

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6661

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants.

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 “Strengthening Rural
5 Cooperatives and Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RURAL COOPERATIVE DE-**
7 **VELOPMENT GRANTS.**

8 Section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural
9 Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(e)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the
2 following:

3 “(C) COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The
4 term ‘cooperative development’ means activities
5 including outreach, education, training, and
6 technical assistance, to support the startup, ex-
7 pansion, or ongoing sustainability of new and
8 existing cooperatives.”;

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, and award
10 maximum points in scoring criteria to applicants
11 that satisfy the requirements of paragraph (5)(F),”
12 before “if the plan”;

13 (3) in paragraph (5), by striking subparagraph
14 (D) and inserting the following:

15 “(D) commit to providing technical assist-
16 ance and other services to socially vulnerable,
17 underserved, or distressed communities;”;

18 (4) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “If the
19 Secretary determines it to be in the best interest of
20 the program, the” and inserting “The”;

21 (5) in paragraph (10), by adding at the end the
22 following: “The Secretary shall analyze the data re-
23 sulting from the research, and include the data and
24 the analysis in the annual report submitted by the
25 interagency working group under paragraph (12).”;

1 (6) in paragraph (12), by adding at the end the
2 following: “Not later than 180 days after the date
3 of the enactment of this sentence and annually
4 thereafter, the interagency working group shall sub-
5 mit to the Congress a report describing the activities
6 carried out by the working group.”; and

7 (7) in paragraph (13), by striking “2014
8 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

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