

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To improve connections between the Department of Agriculture and national and homeland security agencies, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To improve connections between the Department of Agriculture and national and homeland security agencies, 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 and Na-
5 tional Security Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) food and agriculture are critical to the na-
9 tional security of the United States; and

1 (2) additional efforts are needed to identify na-
2 tional security vulnerabilities related to food and ag-
3 riculture, particularly with regard to emerging tech-
4 nologies.

5 **SEC. 3. AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL SECURITY.**

6 (a) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR
7 NATIONAL SECURITY.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as
11 “Secretary”) shall—

12 (A) establish within the Office of the Sec-
13 retary the position of Assistant Secretary for
14 National Security; and

15 (B) appoint an individual to the position of
16 Assistant Secretary for National Security.

17 (2) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 218(a) of the
18 Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
19 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6918(a)) is amended—

20 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”;

21 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-
22 riod and inserting “; and”; and

23 (C) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(4) Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Na-
25 tional Security.”.

1 (3) DUTIES.—Section 218 of the Department
2 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
3 6918) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(d) DUTIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary may
6 delegate to the Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Na-
7 tional Security responsibility for—

9 “(1) serving as the principal advisor to the Sec-
10 retary on national security;

11 “(2) acting as the primary liaison on behalf of
12 the Department with the National Security Council
13 and other Federal departments and agencies in ac-
14 tivities relating to national security;

15 “(3) coordinating national security activities
16 across the Department, including—

17 “(A) the activities of the Office of Home-
18 land Security established under section 221;

19 “(B) the activities of the Intelligence Com-
20 munity Counterintelligence Office established
21 under section 7318 of the National Defense Au-
22 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (50 U.S.C.
23 3384);

1 “(C) the implementation of the Agricul-
2 tural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of
3 1978 (7 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.); and

4 “(D) the implementation of section 721 of
5 the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C.
6 4565); and

7 “(4) coordinating with stakeholders to identify
8 national security vulnerabilities and risk mitigation
9 strategies relevant to food and agriculture, particu-
10 larly with regard to emerging technologies and
11 issues, including biotechnology, artificial intelligence,
12 drones, cybersecurity, and supply chain
13 vulnerabilities.”.

14 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—Section 221(e)
15 of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
16 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6922(e)) is amended by adding at the end
17 the following:

18 “(3) DETAILEES AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
19 may provide detailees to, and accept and employ per-
20 sonnel detailed from, defense, national and homeland
21 security, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies,
22 with or without reimbursement, to improve informa-
23 tion sharing, vulnerability identification, and risk
24 mitigation related to food and agriculture.”.

1 (c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Section 221 of the Depart-
2 ment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.
3 6922) is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(f) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not
6 less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Sec-
7 retary shall submit to Congress and the National Security
8 Council a report that includes—

9 “(1) from the perspective of the Department,
10 an assessment of any gaps or limitations in national
11 security efforts related to food and agriculture in the
12 United States, including—

13 “(A) influence of foreign state-owned en-
14 terprise;

15 “(B) control of and access to agricultural
16 data;

17 “(C) foreign acquisition of intellectual
18 property, agricultural assets, and land;

19 “(D) agricultural input shortages and de-
20 pendence on foreign-sourced inputs;

21 “(E) supply chain and trade disruptions;

22 “(F) science and technology cooperation;

23 “(G) cybersecurity and artificial intel-
24 ligence;

1 “(H) unequal investments in research, de-
2 velopment, and scale-up;

3 “(I) incongruent regulatory policies; and

4 “(J) other vulnerabilities throughout the
5 food and agriculture sector, particularly with
6 regard to emerging technologies;

7 “(2) the actions taken by the Secretary to ad-
8 dress any gaps or limitations identified under para-
9 graph (1), including through interagency coordina-
10 tion, threat information sharing, and stakeholder
11 outreach;

12 “(3) policy recommendations, including rec-
13 ommendations for executive actions and legislative
14 proposals—

15 “(A) to reduce any gaps or limitations
16 identified under paragraph (1); and

17 “(B) to address any identified
18 vulnerabilities with respect to the gaps or limi-
19 tations identified under paragraph (1); and

20 “(4) resources the Department requires to ad-
21 dress current and future national security
22 vulnerabilities related to food and agriculture, in-
23 cluding gaps in personnel or access to cleared sys-
24 tems.”.

1 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of
2 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
3 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry
6 out the amendments made to this title by the Agri-
7 culture and National Security Act.”.