

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Biotechnology Policy, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Biotechnology Policy, 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 “Agricultural Bio-  
5       technology Coordination Act”.

1   **SEC. 2. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY, DEPARTMENT**  
2                   **OF AGRICULTURE.**

3           (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of the Department of  
4   Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by in-  
5   serting after section 222 (7 U.S.C. 6923) the following:

6   **“SEC. 223. OFFICE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY POLICY.**

7           “(a) PRIORITIZING BIOTECHNOLOGY.—The Sec-  
8   retary shall prioritize biotechnology in the Department by  
9   providing for the effective coordination of policies and ac-  
10   tivities with respect to biotechnology, biomanufacturing,  
11   synthetic biology, and related emerging technologies.

12          “(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—

13               “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
14   lish within the Department an office, to be known as  
15   the ‘Office of Biotechnology Policy’ (referred to in  
16   this section as the ‘Office’).

17               “(2) DIRECTOR.—The Office shall be headed by  
18   a Director, who shall report directly to the Secretary  
19   (or a designee).

20          “(c) DUTIES.—The Office shall be responsible for—

21               “(1) the development and coordination of poli-  
22   cies, activities, and services of the Department with  
23   respect to biotechnology and related topics, includ-  
24   ing—

25                       “(A) research and development;

1 “(B) communication, extension, and edu-  
2 cation;

3 “(C) regulation and labeling; and

4 “(D) commercialization, use, and trade;

5 “(2) assisting other offices and agencies of the  
6 Department in fulfilling responsibilities relating to  
7 biotechnology under applicable law; and

8 “(3) carrying out such other duties as are re-  
9 quired under law or determined to be appropriate by  
10 the Secretary.

11 “(d) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In support of  
12 the duties under this section, the Office shall provide lead-  
13 ership to ensure coordination of interagency activities  
14 with—

15 “(1) the Environmental Protection Agency;

16 “(2) the Food and Drug Administration; and

17 “(3) other relevant Federal and State agencies.

18 “(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties  
19 under this section, the Office shall consult as necessary  
20 with biotechnology developers, academics, agricultural pro-  
21 ducers, and other entities that may be affected by bio-  
22 technology-related activities or actions of the Department  
23 or other Federal or State agencies.”.

24 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of  
25 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of

1 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end

2 the following:

3           “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry

4           out section 223.”.