

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5138

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Ms. PINGREE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, 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 “Agriculture Skills
5 Preparation for Industry Recruitment Efforts Act” or the
6 “ASPIRE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING PROGRAM**
 2 **GRANTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501(d) of the Food, Ag-
 4 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.
 5 2279(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(16) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING
 7 PROGRAM GRANTS.—

8 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE
 10 TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ‘agri-
 11 culture workforce training program’ means
 12 a training program developed by an eligible
 13 institution in collaboration with a targeted
 14 industry partner through which students
 15 enrolled at that eligible institution receive
 16 training from that targeted industry part-
 17 ner, including through—

18 “(I) internships;

19 “(II) apprenticeships;

20 “(III) experience-based curricula;

21 and

22 “(IV) educational programs and
 23 workshops to promote technical skills.

24 “(ii) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The
 25 term ‘eligible institution’ means—

1 “(I) an 1862 Institution (as de-
2 fined in section 2 of the Agricultural
3 Research, Extension, and Education
4 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

5 “(II) an 1890 Institution (as de-
6 fined in that section);

7 “(III) a 1994 Institution (as de-
8 fined in section 532 of the Equity in
9 Educational Land-Grant Status Act
10 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public
11 Law 103–382));

12 “(IV) a non-land-grant college of
13 agriculture (as defined in section
14 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
15 search, Extension, and Teaching Pol-
16 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

17 “(V) Hispanic-serving agricul-
18 tural colleges and universities (as de-
19 fined in that section);

20 “(VI) a center of excellence rec-
21 ognized under section 1673;

22 “(VII) a junior or community
23 college (as defined in section 312 of
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 1058)) that offers a program
2 of study in agriculture; and

3 “(VIII) an area career and tech-
4 nical education school (as defined in
5 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-
6 reer and Technical Education Act of
7 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a
8 program of study in agriculture.

9 “(iii) TARGETED INDUSTRY PART-
10 NER.—The term ‘targeted industry part-
11 ner’ means 1 or more of the following enti-
12 ties:

13 “(I) A member of the agriculture
14 industry, such as a company or indus-
15 try association.

16 “(II) An apprenticeship program
17 in agriculture registered under the
18 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly
19 known as the ‘National Apprentice-
20 ship Act’) (50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;
21 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

22 “(III) A nonprofit organization
23 that aims to help individuals gain em-
24 ployment in the agriculture industry.

1 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The
2 Secretary, acting through the Director of the
3 National Institute of Food and Agriculture,
4 shall award grants in accordance with this sub-
5 section to eligible institutions to develop and
6 carry out agriculture workforce training pro-
7 grams—

8 “(i) to promote the growth of the ag-
9 riculture industry;

10 “(ii) to foster competitiveness within
11 the agriculture industry; and

12 “(iii) to improve the training and re-
13 tention of workers in the agriculture indus-
14 try.

15 “(C) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible
16 institution awarded a grant under this para-
17 graph shall use not less than 5 percent of the
18 funds received through the grant to carry out
19 an agriculture workforce training program, in-
20 cluding—

21 “(i) preliminary recruitment measures
22 to encourage students to participate in the
23 agriculture workforce training program;
24 and

1 “(ii) professional development sessions
2 to train faculty to prepare students for em-
3 ployment in the agriculture industry.”.

4 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than January 31,
5 2026, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement para-
6 graph (16) of section 2501(d) of the Food, Agriculture,
7 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(d))
8 (as added by subsection (a)).

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