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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase payments for drought-resilient or water-saving practices and to provide additional payments for perennial production systems, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to increase payments for drought-resilient or water-saving practices and to provide additional payments for perennial production systems, 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 “Support Water-Effi-  
5       cient Strategies and Technologies Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT-RESILIENT AND WATER-**  
2 **SAVING PRACTICES.**

3 (a) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR DROUGHT-RESIL-  
4 IENT OR WATER-SAVING PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)  
5 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–  
6 2(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 “(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR DROUGHT-RE-  
8 SILIENT OR WATER-SAVING PRACTICES.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding para-  
10 graph (2), in the case of a practice described in  
11 subparagraph (B), the Secretary may increase  
12 the amount that would otherwise be provided  
13 for a practice under this subsection to not more  
14 than 85 percent of the costs associated with  
15 planning, design, materials, equipment, installa-  
16 tion, labor, management, maintenance, or train-  
17 ing.

18 “(B) PRACTICES.—The practices eligible  
19 for increased payment amounts under subpara-  
20 graph (A) are the following:

21 “(i) Drought-resilient practices that  
22 have the capacity to develop and produce  
23 on water-deficient environments on eligible  
24 lands, as determined by the Secretary.

25 “(ii) Conservation practices that—

1 “(I) conserve surface water or  
2 groundwater that result in a reduction  
3 of water use in the agricultural oper-  
4 ation of an eligible land;

5 “(II) offer support to reduce run-  
6 off and increase the absorption of rain  
7 on eligible land; or

8 “(III) work in concert to transi-  
9 tion an operation from irrigated pro-  
10 duction to a non-irrigated, dry land  
11 farming system.”.

12 **SEC. 3. SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CON-**  
13 **SERVING MANAGEMENT.**

14 (a) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS.—Sec-  
15 tion 1240L(c) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16  
16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(c)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (1)—

18 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “on  
19 1 or more land uses covered by the contract”  
20 after “activities”; and

21 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “im-  
22 proving, maintaining, and managing” and in-  
23 serting “maintaining, actively managing, and  
24 improving”; and

25 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by amending subparagraph (B) to read  
2 as follows:

3 “(B) Income forgone by the producer, in-  
4 cluding amounts that reflect—

5 “(i) increased economic risk; and

6 “(ii) loss in revenue due to—

7 “(I) production changes;

8 “(II) anticipated reductions in  
9 yield;

10 “(III) transitions to a resource-  
11 conserving cropping or grazing, or pe-  
12 rennial production systems; or

13 “(IV) acreage converted to con-  
14 serving uses.”; and

15 (B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “,  
16 actively managed, and, where applicable, im-  
17 proved” after “maintained”.

18 (b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-  
19 CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING  
20 MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security  
21 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(d)) is amended—

22 (1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “,  
23 PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS,” after “ROTA-  
24 TIONS”;

25 (2) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as  
2 subparagraph (D); and

3 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (B)  
4 the following:

5 “(C) PERENNIAL PRODUCTION SYSTEM.—

6 The term ‘perennial production system’  
7 means—

8 “(i) the use of cropland for agro-  
9 forestry, including alley cropping,  
10 silvopasture, and related perennial produc-  
11 tion systems, as determined by the Sec-  
12 retary;

13 “(ii) the use of woodland acres for  
14 agroforestry, including forest farming,  
15 multi-story cropping, and related perennial  
16 production systems, as determined by the  
17 Secretary; and

18 “(iii) the use of cropland for perennial  
19 forages or perennial grain crops.”;

20 (3) in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or”  
22 at the end;

23 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
24 subparagraph (C); and

1 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
2 the following:

3 “(B) perennial production systems; or”;  
4 and

5 (4) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, perennial  
6 production systems,” after “rotations”.

7 (c) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—Section 1240L(f) of  
8 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(f))  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 “(f) PAYMENT LIMITATIONS.—A person or legal enti-  
11 ty (including a joint venture and general partnership) may  
12 not receive, directly or indirectly, payments under the pro-  
13 gram that, in the aggregate, exceed \$200,000 under all  
14 contracts entered into during any consecutive 5-year pe-  
15 riod, excluding funding arrangements with Indian tribes,  
16 regardless of the number of contracts entered into under  
17 the program by the person or legal entity.”.

18 (d) SOIL HEALTH.—Section 1240L(k) of the Food  
19 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa–24(k)) is amend-  
20 ed to read as follows:

21 “(k) SOIL HEALTH.—To the maximum extent fea-  
22 sible, the Secretary shall manage the program to enhance  
23 soil health, including by—

1           “(1) conducting outreach to encourage the use  
2           of contracts to improve soil health and sequester  
3           carbon in the soil; and

4           “(2) offering payments for soil health testing to  
5           provide participants and the Secretary with informa-  
6           tion on the soil health and carbon sequestration im-  
7           pacts of conservation activities.”.