities in each such category for each school year. Subparagraph (A)(ii) provides an exception for domestically unavailable foods.

Section 4306. Reauthorization of the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program.

Section 4306 amends Section 4405 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. Paragraph (1) amends subsection (b)(1)(C) by allowing a waiver to persistent poverty counties from the requirement that the Federal cost share not exceed 50%.

Paragraph (1)(B) provides that in awarding grants under the program, the Secretary shall give priority to projects that increase year-round availability of incentives by offering all forms of fruits or vegetables.

Paragraph (2) expands what an eligible entity must prescribe from just “fresh fruits and vegetables” to “all forms of fruits, vegetables, and legumes”.

Paragraph (2)(B) adds a new Paragraph (6) directing the Comptroller General to finalize and submit to the United States House of Representatives Committees on Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce, a report that examines policy options relating to the transition of the produce prescription program established under this subsection to the Department of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This paragraph also directs the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to issue recommendations to Congress on how to transition the produce prescription program established under this subsection to the Department of Health and Human Services. Thus paragraph also adds a paragraph (7), terminating the authority to carry out this subsection on September 30, 2029.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (f) by increasing mandatory funding from \$56,000,000 to \$75,000,000 per year. Paragraph (3) also lowers from 8% to 7% the amount of funds made available under this section to be able to be used by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Food and Nutrition Service for administration. Paragraph (3) amends paragraph (3)(C)(ii) to reduce from \$7,000,000 to \$4,000,000, and extend the authority through 2029, for the Secretary to use for the Nutrition Incentive Program Training, Technical Assistance, Evaluation, and Information Centers.

Section 4307. Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report.

Section 4307 amends Section 224(e)(2) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to make the Food Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison Report annual, and add required information to be included in the report.

Section 4308. Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

Section 4308 amends section 243(d) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by increasing the authorization of appropriations by \$10,000,000 to \$135,000,000.

Section 4309. Micro-Grants for Food Security.

Section 4309 amends section 4206(g)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by increasing the authorization of appropriations from \$10,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

Section 4310. Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Projects.

Section 4310 amends section 4208 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to strike from the definition of fluid milk in subsection (a) the requirement that it be consistent with the most recent dietary recommendations.

Paragraph (2) increases the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029 by \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000, and provides that \$5,000,000 of funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation shall be used for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

TITLE V – CREDIT

SUBTITLE A – FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS

Sec. 5101. Persons eligible for real estate loans.

Section 5101 amends section 302(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for direct farm ownership loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with real estate loans.

Sec. 5102. Experience requirements.

Section 5102 amends section 302(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to lower the required years of farm or ranch operations experience, from 3 years to 2 years, for farmers and ranchers to be eligible for direct farm ownership loans. Section 5102 also allows Secretary to reduce the requirement to 1 year, if a farmer or rancher meets certain criteria, including at least 1 year of experience as hired farm labor with substantial management or operational responsibilities.

Sec. 5103. Limitations on amount of farm ownership loans.

Section 5103 amends section 305(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from \$700,000 to \$1,750,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2025.

Sec. 5104. Inflation percentage.

Section 5104 amends section 305(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the inflation percentage applicable to the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans to include the average of the per acre average United States farm real estate value, the per acre average United States cropland value, and the per acre average United States pasture value for the preceding year, weighted equally, to exceed the same averages from the prior year.

Sec. 5105. Authority of farm credit system institutions to provide financial support for essential rural community facilities projects.

Section 5105 amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to create a new section that expands the authority of farm credit institutions to provide financing and technical assistance for essential rural community facilities projects.

Sec. 5106. Down payment loan program.

Section 5106 amends section 310E(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to adjust the principal amount a farm ownership loan made under the down payment loan program to be 45% the lesser of the purchase price or the appraised value of the farm or ranch to be acquired, whichever is lower.

Sec. 5107. HEIRS property.

Section 5107(a) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the HEIRS Property Intermediary Relending Program through fiscal year 2029.

Section 5107(b) amends section 310I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish that the Secretary shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undivided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has multiple owners and to authorize appropriations of \$60,000,000, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to carry out the cooperative agreements.

Section 5107(c) amends section 310I(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to require the Secretary to annually submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report describing the operation and outcomes of the HEIRS Property Intermediary Relending Program, with recommendations on how to strengthen the program.

Sec. 5109. Prompt approval of loans and loan guarantees.

Section 5109 amends section 333A(g) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide to lenders a short, simplified application form for real estate and operating guaranteed loans of not more than \$1,000,000.

Sec. 5109. Farmer loan pilot projects.

Section 5110 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to add at the end a new section to establish a pilot program for a pre-approval process for direct farm ownership loans.

Sec. 5110. Refinancing of guaranteed loans into direct loans.

Section 5110 directs the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to promulgate regulations allowing certain loans guaranteed by FSA to be refinanced into direct loans issued by FSA.

SUBTITLE B – OPERATING LOANS

Sec. 5201. Persons eligible for operating loans.

Section 5201 amends section 311(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with operating loans.

Sec. 5202. Limitations on amount of operating loans.

Section 5202 amends section 313(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the maximum allowable indebtedness for guaranteed loans, from \$750,000 to \$3,000,000 adjusted for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2025.

Sec. 5203. Limitation on microloan amounts.

Section 5203 amends section 313(c)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to increase the limitation amount for microloan indebtedness from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Sec. 5204. Cooperative lending pilot projects.

Section 5204 amends section 313(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for a pilot project to make loans to cooperative lenders through 2029.

SUBTITLE C – EMERGENCY LOANS

Sec. 5301. Persons eligible for emergency loans.

Section 5301 amends section 321 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to expand eligibility for operating loans to individuals or entity members that hold at least a 50 percent interest and that are or will become bona fide operators of the farm real estate acquired, improved, or supported with emergency loans.

SUBTITLE C—EMERGENCY LOANS

Sec. 5401. Beginning farmer and rancher individual development accounts pilot program.

Section 5401 amends section 333B(h) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of \$5,000,000 for the program for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 5402. Loan authorization levels.

Section 5402 amends section 346(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize existing funding levels for loan programs through 2029.

Sec. 5403. Loan fund set-asides.

Section 5403 amends section 346(b)(2)(A)(ii)(III) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the 50% operating loan funds set aside for qualified beginning farmers and ranchers through 2029.

Sec. 5404. Use of additional funds for direct operating microloans under certain conditions.

Section 5404 amends section 346(b)(5)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize appropriations of \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029 for the use of additional funds for direct operating microloans if the Secretary determines that the amount needed for direct operating loans (including microloans) exceeds the aggregate principal amount authorized for that fiscal year.

SUBTITLE E—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 5501. Export finance authority.

Section 5501 amends section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to require cooperative banks to guarantee or insure 95% of a loan for export financing if the balance of the loan exceeds 15% of the bank's total assets.

Sec. 5502. Support for rural water and waste systems.

Section 5502 amends section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to establish that a cooperative bank that provides guaranteed loans to support rural water and waste systems shall apply to "rural areas", meaning a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants or any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to that city or town.

Sec. 5503. Farmer loan data collection.

Section 5503(a) amends the Farm Credit Act of 1971 by adding at the end a new section to establish the Farm Credit Administration as the sole and independent regulator of the Farm Credit System institutions and direct the Farm Credit Administration to collect demographic information from borrowers.

Section 5503(b) amends section 740B(h)(1) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to update the definition of “financial institution” to exclude any entity that is supervised by the Farm Credit Administration.

Section 5503(c) establishes that Farm Credit System institution shall not be required to comply with any regulation promulgated pursuant to section 5503 section until January 1, 2026. Section 5503(c) further provides that if a financial institution subject to section 1071 of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations, is not required to comply with the rule, whether because a court invalidates the rule or the rule is otherwise repealed, the Farm Credit System institutions shall not be required to comply with any regulation promulgated pursuant to section 5503 or an amendment made section 5503.

Sec. 5504. Loan guarantees.

Section 5504 amends section 8.0(7)(B) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to expand charter of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation outside the scope of loan guarantees under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to also cover loans made under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 5505. Standards for qualified loans.

Paragraph (1) of section 5505 amends section 8.8(a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide that in establishing standards for qualified loans, the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation (the Corporation) shall confine corporate operations, so far as practicable, to loans that are deemed by the Corporation’s Board to be of such quality so as to meet, substantially and generally, the purchase standards imposed by private institutional investors in those type of loans.

Paragraph (2) of section 5505 amends section 8.8(c) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to provide that the Farm Credit Administration may establish loan amount limitations to reflect the treatment as a qualified loan of a moderately sized agricultural mortgage loan, as determined by the Farm Credit Administration, with appropriate periodic adjustments for geographic differences and valuations, consistent with maintaining the safety and soundness of the Corporation.

Sec. 5506. State agricultural mediation programs.

Section 5506(a) amends section 501 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to define a “State” as having the meaning given the term in section 1404 of the Food and Agriculture Act of

1977, and includes any Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act).

Section 5506(b) amends section 502 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to establish that the Secretary shall not pay more than \$700,000 per year to a single State under the matching grants established under section 502. Section 5506(b) also provides that the Secretary shall permit a State that receives a matching grant for a fiscal year to carry over not more than 25 percent of the grant that is not expended by the end of the fiscal year, for use during the next fiscal year without deducting the amount from any assistance provided in subsequent fiscal years.

Section 5506(c) amends section 506 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize appropriations of \$7,500,000 for the state agricultural mediation programs for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 5507. Technical Corrections.

Section 5507 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to update obsolete and outdated references to terms created or recognized by the Farmers Home Administration, which was replaced by the Farm Service Agency.

TITLE VI—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBTITLE A—IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN RURAL AMERICA

Section 6101. Combating Substance Use Disorder in Rural America; Prioritizations.

Section 6101 amends section 6101 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding mental health, behavioral health, and maternal health as prioritizations.

Section 6102. Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants

Section 6102 amends section 2335A of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

SUBTITLE B—CONNECTING RURAL AMERICANS TO HIGH SPEED BROADBAND

Section 6201. Rural Broadband Program Loans and Grants.

Section 6201 amends section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (3) directs how the Secretary shall make grants, loans, and loan guarantees to eligible entities for the purpose of financing the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment

necessary for delivering broadband service in rural areas. The Secretary is directed to give highest priority to applications for projects to provide broadband service to unserved rural communities that do not have any residential broadband service of at least: (1) a 25–Mbps downstream transmission capacity; and (2) a 3–Mbps upstream transmission capacity. The Secretary is then directed to give priority for specified rural communities. Paragraph (3)(D) places fee caps on loan guarantees.

Paragraph (4) raises from 50% to 75% the threshold for which households in the proposed service area must be unserved or underserved for assistance to be available.

Paragraph (5) defines broadband buildout standards for a project to be considered for assistance.

Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (c) sunsets the authorities provided by section 779 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141) beginning 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

Section 6202. Expansion of Middle Mile Infrastructure Into Rural Areas.

Section 6202 amends section 602 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6203. Innovative Broadband Advancement Program.

Section 6203 amends section 603 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to provide grants or loans to eligible entities for terrestrial broadband demonstration projects.

Subsection (c) creates a satellite broadband demonstration project program whereby the Secretary shall provide grants to eligible entities to reduce or eliminate the costs associated with the purchase or installation, or both, of satellite broadband equipment to qualified consumers to subscribe to satellite broadband service in remote areas.

Subsection (e) authorizes \$10,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6204. Community Connect Grants.

Section 6204 amends section 604 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (1) amends the eligible service to mean an area with broadband service capacity of less than 25 Mbps downstream transmission capacity and 3 Mbps upstream transmission capacity, up from 10 and 1, respectively.

Paragraph (3) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6205. Rate Regulation.

Section 6205 amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding a new section 607 stating that nothing in title 6 of the REA authorizes the Secretary to regulate rates charged for broadband service.

Section 6206. Public Notice, Assessments, Technical Assistance, and Reporting Requirements.

Section 6206 amends section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936. Paragraph (3) amends subsection (b) by adding additional requirements for the Secretary to confirm areas are unserved in broadband before awarding loans or grants for broadband service assistance.

Paragraph (4) amends subsection (e) and directs the Secretary to provide grants for broadband technical assistance. Paragraph (4) also adds a subsection (g) to limit that only between 3 and 5% of the funds appropriated to title VI of the REA may be used for carrying out section 701.

SUBTITLE C—MISCELLANEOUS

Section 6301. Rural Energy Savings Program

Section 6301 amends section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Paragraph (1) clarifies what is an eligible entity and redefines “energy efficiency measures” to include the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances with a substantially similar manufacturing housing unit or appliance, respectively, if that replacement is a cost-effective option with respect to energy savings.

Paragraph (2) amends subsection (c)(9), clarifying that no more than 10% of total annual amount of budget authority for loans may be used for the replacement of manufactured housing units or large appliances. It also adds a subsection (c)(11), providing rules for the Secretary to follow in offering grants under the Rural Energy Savings Program.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (d) relating to loan terms to qualified consumers.

Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through 2029.

Section 6302. Regional Commission Reauthorization.

Section 6302 amends section 6304(c)(9)(A) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 and section 15751(a) of title 40, United States Code to reauthorize Regional Commission state capacity building programs and authority through 2029.

Section 6303. Promoting Precision Agriculture

Section 6303 direct the Secretary to study and develop the creation of interconnectivity standards for precision agriculture for the purpose of enhancing the participation of precision agriculture in the United States and promoting United States leadership in voluntary consensus standards development organizations that set standards for precision agriculture.

Section 6304. Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loans.

Section 6304 amends section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding as subsection (f) food supply chain capacity and resilience guaranteed loans for the purpose of financing new investments in the start-up or expansion of projects in the United States that will increase the capacity of the food supply chain in the United States to aggregate, process, manufacture, store, transport, wholesale, or distribute food, agricultural products, or agricultural inputs.

Section 6305. New, Mobile, And Expanded Meat Processing and Rendering Grants.

Section 6305 allows the Secretary to award grants for the purpose of expanding meat processing and rendering throughout the country. Subsection (f) authorizes to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each fiscal year through 2029.

Section 6306. Expanding Childcare In Rural America Initiative.

Section 6306 requires the Secretary to establish an initiative under which the Secretary shall provide, for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027, priority to qualified applicants for loans and grants to address the availability, quality, and cost of childcare in rural areas under enumerated existing programs.

Section 6307. Technical Assistance for Geographically Underserved and Distressed Area.

Section 6307 requires the Secretary to provide technical assistance and strengthen local capacity to improve access to rural development programs administered by the Secretary for local partners (including local governments, cooperatives, businesses, and community anchor institutions) in geographically underserved and distressed areas.

Section 6308. Establishment of the Rural Development Innovation Center.

Section 6308 amends subtitle D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a new section 379J at the end, establishing within the Rural Development Mission Areas a Rural Development Innovation Center to promote and facilitate innovation in the administration and implementation of rural development programs and initiatives. The

Innovation Center shall develop, and periodically update, a modernization plan to facilitate innovation in administering and implementing rural development programs and initiatives.

Section 6309. Rural Health Liaison Report.

Section 6309 amends Section 236 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds a requirement that the Liaison shall coordinate with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in implementation of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network provided for in section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Paragraph (2) requires the Liaison submit an annual report to Congress.

Section 6310. Precision Agriculture Task Force Amendments.

Section 6310 amends section 12511(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to extend the authority of the Task Force by one year, to 2026. Section 6310 also adds that the task force shall: (1) conduct a comprehensive evaluation of international standards and guidelines pertaining to precision agriculture policies and offer recommendations on their suitability and integration within the United States regulatory framework; and (2) review the competitive and security implications of the use and deployment of precision agricultural technologies by foreign governments or state sponsored entities in third countries.

SUBTITLE D—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSOLIDATED FARM AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT

Section 6401. Water, Waste Disposal, and Wastewater Facility Grants.

Section 6401 amends section 306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through 2029.

Section 6402. Rural Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider Program

Section 6402 amends section 306(a)(22) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to codify the purpose, activities, and requirements of the national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program.

Section 6403. Zero and Low Interest Loans for Distressed Water Systems.

Section 6402 amends section 306(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by adding a new paragraph (23) entitled “assistance for distressed water systems”. The purpose is to promote the long-term sustainability and financial viability of eligible rural community waste disposal and water facilities through no and low interest loans.

Section 6404. Tribal College and University Essential Community Facilities

Section 6404 amends section 306(a)(25)(C) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6405. Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program.

Section 6405 amends section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6406. Water Systems for Rural and Native Villages in Alaska.

Section 6406 amends Section 306D(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6407. Rural Decentralized Water Systems.

Section 6407 amends Section 306E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow the Secretary to make grants to eligible recipients for the purpose of providing loans and subgrants to eligible individuals for water quality testing, water treatment, and technical assistance for the installation of well systems, among other purposes. Loans or subgrants under this program may not exceed \$20,000.

Subsection (e) authorizes \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Section 6408. Assistance to Rural Entities.

Section 6408 amends Section 310B(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to allow loans for expanding the adoption of precision agriculture practices.

Section 6409. Solid Waste Management Grants.

Section 6409 amends Section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to include Indian tribes as eligible for grants, and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6410. Rural Business Development Grants.

Section 6410 amends the Section 310B(c)(4)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6411. Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Section 6411 amends section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by giving priority to grant applicants that commit to providing at least a 25 percent match.

Paragraph (3) amends paragraph (6) to requires the Secretary to award grant renewals for qualified non-profit institutions under certain circumstances.

Paragraph (6) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6412. 3 Percent Limit on Lender Fees In Guaranteed Loan Programs.

Section 6412 amends sections 310B(g)(5) and 333 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cap fees on guaranteed loans provided by the Secretary at an initial fee of 3% of the principal, and periodic retention fees of no more than 0.75%.

Section 6413. Locally or Regionally Produced Agricultural Food Products.

Section 6413 amends section 310B(g)(9)(B)(iv)(I) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend through fiscal year 2029 the requirement that the Secretary reserve not less than 5 percent of the funds made available to carry out the subsection to carry out the loan or loan guarantee program.

Section 6414. Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas Program.

Section 6414 amends section 310B(i)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6415. Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones.

Section 6415 amends section 310B(j) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authority of the Secretary to carry out rural economic area partnership zones through 2029.

Section 6416. Intermediate Relending Program.

Section 6416 amends section 310H(i) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6417. Rural Health Care Facility Assistance.

Section 6417 amends section 342 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by clarifying requirements for the Secretary to follow in promoting long-term sustainability and financial viability for eligible health care facilities in rural areas.

Subsection (b) creates a rural health care facility technical assistance program, and limits the authorization of appropriations for subsection (b) at \$2,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6418. Elimination of Prohibition on Use of Loans for Certain Purposes.

Section 6418 repeals Section 363 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

Section 6419. Rural Business-Cooperative Service Programs Technical Assistance and Training.

Section 6419 amends section 368(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6420. National Rural Development Partnership.

Section 6420 amends section 378 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations and authority through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6421. Grants for NOAA Weather Radio Transmitters.

Section 6421 amends Section 379B(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6422. Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

Section 6422 amends section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by increasing the size of a microloan from \$50,000 to \$75,000. Paragraph (2) increases the permitted federal share of the cost of a project from 75% to up to 100%. Paragraph (3) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6423. Health Care Services.

Section 6423 amends Section 379G(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6424. Strategic Economic and Community Development.

Section 6424 amends Section 379H(d)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6425. Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program.

Section 6425 amends section 379I of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by expanding the RISE grant program to allow the Secretary to award grants to carry out career pathway training programs or industry or sector partnerships aligned with industry sectors in rural communities. Section 6425 further clarifies that the grant program should address workforce challenges, including worker displacement, faced by specific industry sectors in rural communities, and promote targeted skills development and training initiatives to stimulate innovation and enhance economic development in rural regions.

Paragraph (2) requires the Secretary to ensure geographic diversity of recipients of grants.

Paragraph (5) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6426. Delta Regional Authority.

Section 6426 amends sections 382M and 382N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to extend the authorization of appropriations and authority of the Delta Regional Authority.

Subsection (c) adds to the Delta Region the Louisiana parishes of Sabine and Vernon.

Section 6427. Limitation on Rural Business Investment Companies Controlled by Farm Credit System Institutions.

Section 6427 amends section 384J(c) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by prohibiting a rural business investment company from providing equity investments in entities not otherwise eligible to receive financing from the Farm Credit System if a farm credit system holds more than 75% of the shares of the rural business investment company. This is an increase from 50%.

Section 6428. Rural Business Investment Program.

Section 6428 amends section 384S of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by extending the authorization of appropriations for the subtitle through fiscal year 2029.

Section 6429. Technical Corrections.

Section 6429 amends the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act by replacing “urbanized” with “urban” in various sections.

SUBTITLE E—ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ACT
OF 1936

Section 6501. Guarantees for Bonds and Notes Issued For Utility Infrastructure Purposes.

Section 6501 amends section 313A(f) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 extending the authority provided under the section through September 30, 2029.

Section 6502. Extension of the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program.

Section 6502 amends section 313B of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by adding that the Secretary shall not require a letter of credit or other similar guarantee from a recipient of a zero-interest loan if the borrower assigns the Secretary a security interest in any collateral provided to secure a loan made with funds loaned under this section, or makes other similar arrangements to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

Section 6503. Expansion of 911 Access.

Section 6503 amends Section 315(d) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 by extending the authorization of appropriations through 2029.

TITLE VII—RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND RELATED MATTERS

SUBTITLE A—NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF
1977

Sec. 7101. National agricultural research, extension, education, and economics advisory board.

Section 7101 amends section 1408 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add an insular area representative to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB), reduce the number of members on the NAREEEAB executive committee from 7 to 3, and reauthorize the NAREEEAB through September 20, 2029.

Sec. 7102. Specialty crop committee.

Section 7102 amends section 1408A of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to make a technical correction requiring the Secretary to appoint members of the Specialty Crop Committee rather than the current requirement that the executive committee of the NAREEEAB appoint the members. Section 7102 also reauthorizes the Citrus Disease Subcommittee of the Specialty Crop Committee through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7103. Veterinary medicine loan repayment.

Paragraph (1) of section 7103 amends section 1415A(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow the Secretary to consider geographic areas with a shortage of veterinarians and areas of veterinary practice with a shortage of veterinarians identified by appropriate State agencies when determining veterinarian shortage situations under the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP). Additionally, paragraph (1) of section 7103 directs the Secretary to develop quantitative mechanisms for predicting the emergence of new veterinarian shortage situations and to share these mechanisms with appropriate State agencies.

Paragraph (2) of section 7103 amends section 1415A(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to direct the Secretary to establish streamlined application procedures for VMLRP and to clarify that veterinarians participating in a comparable State or local loan repayment program are also eligible for VMLRP.

Sec. 7104. Veterinary services grant program.

Section 7104 amends section 1415B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to update the eligibility requirements for the Veterinary Services Grant Program (VSPG) to include entities that can expand, retain, or attract additional veterinary practices in rural areas and directs the Secretary to establish a streamlined application process for VSPG. Section 7104 also allows entities to use VSPG funds for expanding, retaining, or attracting additional veterinary practices in rural areas, including covering expenses associated with starting a new veterinary practice or attracting new veterinarians to existing practices.

Sec. 7105. Grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education.

Section 7105 amends section 1417(m)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants and fellowships for food and agriculture sciences education through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7106. Agricultural and food policy research centers.

Section 7106 amends section 1419A(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for agricultural and food policy research centers through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7107. Education Grants to Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions.

Section 7107 amends section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow for education grants to Alaska native serving

institutions and native Hawaiian serving institutions to be for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 5 years and reauthorizes appropriations for these grants through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7108. Nutrition education program.

Section 7108 amends section 1425(g) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for the nutrition education program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7109. Continuing animal health and disease research programs.

Section 7109 amends section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to allow for unexpended funds for a fiscal year for the continuing animal health and disease research programs to be carried over into the following fiscal year and reauthorizes appropriations for these programs through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7110. Extension and agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.

Subsection (a) of section 7110 amends section 1444(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to increase the minimum amount of appropriations for cooperative extension at 1890 land-grant colleges to 40 percent of the amount provided for the Smith-Lever Act.

Subsection (b) of section 7110 amends section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to increase the minimum amount of appropriations for agricultural research at 1890 land-grant colleges to 40 percent of the amount provided for the Hatch Act of 1887. Subsection (b) of section 7110 also makes technical corrections to replace the term “research director” with “agricultural research director”.

Sec. 7111. Scholarships for students at 1890 institutions.

Section 7111 amends section 1446(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to provide \$100 million available until expended for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions. Section 7111 also reauthorizes appropriations for scholarships for students at 1890 institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7112. Grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.

Section 7112 amends section 1447(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants to upgrade agricultural and food sciences facilities at 1890 land-grant institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7113. Grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment and support tropical and subtropical agricultural research at insular area land-grant colleges and universities.

Section 7113 amends section 1447B(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for grants to upgrade agriculture and food sciences facilities and equipment at insular area land-grant institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7114. Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at eligible institutions.

Section 7114 amends section 1449 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to clarify the existing State matching funds requirement for agricultural research and extension activities at 1890 land-grant institutions and to direct the 1890 land-grant institutions to provide the Secretary with an annual report describing the sources and amount of non-Federal funds made available by the State to meet the matching requirement under this section.

Sec. 7115. New beginning for tribal students.

Section 7115 amends section 1450 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to remove the limitation on the maximum amount each State can receive under the new beginning for tribal students program and to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7116. Education grants programs for hispanic-serving institutions.

Section 7116 amends section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for education grants to Hispanic-serving institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7117. Binational agricultural research and development.

Section 7117 amends section 1458(e) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to ensure that activities carried out under the Binational Agricultural Research and Development (BARD) Fund promote and support agricultural research and development that are of mutual benefit to the United States, Israel, or other signatories of the Abraham Accords Declaration. Additionally, section 7117 directs the BARD Fund to establish an accelerator program to support and accelerate mid-stage research.

Sec. 7118. Grants and partnerships for international agricultural research, extension, and education.

Section 7118 amends section 1458(A) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to repeal the Competitive Grants for International Agricultural Science and Education Programs and to merge the program with the section authorizing the Partnerships to Build Capacity in International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Program. Additionally, Section 7118 changes the name of the new merged program to Grants and Partnerships for International Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7119. Research equipment grants.

Section 7119 reauthorizes appropriations for research equipment grants through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7120. University research.

Section 7120 amends section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for various agricultural research programs, including research at State agricultural experiment stations, through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7121. Extension service.

Section 7121 amends section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations to carry out USDA extension program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7122. Supplemental and alternative crops.

Section 7122 amends section 1473D of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to require the Secretary to include agreements, grants, or other arrangements to examine potential benefits and opportunities for supplemental and alternative crops (including winter-planted rapeseed and winter-planted canola crops) under the supplemental and alternative crops competitive grant program. Section 7122 also reauthorizes appropriations for supplement and alternative crops through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7123. Grants for community college agricultural and natural resources programs.

Section 7123 amends section 1473E of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to change the name of the New Era Rural Technology Program to Grants for Community College Agriculture and Natural Resources Programs and to expand the program to make competitive grants to eligible entities to conduct workforce training, education, research, and outreach activities to food and agricultural sciences. Additionally, section 7123 reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7124. Capacity building grants for NLGCA institutions.

Section 7124 amends section 1473F(b) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for capacity building grants for Non-Land-Grant College of Agriculture institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7125. Agriculture advanced research and development authority.

Section 7125 amends section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to add precision agriculture to the definition of agricultural technology for the purpose of the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AgARDA) and to expand the goals of the program to include research on water conservation, drought, infectious diseases, plant and animal pathogens, and plant and animal pests. Additionally, section 7125 directs the Secretary to use the AgARDA strategic plan to inform administration of the program, reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029, and extends the termination of authority under this program by 5 years.

Sec. 7126. Aquaculture assistance programs.

Section 7126 amends section 1477(a)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for aquaculture assistance programs through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7127. Special authorization for biosecurity planning and response.

Section 7127 amends section 1484(a)(3) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for the special authorization for biosecurity planning and response through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7128. Agriculture and food protection grant program.

Section 7128 repeals the Agricultural Biosecurity Communication Center; Assistance to Build Local Capacity in Agricultural Biosecurity, Planning, Preparedness, and Response; Research and Development of Agricultural Countermeasures; and Agricultural Biosecurity Grant Program and amends section 1485 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to merge the programs with the Agricultural Research Facility Expansion and Security Upgrades Program. Additionally, section 7128 changes the name of the new merged program to the Agriculture and Food Protection Grant Program and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7129. Distance education grants for insular areas.

Section 7129 amends section 1490(f)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for distance education grants for insular areas through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7130. Resident instruction grants for insular areas.

Section 7130 amends section 1491(c)(2) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize appropriations for resident instruction grants for insular areas through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7131. Repeals.

Section 7131 repeals section 1410, section 1419C, section 1447A, and subtitle M of title XIV of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977.

SUBTITLE B—FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990

Sec. 7201. Sustainable agriculture research and education.

Section 7201 amends subtitle B of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, including best utilization of biological applications, integrated management systems, the Sustainable Agriculture Technology Development and Transfer Program, and a National Training Program in Sustainable Agriculture, through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7202. National genetics resources program.

Section 7202 amends section 1635(b)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Genetic Resources Program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7203. Agricultural genome to phenome initiative.

Section 7203 amends section 1671(g) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the agricultural genome to phenome initiative through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7204. High-priority research and extension initiatives.

Section 7204 amends section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to repeal the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific Region Initiative, Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research Initiative, the Coffee Plant Health Initiative, and the Macadamia Tree Health Initiative and to authorize a new Tropical Plant Health Initiative that includes research on coffee plants, macadamia trees, cacao trees, plantains and bananas, mangos, tropical floriculture, and other tropical plants; to repeal the Corn, Soybean Meal, Cereal Grains, and Grain Byproducts Research and Extension Initiative and authorizes a new Agricultural Byproducts Research Initiative that includes converting agricultural byproducts or forest residuals into valuable materials and products; to repeal the Fertilizer Management Initiative and the Nutrient Management Initiative and to authorize a new Fertilizer and Nutrient Management Initiative.

Section 7204 also adds harmful algal blooms to the Algae Agriculture Research Program; authorizes the Biochar Research Initiative, the Wildfire Smoke Exposure Research Initiative, the Invasive Species Research Initiative, the Microplastics and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances on Farmland Initiative, the Soil Health Research Initiative, the White Oak Research Initiative, the Alternative Growing Media Research Initiative, the Rangeland Research Initiative, and the Specialty Crop Mechanization and Automation Research Initiative; and reauthorizes appropriations for the Pulse Crop Health Initiative, training coordination for food and agriculture protection, pollinator protection, and listed high-priority research and extension initiatives through September 30, 2029.

Additionally, section 7204 requires the Secretary to submit an biennial report to Congress describing how the Department carried out research and extension activities specified in this section for the previous two fiscal years, including the amount of funding allocated to each high-priority research and extension initiative.

Sec. 7205. Organic agriculture research and extension initiative.

Section 7205 amends section 1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to remove outdated paragraphs authorizing appropriations for the organic agriculture research and extension initiative (OREI) for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 and fiscal year 2013, to retain the authorization of mandatory funding at \$50,000,000 per year, and to reauthorize appropriations for OREI through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7206. Farm business management.

Section 7206 amends section 1672D(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for farm business management through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7207. Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative.

Section 7207 amends section 1672(E) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to add a requirement for consultation with the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production when awarding grants under this Urban, Indoor, and Other Emerging Agricultural Production Research, Education, and Extension Initiative (UIE) and to add a reference to the description of emerging agricultural production practices in section 222(a)(3) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994.

Section 7207 also adds managing waste streams of production practices to improve the environmental footprint and advising land-grant colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions, junior or community colleges, and vocational schools with respect to career and technical education to the list of eligible activities. Additionally, section 7207 reauthorizes appropriations for UIE through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7208. Centers of excellence.

Section 7208 amends section 1673 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish a new process for the Secretary to identify at least 15 centers of excellence to carry out research, extension, and education activities for several focus areas. Section 7208 also increases the minimum number of 1890 Centers of Excellence to no less than 8; amends some of the existing focus areas for 1890 Centers of Excellence; adds additional focus areas for Forest Health and Conservation and Food Safety, Bioprocessing, and Value-Added Agriculture; and reauthorizes appropriations for the 1890 Centers of Excellence through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7209. ThinkDifferently National AgrAbility Project.

Section 7209 amends section 1680 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to rename the program the “ThinkDifferently National AgrAbility Project”, to provide education and support to youth and young adults with disabilities interested in farming and farm-related occupations. Section 7209 also provides that of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended, and reauthorizes appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029, with not more than 15 percent of the amounts made available under this program shall be used to carry out a National Grant for Technical Assistance, Training and Dissemination.

Sec. 7210. Farming opportunities training and outreach.

Section 7210 amends section 2501 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to require the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National

Institute of Food and Agriculture, carry out an outreach and technical assistance program to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and veteran farmers or ranchers and to reauthorize appropriations for the program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7211. National rural information center clearinghouse.

Section 7211 amends section 2381(e) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Rural Information Center Clearinghouse through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7212. Repeal.

Section 7212 repeals subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990.

SUBTITLE C—AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION REFORM ACT OF 1998

Sec. 7301. National food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program.

Section 7301 amends section 405 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to remove the requirement for coordination with the discontinued National Integrated Food Safety Initiative and to reauthorize appropriations for the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7302. Integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

Section 7302 amends section 406(f) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants through September 30, 2029.

*Sec. 7303. Support for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica*.*

Section 7303 amends section 408(e)(3) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for research regarding diseases of wheat, triticale, and barley caused by *Fusarium graminearum* or by *Tilletia indica* through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7304. Grants for youth organizations.

Section 7304 amends section 410(d)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for grants for youth organizations through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7305. Specialty crop research initiative.

Section 7305 amends section 412 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to add a waiver for the matching funds requirement, to increase the authorization of mandatory funding to \$175 million per year, to authorize a specialty crop

mechanization and automation research and extension program, to allocate \$25 million per year to citrus research and extension and \$20 million per year to mechanization and automation research and extension, and to reauthorize appropriations for the specialty crop research initiative through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7306. Agriculture grants for veteran education and training services.

Section 7306 amends title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to codify the Agriculture Grants for Veteran Education and Training Services (AgVets) Program that has been receiving appropriations since fiscal year 2017.

Sec. 7307. Food animal residue avoidance database program.

Section 7307 amends section 604(e) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for the food animal residue avoidance database program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7308. Office of pest management policy.

Section 7308 amends section 614(f)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for the office of pest management policy through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7309. Forestry products advanced utilization research.

Section 7309 amends section 617(f)(1) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to reauthorize appropriations for forestry products advanced utilization research through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7310. Repeals.

Section 7310 repeals section 404 and section 411 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

SUBTITLE D—FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

Sec. 7401. Grazinglands research laboratory.

Section 7401 amends section 7502 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to prevent the Federal land and facilities administered as the Grazinglands Research Laboratory from being declared excess or surplus Federal property.

Sec. 7402. Farm and ranch stress assistance network.

Section 7402 amends section 7522 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to establish grants to initiate, expand, or sustain programs that provide professional agricultural behavioral health counseling through farm telephone helplines and websites, including crisis hotlines. Section 7402 also establishes referrals to providers to connect individuals to behavioral health counseling and wellness support and to ensure individuals have access to a comprehensive scope of mental health and substance use treatments and supports, as well as reauthorizes appropriations for the network through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7403. Sun grant program.

Section 7403 amends section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to expand the scope of the program to ensure bioproducts are eligible, increases the amount of administrative expenses allowed under the program to 30 percent, and to reauthorize appropriations for the sun grant program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7404. Repeals.

Section 7404 repeals section 7521 and section 7525 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

SUBTITLE E—AMENDMENTS TO OTHER LAWS

Sec. 7501. Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.

Section 7501 amends the Equity in Education Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 to remove the \$100,000 cap per institution for payments to the 1994 institutions and to remove the requirement that grant applications for research grants to 1994 institutions be performed under a cooperative agreement with ARS or another land-grant, non-land-grant, or cooperating forestry school. Section 7501 also reauthorizes appropriations for the endowment for 1994 institutions, 1994 institutional capacity building grants, and research grants for 1994 institutions through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7502. Research Facilities Act.

Section 7501 amends section 6 of the Research Facilities Act to provide that of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall make available to carry out the competitive grant program under section 4 \$2,500,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 7503. Agriculture and food research initiative.

Section 7504 amends subsection (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to update priority areas to include regionally adapted cultivars, breeding for environmental resilience, methods of increasing survival rate and adaptability of shellfish, controlled environment agriculture, supply chain coordination and capacity building, and workforce training and development. Additionally, section 7504 adds area career and technical education schools as an eligible entity and reauthorizes appropriations for the agriculture and food research initiative through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7504. Extension design and demonstration initiative.

Section 7504 amends subsection (d)(6) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act to reauthorize appropriations for the extension design and demonstration initiative through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7505. Biomass research and development.

Section 7505 amends section 9008(h)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations for biomass research and development through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7506. Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978.

Section 7506 amends section 6 and section 8 of the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 to reauthorize appropriations for the Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7507. National Aquaculture Act of 1980.

Section 7507 amends section 4 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to require the Secretary to review, and appropriately amend, the National Aquaculture Development Plan and undertake a continuing aquaculture assessment not less than once every 3 years. Section 7507 also adds a catalog of new and existing capital constraints and Federal or State regulatory barriers to the continuing aquaculture assessment.

Additionally, section 7507 amends section 5 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to create an Aquaculture Advisory Committee at USDA and to direct the Secretary to submit an annual report to Congress related to actions undertaken related to aquaculture.

Section 7507 also amends section 10 of the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 to reauthorize appropriations for the National Aquaculture Act of 1980 through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7508. Reports on disbursement of funds for agricultural research and extension at 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee University.

Section 7508 amends section 7116 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Secretary to conduct outreach to Governors and State legislatures regarding the matching requirement for 1862 and 1890 land-grant colleges. Additionally, section 7508 directs the Governor of each State to submit an attestation regarding the States ability to fulfill the matching requirements and requires the Secretary to publish a report describing the attestations received.

Sec. 7509. Repeal.

Section 7509 repeals section 1431 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Amendments of 1985.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 7601. Foundation for food and agriculture research.

Section 7601 amends section 7601 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to require the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to identify unmet and emerging agricultural research needs after reviewing the national research policies and priorities and to require members of the Board of Directors for the foundation to be selected from candidates provided by the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board and

national farm, producer, or research organizations. Additionally, section 7601 adds reporting requirements to the annual report the foundation shall submit to Congress.

Sec. 7602. Agriculture innovation center demonstration program.

Section 7602 amends section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add a waiver to the board of directors requirement for eligible entities if the Secretary determines an existing board of directors is sufficient and to reauthorize appropriations for the agriculture innovation center demonstration program through September 30, 2029.

Sec. 7603. Livestock insects laboratory.

Section 7603 amends the Act of December 23, 1987 to rename the Knipling-Bushland Research Laboratory as the Knipling-Bushland Research Center.

Sec. 7604. Hatch Act of 1887.

Section 7604 amends section 5 of the Hatch Act of 1887 to make technical corrections to replace the term “director” with “experiment station director”.

Sec. 7605. Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service modernization.

Section 7605 establishes the Commission on National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Modernization to study NASS and provide recommendations on how to improve NASS operations. Section 7605 also provides that of the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 7606. Restoration of 4-H name and emblem authority.

Section 7606 restores the Federal protections for the 4-H Name and Emblem that were inadvertently repealed in the Clean Up the Code Act of 2019 (enacted as part of the Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations, 2021).

Sec. 7607. Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Section 7607 amends section 251 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to direct the Chief Scientist to be responsible for the coordination of research activities with other Federal agencies, changes the term of service for Office of Chief Scientist Division Chiefs to not less than 1 year, and to require the Secretary to further interagency coordination by entering into memoranda of understanding with the Department of Energy, the National Science Foundation, and other Federal agencies as appropriate.

Sec. 7608. Agricultural innovation corps.

Section 7608 directs the Secretary to establish an Agricultural Innovation Corps to promote technology transfer and increase the economic impact of federally-funded research through a standardized entrepreneurial training program.

TITLE VIII—FORESTRY

SUBTITLE A—COOPERATIVE FORESTRY ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1978

Sec. 8101. Support for State Assessments and Strategies for Forest Resources.

Section 8101 amends Section 2A(f) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by extending the authorization of appropriations through 2029, and in paragraph (2), allowing for the Secretary to use any other funds made available under this Act to develop and implement the State-wide assessment and State-wide strategy required by subsection (a), except that the total amount of combined funding used to develop and implement such assessment and strategy may not exceed \$10,000,000 in any fiscal year.

Section 8102. Forest Legacy Program Technical Correction.

Section 8102 amends Section 7(1)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by striking from the statute “Vermont”.

Section 8103. State and Private Forest Landscape-Scale Restorations.

Section 8103 amends Section 13A(1)(3) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

SUBTITLE B—HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

Section 8201. Definition of At-Risk Community.

Section 8201 amends Section 101(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to make changes to the definition of “at-risk community”.

Section 8202. Promoting Cross-Boundary Wildfire Mitigation.

Section 8202 amends section 103(e)(5) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8203. Authorization of Appropriations for Hazardous Fuel Reduction on Federal Land.

Section 8203 amends section 108 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8204. Water Source Protection Program.

Section 8204 amends Section 303 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by adding as a requirements to the water source protection program that it be designed to: protect and restore watershed health, water supply and quality, a municipal or agricultural water supply system, and water-related infrastructure; and protect and restore forest health from insect infestation and disease or wildfire.

Paragraph (2) also adds a new paragraph (3), listing priorities the Secretary must consider in selecting watershed protection and restoration projects. A new paragraph (4) requires as a condition that no project or activity may be carried out under this section on adjacent land unless the owner of the adjacent land agrees in writing that the owner is a willing and engaged partner in carrying out that project or activity.

Paragraph (6) provides that the Secretary shall require the contribution of funds or in-kind support from non-Federal partners to be in an amount that is not less than 50 percent of the amount of Federal funds, unless waived by the Secretary.

Paragraph (7) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029, and provides that the Secretary may not use more than 10 percent for non-Federal partner planning and technical assistance efforts in developing or implementing a water source management plan.

Section 8205. Watershed Condition Framework Technical Corrections.

Section 8205 amends Section 304(a) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 in paragraphs (3) and (5) by striking “protection and”.

Section 8206. Authorization of Appropriations to Combat Insect Infestations and Related Disease.

Section 8206 amends section 406 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the termination of effectiveness date to October 1, 2029.

Section 8207. Insect and Disease Infestation.

Section 8207 amends section 602(d)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by extending the authority through September 30, 2029.

Section 8208. Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects.

Section 8208 amends section 604 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 by including as permissible projects those that retain and expand existing forests products infrastructure.

Paragraph (2) increases the term a contract may last from 10 years to 20.

Paragraph (3) strikes subparagraph (B), so that the Knutson-Vandenburg Act shall apply.

SUBTITLE C—OTHER FORESTRY PROGRAMS

Section 8301. National and Regional Agroforestry Centers

Section 8301 amends Section 1243 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 and renames the section “National and Regional Agroforestry Centers” from “Semiarid Agroforestry Research Center”.

Paragraph (3) adds a definition of “agroforestry”.

Paragraph (5) adds a new subsection (c) relating to Regional Agroforestry Centers. It requires The Secretary to establish 1 or more regional agroforestry centers to advance agroforestry research, outreach, technical assistance, and adoption.

Paragraph (6) amends redesignated subsection (d) to add program goals and purposes for the agroforestry centers.

Paragraph (8) adds a new subsection (g) requiring the Secretary to conduct a national agroforestry producers survey at least once every 5 years.

Paragraph (9) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029, and increase the authorization by \$2,000,000 to \$7,000,000.

Section 8302. National Forest Foundation Act.

Section 8302(a) amends section 405(b) of the National Forest Foundation Act by extending the authority through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (b) amends section 409 of the National Forest Foundation Act by creating a White Oak Restoration Fund that may accept gifts and bequests for the purpose of reestablishing white oak forests.

Section 8303. Conveyances and leases of Forest Service Administrative Sites.

Section 8303(a) amends Section 503(f) of the Forest Service Facility Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 by extending its authority through September 30, 2029.

Subsection (b)(1) amends section 8623 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by expanding the definition of “facility or improvement” to include multiunit dwellings.

Subsection (b)(2) amends what sort of services can be considered in-kind consideration for purposes of the section. It further provides that a lease term under this section shall not be greater than 100 years.

Subsection (b)(3) extends the authority under the section through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8304. Forest Inventory and Analysis.

Section 8304(a) amends Section 3(e) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978. Paragraph (1) adds to the program the requirement that the Secretary must analyze the resources of forests, including forest carbon. Paragraph (1) also requires the Secretary to carry out a national timber products output survey, and a national woodland owner survey.

Paragraph (4) adds reporting requirement for the Secretary in its report to Congress on the strategic plan.

Paragraph (5) adds a new paragraph (7) requiring the Secretary to prepare an update to the strategic plan within 180 days of passage of this Act, and requires updates and reports at least once every 5 years thereafter. Paragraph (5) also adds new paragraph (8) and (9), which require data be accessible to the public and to make available biennially a compilation of national forest inventory and analysis forest statistics.

Section 8305. Reforestation, Nursery, and Seed Orchard Support.

Section 8305(a) requires the Secretary to partner with entities and collaborate to promote and support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to establish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support nurseries and seed orchards.

Subsection (d) authorizes \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

SUBTITLE D—FOREST MANAGEMENT

PART I—NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Section 8401. Categorical Exclusion for High Priority Hazard Trees.

Section 8401(a) creates a categorical exclusion for high priority hazard trees.

Subsection (b) limits the size of a project to 3,000 acres.

Subsection (c) defines “high-priority hazard tree”.

Section 8402. Collaborative Restoration Projects.

Section 8402 amends Section 603(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres the project size limitation.

Section 8403. Wildfire Resilience Restoration Projects.

Section 8403 amends Section 605(c)(1) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to increase from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres the project size limitation.

Section 8404. Fuel Breaks In Forests and Other Wildland Vegetation.

Section 8404 amends section 40806(d)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to increase from 3,000 acres to 10,000 acres the project size limitation.

Section 8405. Greater Sage Grouse and Mule Dule Habitat.

Section 8405 amends Section 606 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003. Paragraph (2) clarifies covered management activities are meant to cover habitat for greater sage-grouse or mule deer, and not necessarily both concurrently.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (g), increasing the categorical exclusion project size limitation from 4,500 acres to 7,500 acres.

PART II—FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Section 8411. No additional Consultation Required.

Section 8412(a) amends Section 6(d)(2) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 to read that the Secretary of Agriculture shall not be required to reinitiate consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, on an approved land management plan prepared, amended, or revised under this section when, after the date of such approval, amendment, or revision: (1) a species is listed as a threatened or endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; (2) a critical habitat for a threatened or endangered species is designated under that section; or (3) new information concerning a threatened or endangered species or critical habitat for such a species becomes available.

Subsection (b) provides substantively the same language as subsection (a), but amending Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and relating to the Secretary of the Interior.

Section 8412. Good Neighbor Authority.

Subsection (a)(1) amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to change the definition of “Governor” to no longer include an executive official of an Indian Tribe so that the word “Governor” would apply only to the executive or appropriate executive

official of an affected State (or Puerto Rico).

Subsection (a)(2) amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to add “Indian tribe” alongside “county” and “Governor” as defined above, as officials or entities the Secretary of Agriculture may enter into a good neighbor agreement with.

This subsection further amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by expanding which officials or entities shall keep funds received from the sale of timber under a good neighbor agreement from only a “governor” to also include Indian tribes or counties, as applicable.

This subsection also repeals the limitation that sale funds be used only on authorized restoration services on Federal land under a good neighbor agreement, so that such funds may be used on land also held by Indian tribes or counties with a good neighbor agreement.

Furthermore, this subsection adds “Indian tribes” alongside Governor or county as an official or entity that shall not have delegated to it the power to make a decision required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 regarding authorized restoration services provided by good neighbor agreements on federal land.

This subsection also strikes paragraph 4 of section 8206(b), which currently states that payments by a county to the Secretary of Agriculture under a project conducted under a good neighbor agreement shall not be considered monies received from National Forest System land or Bureau of Land Management; under H.R. 1450 counties (and Indian tribes) would keep such monies themselves.

Subsection (b) concerns conforming amendments.

Subsection (c) provides that the effective date of the amendments made by this Act would apply to all good neighbor agreement projects enacted after the date of enactment of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.

Section 8413. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program.

Section 8413 amends section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009. Paragraph (1) amends subsection (b)(3) to add that a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal should describe plans to prevent or control pathogens, and address standardized monitoring questions and indicators.

Paragraph (2)(A) amends subsection (d) by adding criteria to the selection process. Paragraph (2)(B) limits the Secretary from selecting not more than 4 proposals in any one region of the national forest system.

Paragraph (3) amends subsection (f)(6) to extend the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8414. Public-Private Wildfire Technology Deployment and Testbed Partnership.

Section 8414 requires the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to create a deployment and testbed pilot program for new and innovative wildfire prevention, detection, communication, and mitigation technologies.

Subsection (c) lists the functions of the pilot program.

Subsection (d) describes the application process for covered entities to participate in the pilot program.

Subsection (e) direct the Secretaries to give priority to covered entities developing and applying emerging technologies that address issues identified by the Secretaries, including artificial intelligence, quantum sensing, computing and quantum-hybrid applications, augmented reality, and 5G private networks and device-to-device communications supporting nomadic mesh networks, for wildfire mitigation.

Subsection (g) requires the Secretaries submit reports and recommendations to Congress on the pilot program.

Subsection (h) terminates the pilot program on September 30, 2029.

Section 8415. Forest Service Participation In Experienced Services Program.

Section 8415 amends section 8302 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 by renaming the ACES program the Experienced Services Program.

Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (b), the termination of effectiveness clause.

Section 8416. Timber Sales on National Forest System Land.

Section 8416 amends section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 by increasing in subsection (d) the threshold by which the value of a timber sale must meet before requiring advertising from \$10,000 to \$50,000.

Paragraph (2) adds a new subsection (j) providing that in the event of extreme risks to a unit of National Forest System land, including catastrophic wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, wind, hurricane, flood, drought, or to avoid impacts from such extreme events, the Secretary may, without an appraisal and under such rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary, dispose of by sale or otherwise, portions of trees, or forest products located on such unit of National Forest System lands.

Section 8417. Permits and Agreements with Electrical Utilities.

Section 8417(a) provides the Secretary the ability to give permission to electric utility company holders of national forest system land permits or easements to cut and remove trees or other vegetation from within the vicinity of distribution lines or transmission lines, including hazardous vegetation that increases fire risk, without requiring a separate timber sale if that cutting and removal is consistent with the applicable land management plan.

Subsection (b) requires that if the applicable electrical utility sells any portion of the material removed under the permit or easement, the electrical utility shall provide to the Secretary any proceeds received from the sale, less any transportation costs incurred in the sale.

Subsection (c) states that there is no requirement that material removed under a special use permit or easement that includes permission for the cutting and removal of trees or other vegetation be sold.

Section 8418. Cooperative Agreements and Contracts for Prescribed Fires.

Section 8418(a) provides the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense the authority to each enter into a cooperative agreement or contract with an eligible entity, for a period of less than or equal to 10 years, that authorizes the eligible entity to coordinate, plan, or conduct a prescribed fire on Federal land or to conduct a prescribed fire training event.

Subsection (b) amends the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 by creating a new section 3, allowing the Secretary to enter into a contract or agreement with an Indian tribe that provides for prescribed burns on Federal land.

Subsection (c)(1) amends the Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act by expressly permitting prescribed fire and prescribed fire training events in that Act. Subsection (c)(2) provides that cooperators and their employees under this section 8418, may perform cooperative work under the supervision of the Forest Service in emergencies or otherwise as mutually agreed to, but shall not be deemed to be Federal employees other than for the purposes of chapter 171 of title 28 [28 USCS §§ 2671 et seq.], United States Code, and chapter 81 of title 5 [5 USCS §§ 8101 et seq.], United States Code.

Section 8419. Utilizing Grazing for Wildfire Risk Reduction.

Section 8419 requires the Secretary, in coordination with holders of permits to graze livestock on Federal land, to develop a strategy to increase opportunities to utilize livestock grazing and associated rangeland improvements as a wildfire risk reduction strategy.

Section 8420. Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Program.

Section 8420 amends Section 40808 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reports from the Joint Chiefs at least once every two years, and extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8421. Tribal Forest Management Program Technical Corrections.

Section 8421 amends section 8703 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by renaming it the Tribal Forest Management Program.

PART III—TIMBER INNOVATION

Section 8431. Community Wood Facilities Program.

Section 8431 amends Section 9013 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. Paragraph (1) renames the program the Community Wood Facilities Program.

Paragraph (2) amends the definition of community wood energy system, in part, as an energy system that uses primarily forest biomass, including processing or manufacturing residuals.

Paragraph (4) increases the cap for a grant award from \$1,000,000 to \$5,000,000.

Paragraph (5) strikes subsection (e)(1) of the selection criteria, and adds in (e)(1), as redesignated, that market competitiveness should be a factor to consider.

Paragraph (6) amends subsection (f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting in paragraph (2), as redesignated, that the Secretary shall give grant priorities to proposal that include the construction, use or retrofitting of forest products manufacturing facilities in areas with high unemployment.

Paragraph (7) amends subsection (g) by increasing the thermal energy or combined thermal and electric energy capacity limit from 5 megawatts to 15 megawatts, and increases from 25% to 50% the amount of funds provided as grants that may go to applicants proposing innovative wood products facilities.

Paragraph (8) amends subsection (h) by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8432. Wood Innovation Grant Program.

Section 8432(a) amends section 8643(b)(1) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by adding that the grant may be used for the construction of new facilities that advance the purposes of the program and for the hauling of material removed to reduce hazardous fuels to locations where that material can be utilized.

Subsection (b) amends Section 8643(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, providing for the priority the Secretary may give to proposals for grants.

Subsection (c) amends section 8643(d) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by lowering the eligible entity non-Federal fund-matching requirement from a 100% match to 50%.

Section 8433. Forest and Wood Products Data Tracker.

Section 8433(a) requires the Secretary, in collaboration with the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and in consultation with federally-recognized Indian Tribes, State foresters, and private sector partners, establish a publicly available platform to provide measurement, monitoring, verification, and reporting data regarding the carbon emissions, sequestration, storage, and related atmospheric impacts of forest management and wood products.

Section 8343. Biochar Application Demonstration Project.

Section 8343 requires the Secretary to conduct performance-driven research and development, education, technical assistance, outreach, and demonstration projects for the purpose of facilitating the use of biochar, developing additional biochar applications, and commercializing biochar.

SUBTITLE E—SAVE OUR SEQUOIAS

Section 8501. Short Title.

Section 8501 provides this subtitle may be cited as the “Save Our Sequoias Act”.

Section 8502. Definitions.

Section 8502 provides definitions for use in the Save Our Sequoias Act.

Section 8503. Shared Stewardship Agreement for Giant Sequoias.

Section 8503(a) requires that after receiving a request from the Governor of the State of California or the Tribe, the Secretary shall enter into or expand an existing shared stewardship agreement or enter into a similar agreement with the Secretary, the Governor of the State of California, and the Tribe to jointly carry out the short-term and long-term management and conservation of giant sequoias.

Section 8504. Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition.

Section 8504(a) codifies the coalition established under the charter titled “Giant Sequoia Lands Coalition Charter” (or successor charter) signed during the period beginning June 2, 2022 and ending August 2, 2022.

Subsection (b) lists the duties of the Coalition.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to make personnel of the Department of the Interior available to the Coalition for administrative support, technical services, development and dissemination of educational materials, and staff support that the Secretary determines necessary to carry out this section.

Section 8505. Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency Assessment.

Section 8505(a) requires the Coalition submit to the relevant Congressional Committees a Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency Assessment.

Subsection (b) requires the Coalition submit to Congress annual updates to the Assessment.

Subsection (c) requires the Coalition to create and maintain a website with a searchable database of specified information.

Subsection (g) provides that the development and submission of the Assessment under subsection (a) shall not be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Section 8506. Giant Sequoia Emergency Response.

Section 8506(a) provides that Congress has determined: an emergency exists on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands that makes it necessary to carry out Protection Projects that take needed actions to respond to the threat of wildfires, insects, and drought to giant sequoias; and Protection Projects are necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency and are needed to mitigate harm to life, property, or important natural or cultural resources on covered public lands and covered National Forest System lands.

Subsection (a)(1)(C) provides the emergency determination shall expire 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subsection (a)(4) provides that Protection Projects, and reforestation and rehabilitation activities carried out under this Act are a category of actions hereby designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Subsection (b) requires that to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall reduce hazardous fuels in no fewer than 3 giant sequoia groves each year.

Section 8507. Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy.

Section 8507(a) requires the Secretary, in consultation with the Coalition, to develop and implement a strategy, to be known as the Giant Sequoia Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy, to enhance the reforestation and rehabilitation of giant sequoia groves.

Subsection (b) amends Section 3(e)(4)(C)(ii)(I) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 by adding as a priority project reforestation and rehabilitation activities conducted under section 8507 of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

Subsection (c) amends section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act to clarify that nothing in the Wilderness Act precludes reforestation activities to reestablish giant sequoias following a wildfire.

Section 8508. Giant Sequoia Strike Team.

Section 8508(a) establishes a Giant Sequoia Strike Team to assist the Secretaries in carrying out requirements of the Save Our Sequoias Act.

Section 8509. Giant Sequoia Collaborative Restoration Grants.

Section 8509(a) requires the secretary, in consultation with the parties to the agreement under section 8503, to establish a program to award grants to eligible entities to advance, facilitate, or improve giant sequoia health and resiliency.

Section 8510. Good Neighbor Authority for Giant Sequoias.

Section 8510 amends section 8206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 so that Good Neighbor Authority provisions shall apply to, and be eligible for, Save Our Sequoias restoration activities.

Section 8511. Stewardship Contracting for Giant Sequoias.

Section 8511(a) amends Section 604(a)(2) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 so that in addition the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the term “Director” means the Director of the National Park Service with respect to lands within Kings Canyon National Park, Sequoia National Park, and Yosemite National Park.

Subsection (b) amends section 604(c) of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to add promoting the health and resiliency of giant sequoias as a land management goal.

Section 8512. Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund

Section 8512 amends Chapter 1011 of title 54, United States Code, by inserting at the end a new section 101123, the “Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Program and Fund”. Subsection (a) of the fund provides that The National Park Foundation, in coordination with the National Forest Foundation, shall design and implement a comprehensive program to assist and promote philanthropic programs of support that benefit: (1) primarily, the management and conservation of giant sequoias on National Park Service and covered National Forest System lands to promote resiliency to wildfires, insects, and drought; and (2) secondarily, the reforestation of giant sequoias on National Park Service and covered National Forest System lands impacted by wildfire.

Section 101123(b) establishes a joint special account to be known as the Giant Sequoia Emergency Protection Fund to be administered in support of the program established under subsection (a).

Section 101123(e) terminates the authority provided 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBTITLE F—OTHER MATTERS

Section 8701. Rural Revitalization Technologies.

Section 8701 amends section 2371(d)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 by extending the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 8702. Resource Advisory Committees.

Section 8702 amends Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Paragraph (1) allows for appointments to resource advisory committees by the applicable regional forester.

Paragraph 2 extends the termination of authority date to October 1, 2029.

Paragraph (3) strikes subsection (g), the Resource Advisory Committee Appointment Pilot Program.

Section 8703. Accurate Hazardous Fuels Reduction Reports.

Section 8703 requires the inclusion of hazardous fuels reduction reports in materials submitted in support of the President’s budget, including the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year.

Subsection (a)(2) requires that each acre recorded as having have hazardous fuels reduction activities completed on it may only be recorded once, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during that year.

Section 8704. Special Use Authorization Rental Fee waiver.

Section 8704 allows the Chief of the Forest Service to waive all or part of the programmatic administrative fee, and any fees related to the special use authorization, when equitable and in the public interest as determined by the Chief of the Forest Service, for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land by specified governmental, non-profit, or amateur radio stations.

Section 8705 Charges and Fees for Harvest of Forest Botanical Products.

Section 8705 codifies a program to charge and collect fees for forest botanical products harvested on National Forest System lands.

Subsection (b) provides that the fees collected by the Secretary shall be based on the fair market value of the harvested forest botanical products and the costs incurred by the Secretary associated with the granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of the forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis.

Subsection (c) provides that The Secretary may not permit the harvest of forest botanical products on National Forest System lands at levels in excess of sustainable harvest levels, as defined under section 4 of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960

Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary shall establish a personal use harvest level for each forest botanical product, and the harvest of a forest botanical product below that level by a person for personal use shall not be subject to charges and fees.

Section 8706. Forest Service Legacy Road use and Trail Remediation Program Transparency.

Section 8706 amends section 8 of Public Law 88–657 by clarifying how the annual selection of project for funding should be advertised, and public comments considered.

Paragraph (1)(B) requires the Forest Service to publish on its website for each region, a list of each project considered under the Program, public comments received, the ranking within the region of each project, and the proposed outcome of each project.

Section 8707. Direct Hire Authority.

Section 8707 allows the secretary to appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a Job Corps graduate (as defined in section 142(5) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act) to a position in the competitive service in the Forest Service for which the graduate meets the qualification standards.

Section 8708. Improving the Emergency Forest Restoration Program.

Section 8708 amends Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 by inserting a new subsection (e) for advance payments, specifying that The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures.

Subsection (e)(2) of section 407 would require that if the funds provided are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary.

TITLE IX – ENERGY

Section 9001. Definition of Advanced Biofuel.

Section 9001 amends section 9001(3)(B)(iv) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide in statute that “advanced biofuel” includes sustainable aviation fuel derived from renewable biomass, including vegetable oil and animal fat.

Sec. 9002. Biobased markets program.

Paragraph (1) of section 9002 amends Section 9002(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a guidance process, conducted by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, to consider biobased products lifespan, savings, and efficacy when making federal procurement decisions. Paragraph (1) also requires each procuring agency to submit an annual federal biobased product procurement implementation report to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, as well as requires the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to collect, document, and make publicly available through the review of the annual reports that each procuring agency has established a procurement program.

Paragraph (2) of section 9002 amends Section 9003(f) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide that the Secretary and the Secretary of Commerce to jointly development North American Industry Classification System codes and North American Product Classification System codes for renewable chemicals, biobased products, and manufacturers of renewable chemicals and biobased products. Paragraph (2) further provides that the Secretary shall submit a report, within enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry that provides (1) the Federal statistical collections of information related to the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes that utilize bioeconomy-specific data; (2) recommendations to implement any bioeconomy related changes as part of the 2027 revisions of the North American Industry Classification System codes and the North American Product Classification System codes; and (3) an assessment of the impacts that bioeconomy-specific North American Industry

Classification System codes and North American Products Classification System codes would have on the agency's measurement of the economic contributions of the bioeconomy.

Paragraph (3) of section 9001 amends Section 9002(k)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the biobased markets program through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9003. Biorefinery assistance.

Paragraph (1) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(b)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the definition of “biobased product manufacturing” to include technologically new or innovative commercial-scale processing and manufacturing equipment. Paragraph (1) also requires facilities to convert renewable chemicals and other biobased outputs of biorefineries into end-user products, renewable chemicals, or biobased products on a commercial scale.

Paragraph (2) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(d)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a technical review agreement between the Secretary and approved loan guarantee applicants that outlines the specific objectives, outcomes, and conditions for successful technical feasibility of a biorefinery, renewable chemical, or biobased product project.

Paragraph (3) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for biorefinery, renewable chemical, and biobased product manufacturing assistance through fiscal year 2029.

Paragraph (4) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(h) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to adjust the additional funding for electric loans for renewable energy to remain available until September 30, 2029.

Paragraph (5) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(i)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to adjust the funding for biofuel infrastructure and agriculture product market expansion electric loans for renewable energy to remain available until September 30, 2029.

Paragraph (6) of section 9003 amends Section 9003(j) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to adjust the funding for USDA assistance for rural electric cooperatives to remain available until September 30, 2029.

Sec. 9004. Bioproduct labeling report.

Section 9004 amends Title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that requires to Secretary to submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, a report

containing an analysis of the potential effects of a program to implement national uniform labeling standards for bioproducts, including the effects on consumer trust, certainty, and adoption; the scope and accuracy of bioproduct industry data; and market growth.

Section 9004 also provides that in preparing the report the Secretary shall consider national uniform labeling standards for bio-attributed products, biobased products, biobased plastics, bio-attributed plastics, plant-based products, renewable chemicals, and renewable biomass; as well as to define those bioproducts, unless otherwise defined in statute. The Secretary must also consult with biomanufacturers, entities engaged in research and development of bioproducts, feedstock growers, other industry stakeholders in defining the bioproducts terminology and preparing the report.

Sec. 9005. Bioenergy program for advanced biofuels.

Section 9005 amends Section 9005(g)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the bioenergy program for advanced biofuels through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9006. Biodiesel fuel education program.

Section 9006 repeals Section 9006 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9007. Rural energy for America program.

Paragraph (1) of Section 9007 amends Section 9007(b)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the selection criteria for competitive grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance to include the potential of a proposed program to produce cost savings and to meaningfully improve the financial conditions of agricultural producers or rural small businesses.

Paragraph (2)(A) of Section 9005 amends Section 9007(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand the award consideration for determining the amount of a loan guarantee or grant provided under the Rural Energy for America Program to include the expected cost savings of an agricultural producer or rural small business from the purchasing of renewable energy systems or making energy efficiency improvements.

Paragraph (2)(B)(i) of Section 9005 amends Section 9007(c)(3)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish that the amount of a grant provided to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the activity carried out using the grant funds for beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranches, veteran farmers and ranchers, and recipients with a proposed project located in an area where 20 percent or more of the population is living in poverty over the last 30 years or has experienced

long-term population decline or loss of employment, or 35 percent of the cost of the activity carried out using grant funds in all other cases.

Paragraph (2)(B)(ii) of Section 9005 amends Section 9007(c)(3)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to increase the amount of a loan guaranteed under the Rural Energy for America Program from \$25,000,000 to \$50,000,000.

Paragraph (3) of Section 9005 amends Section 9007(f)(3) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the discretionary funding for the Rural Energy for America Program through fiscal year 2029.

Paragraph (4) of Section 9005 amends Section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to require the Secretary to ensure that, to the extent practicable, there is diversity in the types of projects approved for grants or loan guarantees under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Sec. 9008. Feedstock flexibility.

Section 9008 amends Section 9010(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Secretary to purchase eligible commodities from eligible entities and sell such commodities to bioenergy producers, and to notify eligible entities and bioenergy producers of the quantity of eligible commodities available for purchase and sale, to produce bioenergy through the 2029 crop year.

Sec. 9009. Biomass crop assistance program.

Section 9009 amends Section 9011(f)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations of \$25,000,000 for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 9010. Carbon utilization and biogas education program.

Section 9010 repeals Section 9014 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Sec. 9011. Study on effects of solar panel installations on prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland.

Section 9011 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that studies on the effects of solar panel installations on the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland and nonindustrial private forest land out of agricultural production.

Sec. 9012. Limitation on USDA funding for ground-mounted solar energy systems.

Section 9012 amends title IX of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to establish a new section that creates a limitation on USDA funding projects that would result in the conversion of prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland, or nonindustrial private forest land, for solar energy production, unless a project results in the conversion of less than 5 acres, results in the conversion of less than 50 acres of covered farmland and the majority of the energy produced is for on-farm use, or has received a resolution of approval or support, or other similar instrument from each county and municipality in which the project is sited. Projects that receive local approval must develop and implement a farmland conservation protection plan.

TITLE X—HORTICULTURE, MARKETING, AND REGULATORY REFORM

SUBTITLE A—HORTICULTURE

Sec. 10001. Plant pest and disease management and disaster prevention.

Section 10001 amends section 420(f) of the Plant Protection Act to increase the authorization of mandatory funding to \$90,000,000 per year.

Sec. 10002. Specialty crop block grants.

Section 10002 amends section 101 of the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 to extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through fiscal year 2029; direct the State program administrators to establish priorities for the program in consultation with specialty crop producer and producer groups; require the State program administrators to include in the State plan how outreach to, and consultation with, specialty crop producers and producer groups will be achieved; and increase the authorization of mandatory funding to \$100,000,000 per year.

Sec. 10003. Specialty crop market news allocation.

Section 10003 amends section 10107(b) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to extend the authorization of appropriations for the specialty crop market news allocation through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10004. Office of urban agriculture and innovative production.

Section 10004 amends section 222 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to add controlled-environment agriculture to the list of emerging agricultural production practices; direct the Office to use resources of the Department to provide technical assistance, promote conservation techniques, and assist producers in navigating policies and regulations that impact business operations; extend the reporting requirements and authorization for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Advisory Committee; allow for subgrants to support the growth of the farm or farm business; authorizes the use of cooperative agreements to support the development of urban and innovative agricultural production; remove the pilot status and extend reporting requirements for the Urban and Suburban County Committees and Increasing

Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; add development of food waste-to-energy operations as an eligible activity for the Increasing Community Compost and Reducing Food Waste projects; and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10005. National plant diagnostic network.

Section 10005 amends section 12203(c)(5) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the authorization of appropriations for the National Plant Diagnostics Network through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10006. Hemp production.

Section 10006 amends subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

Subsection (a) amends section 297A to create definitions of “hemp grown for cannabinoid extraction” and “industrial hemp”.

Subsection (b) amends section 297B to require State and Tribal plans to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow State and Tribal plans to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent to produce industrial hemp for producers under a State or Tribal plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails to provide required documentation; require the State or Tribe to report a producer of industrial to the Attorney General and applicable law enforcement officers if that producer violated the State or Tribal plan by producing a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp; and ban any person who knowingly produced a crop that is inconsistent with the designation of industrial hemp from obtaining a hemp license for 5 years.

Subsection (c) amends section 297C to require a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure under which a hemp producer shall be required to designate the type of production of the hemp producer; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for the use of visual inspections, performance-based sampling methodologies, certified seed, or a similar procedure when developing sampling plans for industrial hemp; allow a Department of Agriculture plan to include a procedure for eliminating the 10-year period of ineligibility following the date of conviction for producers of industrial hemp with a felony related to a controlled substance; require documentation during inspections that demonstrates a clear intent to produce industrial hemp for producers under a Department of Agriculture plan that includes procedures for reducing or eliminating sampling or testing requirements for industrial hemp; allow testing if a producer of industrial hemp fails to provide required documentation; and

requires the Secretary to collect information related to the designation of the type of production of hemp producers and the laboratory certificate of analysis for hemp disposed of.

Subsection (d) amends section 297D to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a process by which the Department of Agriculture can issue certificates of accreditation to laboratories for the purposes of testing hemp.

Sec. 10007. Pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.

Section 10007 amends the Plant Protection Act by adding a new section 420A to direct the Secretary to create a pilot program for the intra-organizational movement of genetically engineered microorganisms by certain authorized parties.

Subsection (a) of the new section defines terms used in the pilot program including covered microorganism, covered unauthorized release, pilot program, plant pest risk, responsible party, and responsible party biocontainment facility.

Subsection (b) of the new section directs the Secretary to establish the pilot program for no more than 75 responsible parties within 100 days of enactment.

Subsection (c) of the new section outlines the application process for the pilot program.

Subsection (d) of the new section outlines the process for approving or denying applications for the pilot program and the process for appealing a denial.

Subsection (e) of the new section outlines requirements a responsible party shall agree to as a condition of enrollment in the pilot program.

Subsection (f) of the new section prohibits the Secretary from taking action or promulgating any regulation that treats genetically engineered covered microorganisms less favorably than nongenetically engineered covered microorganisms or limiting the quantity or type of covered microorganisms that may be moved under the pilot program.

Subsection (g) of the new section requires responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program to submit a quarterly report to the Secretary.

Subsection (h) of the new section provides guidance for responsible parties enrolled in the pilot program in the case of a covered unauthorized release.

Subsection (i) of the new section outlines the process by which the Secretary may terminate the enrollment of a responsible party enrolled in the pilot program.

Subsection (j) of the new section terminates the pilot program three years after the date on which the Secretary completes the application selection process.

Subsection (k) of the new section directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress no later than 6 months after the termination of the pilot program.

SUBTITLE B—MARKETING

Sec. 10101. Marketing orders.

Section 10101 amends section 8(e) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, to add almonds to and remove the prohibition on dates for processing from the list of imported agricultural products the Secretary has the authority to subject to marketing order terms and conditions regulating grade, size, quality, and maturity.

Sec. 10102. Local agriculture market program.

Section 10102 amends section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act to define the term food hub; add regional food chain coordination to the purpose of the local agriculture market program; direct the Secretary to provide technical assistance and outreach to stakeholders before and after providing grants under the program; extend the authority of the Secretary to make grants through fiscal year 2029; clarify that purchase of special purpose equipment is an eligible activity; add food hubs as an eligible entity for the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP); establish a simplified application process for applications to FMLFPP that request less than \$100,000 for specific activities; clarify that the Regional Food Systems Partnership Program can be used for regional food coordination projects and regional outreach, technical assistance, and evaluation projects; and requires that no less than 10 percent of funds made available for FMLFPP shall be used for simplified applications.

Sec. 10103. Acer access and development program.

Section 10103 amends section 12306 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to direct the Secretary to solicit input from maple syrup industry stakeholders with respect to the research and education priorities of the maple syrup industry and reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 10104. Organic production and market data initiative.

Section 10104 amends section 7407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to direct the Secretary to collect and publish cost-of-production data for organic milk; reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029; and authorizes \$10,000,000 in mandatory funding for the period of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Sec. 10105. Organic Certification.

Section 10105 amends the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

Subsection (a) extends the reporting requirements for the report describing National Organic Program activities with respect to all domestic and overseas investigations and compliance actions through March 30, 2029.

Subsection (b) adds a new section 2122B to allow the Secretary to provide technical assistance, outreach, and education to support organic production through existing programs implemented by a covered agency.

Subsection (c) reauthorizes the authorization of appropriations for the National Organic Program through fiscal year 2029.

Subsection (d) authorizes \$5,000,000 in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025 to continue modernization and improvement of international trade technology systems and data collection.

Sec. 10106. National organic certification cost-share program.

Section 10106 amends section 10606(d)(1)(C) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize \$8,000,000 in mandatory funding per year through fiscal year 2029 for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program.

Sec. 10107. Report on procurement.

Section 10107 directs the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that examines the process by which domestic commodities or products are procured, barriers to entry into such procurement process, the diet quality and accessibility of commodities or products that are procured, and the Secretary's recommendations to improve such procurement process.

SUBTITLE C—REGULATORY REFORM

PART 1 – FEDERAL, INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT

Section 10201. Exclusions of Certain Substances.

Section 10201 amends section 2 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Subsection (a) amends the definition of “plant regulator” to exclude substances intended be produced and used within a plant and certain plant biostimulants; amends the definition of “nitrogen stabilizer” to make technical corrections and exclude plant biostimulants and nutritional chemicals; and adds definitions for “plant biostimulant”, “nutritional chemical”, “vitamin hormone product”, and “plant-incorporated protectant”.

Subsection (b) clarifies when and how the Administrator of the EPA may exempt pesticides from the requirements of FIFRA, including a statutory exemption of certain plant-incorporated protectants.

Subsection (c) consists of conforming amendments to section 17(c) of FIFRA.

Section 10202. Coordination.

Section 10202 amends section 3 of FIFRA by adding a new subsection “ (j) Coordination” that requires the Administrator of the EPA to develop risk mitigation measures required by FIFRA with the Secretary of Agriculture, and to conduct an economic analysis determining the cost of implementation of such measures. This section also requires the Administrator to coordinate sharing of data and information with regard to pesticide registration and registration reviews, including agronomic use data and information related to the availability and economic viability of alternatives. Additionally, this section requires the Administrator to coordinate with the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Commerce regarding implementation of reasonable and prudent actions and measures with respect to the use of a pesticide. This section also allows for these coordination requirements to be waived if agreed upon by the Administrator, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the registration of such pesticide.

Section 10203. Interagency Working Group.

Section 10203 amends section 3(c)(11) of FIFRA by requiring the Secretary of Agriculture to include the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy in all interagency working group meetings. This section also extends the reporting requirements, decreases the frequency of such reports, and directs the reports to be published on the website of the EPA. Additionally, this section amends the consultation requirements to ensure the interagency working group meets with stakeholders at least once per year and to ensure the Administrator consults with the interagency working group before implementing any policy, strategy, workplan, or pilot program regarding the application of the Endangered Species Act to the processes for registration and registration review of a pesticide.

Section 10204. Uniformity of Pesticide Labeling Requirements.

Section 12304 affects how FIFRA is to be applied. Subsection (a) mandates that section 24(b) of FIFRA be applied to require nationwide uniformity in pesticide labeling and prohibits states or other authorities from penalizing entities for failing to label pesticides in a manner different from the label approved by the Administrator under FIFRA.

Subsection (b) prohibits the Administrator of the EPA from issuing or adopting any guidance, policy, or issuing any regulation that is inconsistent with the conclusion of a human health assessment or a carcinogenicity classification for a pesticide performed pursuant to FIFRA.

Section 10205. Authority of States.

Section 10205 amends section 24 of FIFRA by prohibiting political subdivisions of a state from imposing requirements relating to the sale, distribution, labeling, application, or use of any pesticide subject to regulation by a State or the Administrator of the EPA under FIFRA.

PART II – OTHER REGULATORY REFORM PROVISIONS

Section 10211. Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey.

Section 10211 amends section 10109 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to require the Director of the Office of Pest Management Policy to obtain commercial data on pesticide use to inform the conduct of the Multiple Crop and Pesticide Use Survey. Section 103011 also provides \$5,000,000 in mandatory funding for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until extended.

Section 10212. Critical Minerals.

Section 10212 relates to the critical mineral list described in section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020. Subsection (a) requires the Secretary of the Interior, with the Secretary of Agriculture, to evaluate potash, phosphates, and other minerals necessary for the production of fertilizer and other agricultural products used to promote crop development for designation as critical minerals.

Subsection (b) requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to evaluate current policies related to permitting and leasing of projects for the exploration, development, and production of the minerals described in subsection (a) and issue recommendations to support domestic production of such minerals to Congress.

Subsection (c) requires the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to prepare a report that describes how each mineral described in subsection (a) meets each aspect of the methodology under section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020, to determine eligibility for the critical mineral list under section 7002(c)(4) of such Act, and issue a report to Congress.

Section 10213. Safe Harbor for Certain Discharges of Wildland Fire Chemicals

Section 10213 would prohibit a court from enjoining a covered entity under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act from the aerial application of a covered fire retardant and water enhancer for wildfire suppression, control, or prevention if such application is in accordance with the Federal Facility Compliance Agreement between the EPA and the U.S. Forest Service, and occurred before the effective date of a permit issued by the EPA or a State, under section 403 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act authorizing the aerial application of fire retardant. This provision sunsets 5 years after the effective date of this Act.

Section 10214. Science Advisory Board of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 10214 amends section 8 of the Environmental Research, Development, and Demonstration Authorization Act of 1978 by adding that the Committee on Agriculture of the House, and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate are entitled to make requests to and receive reports from the EPA Science Advisory Board.

Section 10215. Office of Biotechnology Policy.

Section 10215 adds a new section to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 that creates an Office of Biotechnology Policy to provide for the effective coordination of policies and activities within the Department of Agriculture related to biotechnology, biomanufacturing, synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies, while taking into account the effects of regulatory actions of other government agencies. This new section provides an authorization of appropriations for \$1,000,000 through fiscal year 2029.

TITLE XI—CROP INSURANCE

Sec. 1101. Specialty crop advisory committee.

Section 1101(a) amends section 505 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crop Advisory Committee to advise the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (the Corporation) on issues relating to specialty crop insurance policies, provide input to the Board of the Corporation on decisions relating to specialty crop insurance policies, review available educational programs and make recommendations to the Corporation on how to enhance the effectiveness of programs for specialty crop producers, provide recommendations to the Corporation regarding the presentation of policies to the Board of the Corporation, and advise the Corporation on entering into partnerships to carry out various research and development activities.

Section 1102(b) amends section 507(g)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a Specialty Crops Coordinator to address the needs of specialty crop producers, and for providing information and advise, in connection with activities of the Corporation, to improve and expand the insurance program for specialty crops.

Section 1102(c) amends section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to consult with the Secretary in conducting an annual review of new and specialty crops.

Sec. 1102. Identification of holders of substantial interests.

Paragraph (1) of section 1102 amends section 506(m)(3) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide an extension to crop insurance policyholders to provide the Corporation with the identification of holders of beneficial interest in the policyholder at any time during the applicable crop year.

Paragraph (2) of section 1102 amends section 506(m)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to define “substantial beneficial interest” as not less than 10 percent of all beneficial interests in the policyholder.

Sec. 1103. Actuarial soundness of certain new products.

Section 1103 amends section 506(n) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to review each crop insurance policy or product developed for submission of policies and materials to the Corporation's Board of Directors for actuarial soundness.

Sec. 1104. Coverage of revenue losses.

Section 1104 amends section 508(a)(1) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to extend crop insurance coverage of revenue losses to a decline in the market price of the insured commodity, so long as such decline was not directly caused by the producer (as determined by the Secretary).

Sec. 1105. Supplemental and aggregate coverage enhancements.

Paragraph (1) of section 1105(a) amends section 508(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that the general level of coverage may be purchased at any level not to exceed 85 percent, in the case of the individual yield or revenue coverage, 90 percent, in the case of individual yield or revenue coverage aggregated across multiple commodities, and 95 percent, in the case of area yield or revenue coverage (as determined by the Corporation).

Paragraph (2) of section 1105(a) amends section 508(c)(4)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that coverage based on yield and loss basis, supplemented with coverage based on an area yield and loss basis to cover a part of the deductible under the individual's yield and loss policy, shall be triggered only if the losses in the area exceed 10 percent of normal levels (as determined by the Corporation). Paragraph (2) of section 1105(a) also provides that the coverage based on yield and loss basis shall not exceed the difference between 90 percent and the coverage level selected by the producer for the underlying policy or plan of insurance.

Section 1105(b) amends Section 508(e)(2)(H)(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that in the case of supplemental coverage options, the amount shall be equal to the sum of 80 percent of the additional premium associated with the coverage and the premium calculated for the coverage to cover operating and administrative expenses.

Sec. 1106. Limitation on farm program participation.

Paragraph (1) of section 1106(a) amends Section 508(c)(4)(C)(iv) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to exclude crops for which the producer has elected to receive agriculture risk coverage from being ineligible for supplemental coverage.

Paragraph (2) of section 1106(a) amends Section 508B(f) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective for the 2019 through 2024 crop years, a farm shall not be eligible for the Stacked Income Protection Plan for upland cotton for a crop year for which the farm is enrolled in coverage for seed cotton under price loss coverage or agricultural risk coverage.

Section 1006(b) amends section 1115 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 to conform with the amendment made under paragraph (2) of section 1106(a).

Sec. 1107. Limitation on farm program participation.

Section 1107 amends Section 508(d) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that effective beginning with the 2025 reinsurance year, in the case of a producer that is delinquent in

paying a premium or administrative fee, an approved insurance provider may charge such producer with respect to such delinquency an amount less than or equal to 1 percent of the simple interest of the amount for which such producer is delinquent, for each month (not to exceed 60-consecutive months) the producer is so delinquent.

Sec. 1108. Crop insurance support for beginning and veteran farmers and ranchers.

Section 1108(a) amends section 502(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish, among other criteria, that a beginning farmer or rancher, and a veteran farmer or rancher, are farmers or ranchers that have operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years.

Section 1108(b) amends section 508(e)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to increase the crop insurance policy premium to 15 percentage points greater than premium assistance otherwise available for each of the first and second reinsurance years that a beginning farmer or rancher participates as a beginning farmer or rancher in the applicable policy or plan of insurance, 13 percentage points greater during the third reinsurance year, 11 percentage points greater for the fourth reinsurance year, and 10 percentage points greater for the fifth reinsurance year.

Sec. 1109. Marketability.

Section 1109 amends Section 508(h)(4) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish that any new policy, plan of insurance, or other material approved by the Board under this subsection during a reinsurance year and after the Standard Reinsurance Agreement closing date of July 1, shall not be implemented for such reinsurance year unless at least 90 days prior to the sales closing date for such policy, plan of insurance, or other material, the Board makes available to the approved insurance providers all necessary, as determined by the Board, handbooks, training materials, and other resources associated with such policy, plan of insurance, or other material. Section 1109 further provides that prior to the approval of a product, any approved insurance provider that submitted a letter of support for the product shall provide information and analysis to the Board on the marketability of such product, which the Board shall review and deem marketable if at least one approved insurance provider expresses support.

Sec. 1110. Reinsurance.

Section 1110(a) amends Section 508(k) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that in addition to the terms and conditions of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement, to cover additional expenses for loss adjustment procedures, the Corporation shall pay an additional administrative and operating expense subsidy to approved insurance providers for eligible contracts, with the payment to an approved insurance provider to 6 percent of the net book premium. Section 1110 also establishes that the Corporation shall use \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, to pay, with respect to contracts an amount that is equal to the difference between the amount to be paid pursuant to the Standard Reinsurance Agreement for the applicable reinsurance year; and the amount that would be paid if such contracts were not subject to a reduction under the Standard Reinsurance Agreement and subject to a reimbursement rate of 17 percent of the net book premium.

Section 1110(b) amends Section 508(k) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish a reimbursement level for administrative and operating expenses with respect to specialty crop contacts to be equal to or greater than the percent that is the greater of 17 percent of the premium used to define loss ratio and the percent of the premium used to define loss ratio that is otherwise applicable for the reinsurance year under the terms of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement in effect for the reinsurance year. Section 1110(b) also requires the Corporation, beginning with the 2025 reinsurance year and for each reinsurance year thereafter, to increase the total administrative and operating expense reimbursements otherwise required under the Standard Reinsurance Agreement in effect for the reinsurance year in order to account for inflation in a manner that is consistent with the increases provided with respect to the 2011 through 2015 reinsurance years.

Sec. 1111. Revenue insurance.

Section 1111 amends the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new section to establish, beginning with the 2026 crop year, revenue insurance for producers of sugar beets. The policy coverage for sugar beet producers is a combination of individual-based yield coverage and coverage against a decrease in a gross beet sugar payment to a producer from a cooperative processor due to a shortfall in sugar production at the cooperative level as the result of one or more of the following conditions: (1) cooperative-level sugar beet production that is below average; (2) cooperative-level raw sugar content of the beets that is below average, irrespective of the quantity of sugar beets produced; or (3) a decrease in price in the refined sugar market relative to the expected price at the beginning of the crop year.

Sec. 1112. Pilot program to review effectiveness of coverage penalty.

Section 1112 amends the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new section to require, beginning with the 2025 crop year, the Risk Management Agency and the Corporation to establish a pilot program, to be conducted in not less than 10 counties located within or adjacent to the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District in Texas, to evaluate the effectiveness of the reduction in benefits applied to corn and other crops, as determined by the Corporation, planted during the late planting period.

Sec. 1113. Program compliance and integrity.

Paragraph (1) of section 1113 amends section 515(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, through an initial finding in writing, notify (unless such notification is pursuant to the responsibilities to conduct reviews and make corrections) an approved insurance provider of any error, omission, or failure to follow Corporation regulations or procedures for which the approved insurance provider may be responsible and which may result in a debt owed the Corporation. Paragraph (1) also establishes an appeals process for approved insurance providers after the Corporation notifies an approved insurance provider of an initial finding. The finding shall be subject to a final finding within 90 days of an approved insurance provider's appeal, followed by a final administrative determination upon the written request by an approved insurance provider and a final determination made by the Corporation.

Paragraph (2) of section 1113 amends section 515(l)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that the Corporation may use, from amounts made available from the insurance fund established under section 516(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act, not more than \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each subsequent fiscal year.

Sec. 1114. Reviews, compliance and integrity.

Section 1114 amends section 516(b)(2)(C)(i) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide that for each of the 2014 and subsequent reinsurance years, the Corporation may use the insurance fund established under subsection (c), but not to exceed \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014 through 2024 and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, to pay costs to reimburse expenses incurred for the operations and review of policies, plans of insurance, and related materials (including actuarial and related information); and to assist the Corporation in maintaining program actuarial soundness and financial integrity.

Sec. 1115. Whole farm improvements.

Section 1115 amends section 522(c)(7)(E) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Corporation to, not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024, and annually thereafter, review any limitations on insurable revenue (including the overall limitation and limitations specific to animals, animal products, greenhouse and nursery, and aquaculture) to ensure such limitations are adequate to cover the financial risks associated with the production of high-value agricultural products; and to submit to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry a report that includes a summary of the most recent review conducted and any expected changes to the policy for the following reinsurance year.

Sec. 1116. Research and development priorities.

Section 1116(a) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, to expand the availability of policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue for oilseeds, including camelina, carinata, and pennycress; alfalfa; pulse crops (including dry edible beans); and other crops for which only individual yield-based insurance policies are available.

Section 1116(b) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure wine grapes (including wine grapes produced in the States of California, Oregon, and Washington) against losses due to wildfire smoke exposure.

Section 1116(c) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding a policy to insure the production of mushroom growing media and the production of mushrooms.

Section 1116(d) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of offering insurance against tropical storms and hurricanes made available regardless of underlying crop insurance policy (or lack thereof).

Section 1116(e) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index-based policy to insure crops (including tomatoes, peppers, sugarcane, strawberries, melons, citrus, peaches, blueberries, and any other crop) on a nationally-available basis against losses due to a frost or cold weather event.

Section 1116(f) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding with respect to insurance policies for covered oilseed crops, meaning rapeseed, canola and other oilseed crops, under double cropping and rotational cropping practices.

Section 1116(g) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding harvest incentives for policies that provide coverage against losses of revenue.

Section 1116(h) amends section 522(c) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act to add a new paragraph that requires the Corporation to carry out research and development, or offer to enter into 1 or more qualified persons to carry out research and development, regarding an index or revenue policy to insure poultry (including broilers, layers, pullets, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, and quail) on a nationally-available basis against losses from mortality caused by naturally occurring weather or infectious disease events.

TITLE XII—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SUBTITLE A—LIVESTOCK AND OTHER ANIMALS

PART 1 – ANIMAL HEALTH AND PRODUCTION

Sec. 12001. Animal Disease Prevention and Management.

Section 12001 amends section 10409 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) expands the program activities to include improving animal disease traceability and clarifies that additional activities previously approved by the Secretary shall continue to be appropriate program activities.

Subsection (b) increases the mandatory funding levels for the program. During each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2029 there is \$233,000,000 available. Of the total amount of funds, \$10,000,000 is available for grants to the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, \$70,000,000 is available for the National Animal Disease Preparedness Response Program, and \$153,000,000 is available for the National Animal Vaccine Bank. The subsection further

increases the out-year funds to \$75,000,000 of which \$45,000,000 is available for the National Animal Disease Preparedness Response Program.

Subsection (c) extends all of the authorization of appropriations for the program. It increases the authorization for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to \$45,000,000 per fiscal year.

Sec 12002. Cattle Tick Fever Eradication Program Review and Report.

Section 12002 requires the Secretary to enter into a contract with either a land-grant university or other institution with a college of agriculture to conduct a review of the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program within a year of enactment of this Act. At which point such university or institution shall submit to Congress the results of such review and any recommendations for improvements to the program.

Sec. 12003. Dog Detection Training Center.

Section 12003 establishes a National Detector Dog Training Center at USDA. Subsection (b) provides for the duties include training dogs, and their human handlers, to protect against foreign and invasive pests and diseases, collaborating with Federal agencies and stakeholders, ensuring the health and welfare of the dogs at the Centers, and providing opportunities for adoption for retired dogs or those that do not complete the training. Subsection (c) provides the Secretary with the authority to establish additional training centers as well as offsite training programs. Subsection (d) requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress.

Sec. 12004. Regionalization, Zoning, and Compartmentalization Agreements.

Section 12004 amends section 1045 of the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) provides authority to the Administrator of APHIS, the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture, and the Administrator FSIS, in consultation with USTRA, to negotiate in advance regionalization, compartmentalization, and other agreements related to outbreak of known animal disease threats with the governments of countries with livestock export markets from the United States. Subsection (b) is a rule of construction that the provision does not alter the authorities of USTR. Subsection (c) requires that the Secretary promulgate regulations to establish process by which to notify State departments of agriculture, State lead agencies, and national producer groups within 3 days of any language removed from the Import and Export Library at FSIS.

Sec. 12005. Importation of Live Dogs.

Section 12005 adds a new section to the Animal Health Protection Act. Subsection (a) of the new section is the definitions. Subsection (b) prohibits the importation of a dog into the U.S.

unless the importer submits to USDA electronic documentation, before the dog arrives in the U.S., that demonstrates the dog is in good health, it has all necessary vaccinations and parasite treatment, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian, and, if the dog is going to be transferred, proof that the dog is at least 6 months old and is accompanied by an import permit issued by the Secretary. The subsection exempts from such requirement, a dog that is a pet of a person returning the U.S., a U.S. military working dog returning to the U.S., a dog transported for research purposes, a dog transferred for veterinary treatment, a dog less than 6 months old lawfully being transported to Hawaii.

Subsection (d) is a rule of construction related to funding under the Act. Subsection (e) provides the Secretary with enforcement authority and subjects an importer or import transporter to penalties under the Act.

Subsection (b) of section 12005 provides for the continuation of existing regulations during a transition period before the final regulations promulgated for the new section are finalized.

Sec. 12006. Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program.

Section 12006 amends section 209 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to increase the amount of mandatory money available for the Sheep Production and Marketing Grant Program to \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

Sec. 12007. Ensuring the Free Movement of Livestock-Derived Products in Interstate Commerce.

Section 12007 establishes, for producers of meat and poultry, a Federal right to raise and market livestock in interstate commerce. Consequently, the section preempts any State or subdivision from enacting or enforcing as a condition for sale of meat and poultry products any condition or standard that would be in addition to the condition or standard of the State in which the livestock is produced. The term “covered-livestock” means domestic animals raised for slaughter for human consumption and dairy producing animals. The term does not include animals raised for egg production. Further, the section only addresses standards and conditions related to the breeding and raising of livestock. It does not preempt standards or conditions related to the movement, harvesting, or further processing.

Sec. 12008. Report on Support for Livestock and Poultry Producers during a Foreign Animal Disease Outbreak.

Section 12008 requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress documenting the Department’s ability to protect producers from significant economic losses due to a foreign animal disease outbreak. The report should include an assessment of all existing programs and USDA’s capacity to effectively use those programs for the benefit of effected producers, a

determination of existing gaps in USDA’s ability to provide financial support, and recommendations, for changes to the laws to improve protections for producers.

PART 2 – MEAT AND POULTRY PROCESSING AND INSPECITON

Sec. 12111. Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A-Plus)

Subsection (a) of section 12111 require the Secretary to revise the regulations related to financial interest in the livestock industry to allow livestock market agencies to hold an ownership interest in, finance, or participate in the management or operation of a meat packer with a cumulative slaughter capacity of (1) less than 2,000 animals per day or 700,000 animals per year for cattle and sheep, and (2) less than 10,000 animals per day or 3 million animals per year for hogs. Subsection (b) is a saving clause related to the Secretary’s authority under the Packers and Stockyard’s Act.

Sec. 12112. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point Guidance and Resources for Small and Very Small Poultry and Meat Establishments.

Section 12112 amends the Federal Meat Inspection Act to include a new section related to HACCP guidance for small and very small meat and poultry establishments.

Sec. 12113. Outreach on Cooperative Interstate Shipment.

Section 12113 amends section 501 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The section requires the Secretary to, during the periods of 2025 through 2029, conduct outreach to state meat and poultry product inspection programs but not have an establishment selected for interstate shipment. After the 5 year period, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities and results of the outreach conducted.

Sec. 12114. Pilot Program to Support Custom Slaughter Facilities.

Section 12114 provides the authority for a State department of agriculture may operate a pilot program to allow such custom facility to sell slaughtered meat and meat food products (referred to in this section as “meat products”) directly to consumers within the State. In the absence of a State program, an establishment may request the Secretary to operate a pilot program operated by the Secretary. A State may operate more than 5 such facilities within the Sate. A program operated by the Secretary may approve not more than 10 facilities nationwide. The section includes the authority to add more facilities if there had been no emergency action taken in relation to the initial pilot facilities.

The program requires that the meat sold under the pilot program be sold directly to consumers within the State from the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived or the custom exempt facility at which the meat products were processed. The products are not subject to resale. The meat products must further be clearly labeled to indicate the name

and address of the facility at which the meat products were processed, the name and address of the owner of the animals from which such meat products are derived, the location where animals from which such meat products are derived were raised, the date of slaughter of such animals and the period of time over which the owner raised such animals, that such meat products were not subject to Federal inspection, and that such meat products shall not be resold.

The facilities participating in the pilot program must comply with the requirements of the Human Slaughter Methods Act, adulteration and misbranding provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, and applicable state and local laws. Such facilities must also be subject to onsite inspection by USDA as the Secretary determines necessary to ensure compliance and onsite inspection, at least annually, by applicable local authorities.

Facilities that are already subject to Federal inspection are not eligible to participate in the program. The Secretary maintains the authority to take emergency actions if meat products produced under the pilot are found to be adulterated. The section requires State departments of agriculture participating in the pilot to submit to USDA a detailed report related to their pilot programs. Not less than 2 years after initiating the pilot, the Secretary shall report to Congress regarding the pilot program.

SUBTITLE B—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1994

Section 12201. Office of Homeland Security.

Section 12201 amends section 221 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) adds an additional duty to the Executive Director of Homeland Security to conduct annual cross-sector crisis simulation exercises related to a food-related emergency or disruption. Paragraph (2) adds two new subsections ((f) and (g)) to section 221. New subsection 221(f) permits the Secretary to detail employees to and from the USDA and the intelligence community to assist in carrying out the duties of the Office of Homeland Security. New subsection 221(g) requires the Secretary to conduct and submit to Congress reports on the risks and security vulnerabilities to the food and agriculture critical infrastructure sector.

Section 12202. Farm Service Agency.

Section 12202 amends section 226 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Subsection (a) strikes the ability of the Secretary to assign to the Farm Service Agency jurisdiction over certain conservation programs. Subsection (b) is a conforming amendment.

Section 12203. Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement

Section 12203 amends section 226B of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 by reauthorizing it appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12204. Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Section 12203 amends section 228 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. Paragraph (1) authorizes The Secretary to assign to the Natural Resources Conservation Services certain conservation programs. Paragraph (2) extends the sunset provision relating to field offices through 2029.

Section 12205. Burden of Proof

Section 12205 amends section 227 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, switching the burden of proof for national appeals division hearings from the appellant needing to show the adverse decision of the agency was erroneous, to requiring the agency to bear the burden of proving by substantial evidence that the adverse decision was valid.

Section 12206. Termination of Authority

Section 12206 amends section 296 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide the Secretary the authority to reorganize the Department of Agriculture pursuant to amendments made by the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

Section 12207. Functions of the Office of Tribal Relations.

Section 12207 amends section 309 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to allow the Secretary to oversee self-determination contracts and self-governance compacts entered into between the Secretary and Indian tribes.

Section 12208. Office of the Ombudsman

Section 12208 adds a new section to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 creating an Office of the Ombudsman independent of the USDA for the purpose of assisting producers and customers of USDA programs navigate the civil rights review process. Subsection (g) authorizes \$1,000,000 a year through fiscal year 2025.

SUBTITLE C—NATIONAL SECURITY

Sec. 12301. Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Improvements.

Section 12301 includes improvement to the AFIDA disclosures at USDA. Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to enter into an MOU with CIFUS. Subsection in order to provide CIFUS with all relevant information related to the reports on foreign ownership in agricultural land in the U.S. the Secretary conducts pursuant to AFIDA. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to update the most recent version of the FSA handbook entitle “Foreign Investment Disclosure: and incorporate the recommendations made by the GAO report entitles “Foreign Investments in U.S. Agricultural Land: Enhancing Efforts to Collect, Track, and Share Key Information Could Better Identify National Security Risks.” After the initial update, the Secretary shall carry out an update of the handbook every 10 years.

Subsection (d) amends section 3 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. The subsection expands the actions for which a person can be subject to a civil penalty to include knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all of the required information. The subsection further adds a penalty floor of not less than 5 percent but not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for knowingly submitting a report that does not contain all the required information or contains information that is misleading or false. It maintains the penalty of not more than 25 percent of the fair market value of the interest on the land for failing to file a report.

Subsection (e) adds a new subsection to section 3 that requires the Secretary to publicly disclose the name of any person who has paid a civil penalty after the completion of an appeal if there was one. Subsection (f) adds a new subsection to section 3 requiring the Secretary to carryout a nationwide outreach program to increase public awareness of the reporting requirements an provide education.

Sec. 12302. Report on Agricultural Land Purchasing Activities in the United States by Countries Designated as State Sponsors of Terrorism and Certain Other Countries.

Subsection (a) of section 12302 is the definition section, including the definitions for “covered foreign country” and “state sponsor of terrorism.” Subsection (b) requires the Secretary submit an annual report to Congress describing the national security risks of the purchase and management of agricultural land by covered foreign persons.

Sec. 12303. Investigative Actions.

Section 12303 amends section 4 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978. Subsection (a) expands the requirements for investigative actions under section 4. Subsection (a) of the new section 4 requires the Secretary to appoint an employee of USDA to serve as Chief of Operations of Investigative Actions who, in turn, shall hire additional employees to monitor compliance with AFIDA.

Subsection (b) of the new section 4 provides that the Chief of Operations may serve in another position at USDA concurrently. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to provide classified storage and meeting space and assist personnel in obtaining security clearance.

Subsection (d) of the new section 4 enumerates the duties of the Chief of Operations, including monitoring compliance with AFIDA, referring noncompliance to FSA, conducting investigations with DOJ, FBI, Treasury, and the National Security Council, conduct annual audits, refer transactions to CIFUS, and publish reports. Subsection (e) establishes that the Chief of Operations reports to the Secretary or, if delegated by the Secretary to the Administrator of FSA or the Director of the Department of Agriculture Office of Homeland Security.

Subsection (b) of section 12302 amends section 9 of the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to provide for new definitions for AFIDA, including the term “foreign entity of concern” and “malign effort.”

Sec. 12304. Digitization and Consolidation of Foreign Land Ownership Data Collection and Publication.

Subsection (a) is the definitions section. Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures made pursuant to AFIDA. Subsection (c) requires the Secretary to develop a database of agricultural land owned by foreign persons. Subsection (d) requires that each entry in the database include pertinent information about the transaction except for the name of the filer and the purchase or lease price of the transaction. Subsection (e) requires the Chief of Operations to annually audit the database and submit a report to Congress evaluating the accuracy of the data and describing recommendations for improving compliance with AFIDA reporting. Subsection (f) provides \$10,000,000 to remain available until expended to carry out the requirements of the section.

SUBTITLE D—OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 12401. Thrifty Food Plan

Section 12401 amends section 3(u) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to provide a cost neutrality provision that would prevent the Secretary from increasing the cost of the thrifty food plan based on a reevaluation or update of market baskets, which under section 12401 may not occur more frequently than every 5 years. Section 12401 also requires the Secretary to publish in the Federal Register with an opportunity for comment a notice prior to any update of the thrifty food plan market baskets. Under section 3(u)(4), the Secretary would be required to adjust the cost of the thrifty food plan to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.

Section 12402. Establishment of Dietary Guidelines

Section 12402 amends section 301 of the National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990. Subsections (a)(1) and (3) require the Secretaries of Agriculture and HHS to jointly publish Dietary Guidelines as necessary, based on updated Dietary Reference Intake values, but at least once every 10 years. Current law requires the Guidelines be published at least once every 5 years.

Subsection (a)(2) increases the level of scientific agreement required for information to be included in the report from a mere preponderance of current scientific and medical knowledge to “significant scientific agreement determined by evidence-based review”, among other requirements.

Subsection (a)(4) creates an Independent Advisory Board, consisting of equal bi-partisan membership with expertise in nutrition science, tasked with providing questions to the Secretaries to guide them towards publishing necessary and accurate information and guidelines in the report.

Subsection (a)(6) excludes the Secretaries from being permitted to publish in the report information or topics not relevant to dietary guidance, including taxation, social welfare policies, purchases under Federal feeding programs, food and agricultural production practices, food labeling, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, or regulations relating to nutrition.

Subsection (a)(9) provides \$5,000,000 in mandatory funding from the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, for each fiscal year through 2029.

Subsection (b) would nullify the soon-to-be-published 2025 Dietary Guidelines, and would make the 2020 Dietary Guidelines continue to be current and controlling until the publication of a report made in accordance with the amendments of Section 12402 of the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024.

Sec. 12403. Organic or Non-Organic Whole Milk Permissible

Section 12403 amends section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act. Paragraph (1) allows school lunches to offer whole milk. Paragraph (2) stipulates the milk fat shall not be considered saturated fat for purposes of measuring compliance with the allowable average saturated fat content of a meal. Paragraph (2) also prohibits schools participating in the school lunch program from purchasing or offering milk produced by China state-owned enterprises.

Sec. 12404. Commission on Farm Transitions—Needs for 2050

Section 12404 amends section 12609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, making changes to study and reporting requirements, and extends the Commission through September 30, 2028.

Sec. 12405. Report on Personnel

Section 12405 amends Section 12506 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 by extending the years a report on personnel is required through 2029.

Section 12406. Improvements to United States Drought Monitor

Section 12406 amends Section 12512 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, extending authorization of appropriations to enhance the U.S. Drought Monitor through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12407. Agricultural Fiber Products Trust Fund.

Section 12407 combines the authorities of the Wool Apparel Manufacturers Trust Fund, the Pima Agricultural Cotton Trust Fund and the Wool Research and Promotion Trust Fund into the Agricultural Fiber Products Trust Fund. The new trust fund is funded through the CCC at \$50,000,000 for each calendar year 2025 through 2029. The funding is distributed among the three activities as follows: \$17,750,000 each calendar year for the Wool Apparel Manufacturers; \$30,000,000 each calendar year for the Pima Agricultural Cotton; and \$2,250,000 each calendar year for Wool Research and Promotion.

Section 12408. Reports on Land Access and Farmland Ownership Data Collection

Section 12408 amends Section 12607 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Paragraph (1)(A) requires that a Report be submitted to Congress at least once every 2 years. Paragraph (1)(B) adds information required to be addressed in the Report.

Paragraph (2) extends the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2029.

Section 12409. Increasing Transparency Regarding Detention of Imported Plants.

Section 12409 requires the Secretary to issue guidance to clarify the process by which an importer of plants that has been denied entry into the United States and detained under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.) may obtain additional information on such denial and detention.

Sec. 12410. Enhancement of Pet Protections.

Subsection (a) requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress that evaluates the enforcement standards under the Animal Welfare Act for effectiveness and efficiency, the efforts by the Secretary to educate and advise dealers of the standards and requirements of that Act, the capacity of the Secretary to enforce the standards of that Act, and to make recommendations on how to improve while considering the impact and costs.

Subsection (b) amends section 12 of the Animal Welfare Act to require the Secretary to promulgate regulations necessary for during the inspection process to provide for the notification of State law enforcement officials or State animal health officials of such inspection, and consider the immediate confiscation of a dog if the dog is determined to be in a state of

unrelieved suffering. The subsection further adds a definition of “unrelieved suffering” to the definitions section.

Sec. 12411. Protecting Animals with Shelter.

Section 12411 amends section 12502 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 to extend the PAWS Act through fiscal year 2029.

Sec. 12412. Report on Available Assistance to Agricultural Producers in the State of Texas that Have Suffered Losses Due to the Failure of Mexico to Deliver Water.

Section 12414 required the Secretary to submit to Congress a report that lists all existing authorities of the Secretary and programs within USDA that could be used to provide assistance to agricultural producers in Texas that have losses due to the failure of Mexico to deliver water to the U.S. in accordance with international treaty obligations.

Section 12413. Experienced Services Program

Section 12413 allows the Secretary to use the talents of individuals who are age 55 or older, but who are not employees of the Department or a State agriculture department, to provide technical, professional, and administrative services in support of programs and authorities in each mission area of the Department, other than programs and authorities of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Forest Service.

Section 12414. Agricultural Labor Survey

Section 12414 provides data and reporting requirements to the Secretary in carrying out the Agricultural Labor Survey, including an analysis regarding agricultural labor costs and the effects of the Adverse Effect Wage Rule.

Section 12415. Extension of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000

Section 12415 amends the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. Subsection (a) amends sections 101 and 103, extending state and county payment calculations through fiscal year 2026, including in California.

Subsection (b)(1) amends section 205 by lengthening the time for an advisory committee to be deemed a resource advisory committee if it is established before December 20, 2026, from December 20, 2023, in current law. Subsection (b)(2) amends section 208 by extending the authority to initiate and fund projects by 3 years, to September 30, 2028, and 2029, respectively.

Subsection (c) amends section 305 by extending the authority to expend county funds; extending the time to initiate projects and spend county funds by 3 years, to September 30, 2028, and 2029, respectively

Section 12416. Commodity Futures Trading Commission Whistleblower Program

Section 12416 amends section 1(b) of Public Law 117–25, extending the CFTC Whistleblower fund 2 years through October 1, 2026.

Sec. 12417. Qualified Renewable Biomass.

Section 12417 requires the Secretary to consider qualified renewable biomass to be a renewable energy source and assign it (and a facility, to the extent it uses qualified renewable biomass as fuel) a greenhouse gas emission rate, and a carbon intensity, of not greater than zero, if the use of such qualified renewable biomass as fuel does not cause the conversion of forests to non-forest use.