

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3637

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 14, 2026

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to reauthorize the Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority, 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 “Advancing Cutting
5 Edge Agriculture Act of 2026” or the “ACE Agriculture
6 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. AGRICULTURE ADVANCED RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT AUTHORITY.**

3 Section 1473H of the National Agricultural Re-
4 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
5 U.S.C. 3319k) is amended—

6 (1) in the section heading, by striking
7 **“PILOT”**;

8 (2) in subsection (a)(6)(A), by striking “grow-
9 ing,” and inserting “growing (including water con-
10 servation technologies and innovation),”;

11 (3) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) by striking “pilot program” each place
13 it appears and inserting “program”;

14 (B) in paragraph (2)—

15 (i) in subparagraph (B)—

16 (I) by inserting “the long-term
17 and high-risk technological” before
18 “barriers”; and

19 (II) by striking “and resilience to
20 extreme weather;” and inserting
21 “water conservation, the reduction,
22 avoidance, sequestration, or mitigation
23 of greenhouse gas emissions from the
24 agriculture sector, and resilience to
25 extreme weather, drought, infectious

1 diseases, plant and animal pathogens,
2 and plant and animal pests;” and

3 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
4 “or economic cost” before the period at the
5 end;

6 (C) in paragraph (3)(B)—

7 (i) in clause (ii), in the matter pre-
8 ceding subclause (I), by striking “advise
9 the Chief Scientist on, and”; and

10 (ii) by striking clause (iii) and insert-
11 ing the following:

12 “(iii) RELATIONSHIP WITHIN THE DE-
13 PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—

14 “(I) CHIEF SCIENTIST.—The Di-
15 rector shall work in close collaboration
16 with the Office of the Chief Scientist.

17 “(II) OTHER PROGRAMS.—No
18 other official who is the head of any
19 other program of the Department of
20 Agriculture shall report to the Direc-
21 tor.”; and

22 (D) in paragraph (9), by striking the para-
23 graph designation and heading and all that fol-
24 lows through “In carrying out” and inserting
25 the following:

1 “(9) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
3 tablish and maintain within the AGARDA a
4 staff with sufficient qualifications and expertise
5 to enable the AGARDA to carry out the respon-
6 sibilities of the AGARDA under this section in
7 conjunction with other operations of the De-
8 partment of Agriculture.

9 “(B) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL AU-
10 THORITIES.—In carrying out”;

11 (4) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the
12 following:

13 “(4) USE OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The Secretary
14 shall use the strategic plan developed under para-
15 graph (1) and dated 2022 to inform the administra-
16 tion of the AGARDA under this section.”;

17 (5) in subsection (d)—

18 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) of
19 paragraph (2) as paragraph (5), indenting ap-
20 propriately, and moving the paragraph so as to
21 appear after paragraph (3);

22 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking
23 “\$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019
24 through 2023” and inserting “\$100,000,000
25 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;

1 (C) by inserting after paragraph (3) the
2 following:

3 “(4) OTHER FUNDING.—In addition to amounts
4 otherwise made available to carry out this section,
5 the Secretary may use to carry out this section other
6 unobligated funds available to the Secretary for any
7 other purpose.”; and

8 (D) in paragraph (5) (as redesignated by
9 subparagraph (A)), by striking “this para-
10 graph” and inserting “paragraph (2) or (4)”;
11 and
12 (6) by striking subsection (e).

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