

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8765

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2024

Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Ms. LOFGREN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 with respect to emergency assistance for farm workers, 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 “Disaster Relief for  
5 Farm Workers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FARM WORKERS.**

7 Section 2281 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation,  
8 and Trade Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 5177a) is amended  
9 to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 2281. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR FARM WORKERS.**

2       “(a) EMERGENCY RELIEF.—For fiscal year 2024 and  
3 each succeeding fiscal year, during any period where the  
4 Secretary determines there is a covered disaster, the Sec-  
5 retary, acting through the Under Secretary for Rural De-  
6 velopment, shall make grants to eligible farm worker orga-  
7 nizations to provide emergency relief to farm workers af-  
8 fected by such covered disaster.

9       “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible farm worker orga-  
10 nization may use funds received pursuant to a grant  
11 awarded under subsection (a) to—

12           “(1) provide emergency relief (including  
13 through direct distribution of funding) to farm  
14 workers to address loss and damage due to a covered  
15 disaster;

16           “(2) build capacity to provide such emergency  
17 relief;

18           “(3) build resiliency in farm worker commu-  
19 nities to address future losses and damages due to  
20 covered disasters;

21           “(4) provide infrastructure support, including  
22 shelter; and

23           “(5) provide emergency services (including such  
24 types of assistance the Secretary determines appro-  
25 priate) to farm workers in response to a covered dis-  
26 aster.

1       “(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Any funds provided  
2 to an eligible farm worker organization under this section  
3 shall remain available until expended.

4       “(d) PROMOTIONAL PLAN.—The Secretary shall de-  
5 velop and execute a promotional plan prior to, and  
6 throughout the distribution of, emergency relief grants  
7 under subsection (a).

8       “(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,  
9 the Secretary shall consult with eligible farm worker orga-  
10 nizations.

11       “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

12               “(1) COVERED DISASTER.—The term ‘covered  
13 disaster’ means—

14                       “(A) an adverse weather event, such as a  
15 drought, wildfire, earthquake, hurricane, flood,  
16 derecho, excessive heat, tornado, winter storm,  
17 freeze, hail, polar vortex, smoke exposure, or ex-  
18 cessive moisture;

19                       “(B) an unexpected health crisis, such as  
20 a pandemic; and

21                       “(C) such other event or condition—

22                               “(i) that has caused farm workers to  
23 lose income, be unable to work, or stay  
24 home or return home in anticipation of  
25 work shortages; or

1                   “(ii) as the Secretary determines ap-  
2                   propriate.

3                   “(2) ELIGIBLE FARM WORKER ORGANIZA-  
4                   TION.—The term ‘eligible farm worker organization’  
5                   means an organization that is—

6                   “(A) a farm worker membership-based or-  
7                   ganization; or

8                   “(B) an organization—

9                   “(i) described in section 501(c)(3) of  
10                  the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is  
11                  exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
12                  of such Code; and

13                  “(ii) that has experience in providing  
14                  support or relief services to farm workers,  
15                  including migrant or seasonal farm work-  
16                  ers.

17                  “(3) MIGRANT OR SEASONAL FARM WORKER.—  
18                  The term ‘migrant or seasonal farm worker’ means  
19                  an individual—

20                  “(A) who has, during any consecutive 12-  
21                  month period within the preceding 24-month  
22                  period, performed farm work for wages; and

23                  “(B) who has received not less than one-  
24                  half of such individual’s total income, or been

- 1 employed at least one-half of total work time in
- 2 farm work.”.

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