

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7606

To establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters
within the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2022

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish the Office of the Special Investigator for
Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Meat and Poultry Spe-
5 cial Investigator Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COM-**
7 **PETITION MATTERS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Department of Agriculture
9 Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after
10 section 216 (7 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

1 **“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR**
2 **COMPETITION MATTERS.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
4 Department an office, to be known as the ‘Office of the
5 Special Investigator for Competition Matters’ (referred to
6 in this section as the ‘Office’).

7 “(b) SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPETITION
8 MATTERS.—The Office shall be headed by the Special In-
9 vestigator for Competition Matters (referred to in this sec-
10 tion as the ‘Special Investigator’), who shall be appointed
11 by the Secretary.

12 “(c) DUTIES.—The Special Investigator shall—

13 “(1) use all available tools, including subpoenas,
14 to investigate and prosecute violations of the Pack-
15 ers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et
16 seq.), by packers and live poultry dealers with re-
17 spect to competition and trade practices in the food
18 and agriculture sector;

19 “(2) serve as a Department liaison to, and act
20 in consultation with, the Department of Justice and
21 the Federal Trade Commission with respect to com-
22 petition and trade practices in the food and agricul-
23 tural sector;

24 “(3) act in consultation with the Department of
25 Homeland Security with respect to national security

1 and critical infrastructure security in the food and
2 agricultural sector; and

3 “(4) maintain a staff of attorneys and other
4 professionals with appropriate expertise.

5 “(d) PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding title 28,
7 United States Code, the Special Investigator shall
8 have the authority to bring any civil or administra-
9 tive action authorized under the Packers and Stock-
10 yards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), against a
11 packer.

12 “(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section alters
13 the authority of the Secretary to issue a subpoena
14 pursuant to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921
15 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).”.

16 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of
17 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
18 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end
19 the following:

20 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
21 out section 217.”.

22 (c) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Subtitle A of the De-
23 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is

1 amended by redesignating the first section 225 (relating
2 to Food Access Liaison) (7 U.S.C. 6925) as section 224A.

○