

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9019

To establish a uniform definition of “rural area” for all rural development programs administered by the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2024

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a uniform definition of “rural area” for all rural development programs administered by 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 “Rural Area Population
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNIFORM DEFINITION OF “RURAL AREA” FOR USDA**
2 **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 343(a)(13) of the Consoli-
4 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
5 1991(a)(13)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “urban-
7 ized” and insert “urban”;

8 (2) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C);

9 (3) in subparagraph (D)—

10 (A) by striking “(F)” each place it appears
11 and inserting “(D)”; and

12 (B) in clause (i), by striking “urbanized”
13 each place it appears and inserting “urban”;

14 (4) in subparagraph (E), by striking “urban-
15 ized” and inserting “urban”;

16 (5) in subparagraph (F)—

17 (A) in clause (i)(II), by striking “urban-
18 ized” and inserting “urban”; and

19 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “consider—
20 ” and all that follows and inserting “consider
21 an area described in clause (i)(I) not to be a
22 rural area for purposes of subparagraph (A).”;
23 and

24 (6) by redesignating subparagraphs (D)
25 through (I) as subparagraphs (B) through (G), re-
26 spectively.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE RURAL
2 ELECTRIFICATION ACT OF 1936.—

3 (1) Section 13(3) of the Rural Electrification
4 Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 913(3)) is amended—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “(C)”
6 each place it appears and inserting “(A)”; and

7 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 “loan” and inserting “loan, or has had a loan,”
9 before “made under”.

10 (2) Section 203(b) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
11 924(b)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(b) In this title, the term ‘rural area’ shall have the
13 meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consoli-
14 dated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
15 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

16 (3) Section 601(b)(3) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
17 950bb(b)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ shall
19 have the meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A)
20 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
21 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

22 (4) Section 604(a)(4) of such Act (7 U.S.C.
23 950bb–3(a)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(4) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’ shall
25 have the meaning given the term in 343(a)(13)(A)

1 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development
2 Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)(A)).”.

3 (c) HOUSING PROVISIONS.—Section 520 of the Hous-
4 ing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490) is amended—

5 (1) by striking the first sentence and inserting
6 the following: “(a) IN GENERAL.—As used in this
7 title, the term ‘rural area’ shall have the meaning
8 given the term in 343(a)(13)(A) of the Consolidated
9 Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C.
10 1991(a)(13)(A)).”;

11 (2) by striking “For purposes of this title” and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(b) LEGACY AREAS.—For purposes of this title”;

14 (3) by striking “, and the city” and all that fol-
15 lows through “year 2000”; and

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

17 “(c) RURAL DEFINED.—As used in this title, the
18 term ‘rural’ shall have the meaning given the term ‘rural
19 area’ in subsection (a).”.

20 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
21 this Act shall take effect 180 days after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act.

1 (e) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary of Agriculture
2 shall prescribe such rules as are necessary with respect
3 to implementing the amendments made by this Act.

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