

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4103

To amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2021

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

A BILL

To amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters, 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 “Meat and Poultry Spe-
5 cial Investigator Act”.

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

8 The Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, is amended
9 by inserting after section 415 (7 U.S.C. 228d) the fol-
10 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 416. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR**
2 **COMPETITION MATTERS.**

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

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

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

14 “(1) use all available tools, including subpoenas,
15 to investigate and prosecute violations of this Act;

16 “(2) serve as a Department of Agriculture liai-
17 son to, and act in consultation with, the Department
18 of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission with
19 respect to competition and trade practices in the
20 food and agricultural sector;

21 “(3) act in consultation with the Department of
22 Homeland Security with respect to national security
23 and critical infrastructure security in the food and
24 agricultural sector; and

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

1 “(d) PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY.—Notwith-
2 standing title 28, United States Code, the Special Investi-
3 gator shall have the authority to bring any civil or admin-
4 istrative action authorized under this Act.”.

○