

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3687

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

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

Mr. FORTENBERRY (for himself and Ms. FUDGE) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

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

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Farm to School Act  
5 of 2017”.

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

8 Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National  
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended—  
10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking the paragraph designation  
2 and heading and all that follows through “In  
3 this subsection, the” and inserting the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

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

10 “(B) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesign-  
12 nated), by inserting “, including the summer  
13 food service program for children under section  
14 13 and the early care and afterschool portions  
15 of the child and adult care food program under  
16 section 17,” after “under this Act”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and non-  
18 profit entities through grants and technical assist-  
19 ance” and inserting “land-grant colleges and univer-  
20 sities, and nonprofit entities through grants, tech-  
21 nical assistance, and research”;

22 (3) in paragraph (3)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

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

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

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

6 “(vi) implementing agricultural lit-  
7 eracy and nutrition education;”; and

8 (B) by striking subparagraph (C) and in-  
9 serting the following:

10 “(C) IMPROVED PROCUREMENT AND DIS-  
11 TRIBUTION.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding  
13 grants under this subsection, the Secretary  
14 shall seek to improve local food procure-  
15 ment and distribution options for agricul-  
16 tural producers and eligible schools.

17 “(ii) AGGREGATION, PROCESSING,  
18 TRANSPORTATION, AND DISTRIBUTION.—  
19 In advancing local food procurement op-  
20 tions and other farm to school objectives,  
21 the Secretary may provide funding for  
22 projects that include innovative approaches  
23 to aggregation, processing, transportation,  
24 and distribution.

25 “(D) AWARDS.—

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

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

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

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

16          (4) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18           (5) in paragraph (7)—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25           “(B) REVIEW.—

1           “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1  
2           year after the date of enactment of the  
3           Farm to School Act of 2017 and every 3  
4           years thereafter, the Secretary shall review  
5           and submit to the Committee on Agri-  
6           culture and the Committee on Education  
7           and the Workforce of the House of Rep-  
8           resentatives and the Committee on Agri-  
9           culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the  
10          Senate a report that describes the progress  
11          that has been made in identifying and  
12          eliminating regulatory and other barriers  
13          related to developing farm to school pro-  
14          grams.

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

17                  “(I) the direct and indirect regu-  
18                  latory compliance costs affecting the  
19                  production and marketing of locally or  
20                  regionally produced agricultural food  
21                  products to school food programs; and

22                  “(II) barriers to local and re-  
23                  gional market access for small-scale  
24                  production.”;

25                  (6) in paragraph (8)—

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

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

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

10 (7) in paragraph (9), by striking “2011  
11 through 2015” and inserting “2017 through 2022”.

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