

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8251

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to the tree assistance program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2026

Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mr. PANETTA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 with respect to
the tree assistance program, 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 “Protecting America’s
5 Orchardists and Nursery Tree Growers Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. TREE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1501(e)(1) of the Agri-
8 cultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(1)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “or bien-
10 nial” after “annual”; and

1 (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or pest”
2 after “insect”.

3 (b) ECONOMIC VIABILITY.—Section 1501(e)(2)(A) of
4 the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)(2)(A)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by strik-
7 ing “provide” and all that follows through “under
8 paragraph (3) to” and inserting “provide assistance
9 under paragraph (3) to”;

10 (2) in clause (i)—

11 (A) by inserting “, regardless of production
12 history,” after “growers”;

13 (B) by inserting “, or the trees no longer
14 produce an economically viable crop,” after “the
15 trees”; and

16 (C) by striking “; and” and inserting a pe-
17 riod; and

18 (3) by striking clause (ii).

19 (c) ASSISTANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricul-
20 tural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended—

21 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (3)(A),
22 by striking “and (5)” and inserting “, (5), and (6)”;
23 and

24 (2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
25 following new subparagraph:

1 “(C) ACREAGE LIMITATION ADJUST-
2 MENTS.—The Secretary shall have discretion to
3 modify or waive, in whole or in part, the acre-
4 age limitation described under subparagraph
5 (B), as the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

6 (d) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASSIST-
7 ANCE.—Section 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014
8 (7 U.S.C. 9081(e)) is amended by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(6) TIMING REQUIREMENT.—As a condition
11 for receiving assistance under this subsection, an eli-
12 gible orchardist or nursery tree grower shall agree to
13 carry out any activity for which such assistance is
14 provided not later than—

15 “(A) 2 years after the date on which the
16 Secretary notifies such eligible orchardist or
17 nursery tree grower of an approval under para-
18 graph (9); or

19 “(B) if the period described under sub-
20 paragraph (A) is not adequate for tree survival,
21 at such time as is necessary to ensure tree sur-
22 vival.

23 “(7) ALTERNATIVES FOR REPLANTING
24 TREES.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible orchardist
2 or nursery tree grower receiving assistance
3 under this subsection may use such assistance
4 to replant using—

5 “(i) an alternative variety of tree from
6 the variety planted prior to the tree loss
7 for which such assistance is provided;

8 “(ii) an alternative stand density from
9 the stand density planted prior to such
10 loss; and

11 “(iii) an alternative location from the
12 location in which such loss occurred.

13 “(B) COST SHARE LIMITATIONS WITH RE-
14 SPECT TO ALTERNATIVES.—The assistance pro-
15 vided under this subsection to an eligible or-
16 chardist or nursery tree grower shall be in an
17 amount that is not greater than the amount
18 such eligible orchardist or nursery tree grower
19 would receive if such eligible orchardist or nurs-
20 ery tree grower replanted using—

21 “(i) for an alternative described under
22 subparagraph (A)(i), the variety of tree
23 planted prior to the tree loss for which
24 such assistance is provided;

1 “(ii) for an alternative described
2 under subparagraph (A)(ii), the stand den-
3 sity planted prior to such loss; and

4 “(iii) for an alternative described
5 under subparagraph (A)(iii), the location
6 in which such loss occurred.”.

7 (e) NOTICE OF APPLICATION STATUS.—Section
8 1501(e) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C.
9 9801(e)) is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(9) NOTICE OF APPLICATION STATUS.—Not
12 later than 120 days after receiving an application
13 for assistance under this subsection, the Secretary
14 shall—

15 “(A) approve or deny such application; and

16 “(B) notify the applicant of such approval
17 or denial.”.

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