

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2534

To reform, extend, and repeal certain agricultural research, extension, and education programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1997

Mr. COMBEST (for himself, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. STENHOLM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To reform, extend, and repeal certain agricultural research, extension, and education programs, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reau-
6 thorization Act of 1997”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—COORDINATION, PLANNING, AND DEFINITIONS
REGARDING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION,
AND EDUCATION**

- Sec. 101. Priorities and management principles for federally supported and conducted agricultural research, education, and extension.
- Sec. 102. Principal definitions regarding agricultural research, education, and extension.
- Sec. 103. Consultation with National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.
- Sec. 104. Relevance and merit of federally funded agricultural research, extension, and education.
- Sec. 105. Expansion of authority to enter into cost-reimbursable agreements.

**TITLE II—REFORM OF EXISTING RESEARCH, EXTENSION,
AND EDUCATION AUTHORITIES**

Subtitle A—Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887

- Sec. 201. Adoption of short titles for Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887.
- Sec. 202. Expanded eligibility of colleges and universities for extension funding.
- Sec. 203. Consistent matching funds requirements under Hatch Act of 1887 and Smith-Lever Act.
- Sec. 204. Use of funds for multi-state and multi-institutional activities under Smith-Lever Act.
- Sec. 205. Transfer of Smith-Lever Act and Hatch Act of 1887 funds between research and extension activities.
- Sec. 206. Plans of work to address critical research and extension issues and use of protocols to measure success of plans.

**Subtitle B—National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
Teaching Policy Act of 1977**

- Sec. 211. Plans of work for 1890 Institutions to address critical research and extension issues and use of protocols to measure success of plans.
- Sec. 212. Matching funds requirement for research and extension activities at 1890 land-grant colleges, including Tuskegee Institute.
- Sec. 213. International research, extension, and teaching.
- Sec. 214. Task force on 10-year strategic plan for agricultural research facilities.

**Subtitle C—Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of
1990**

- Sec. 231. National agricultural weather information system.
- Sec. 232. Agricultural genome initiative.

Subtitle D—National Research Initiative

- Sec. 241. Waiver of matching requirement for certain small colleges and universities.

Subtitle E—Other Existing Laws

- Sec. 251. Findings, authorities, and competitive research grants under Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978.

**TITLE III—EXTENSION OR REPEAL OF RESEARCH,
EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

Subtitle A—Extensions

- Sec. 301. National Research Initiative under Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act.
- Sec. 302. Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994.
- Sec. 303. Education grants programs for Hispanic-serving institutions.
- Sec. 304. General authorization for agricultural research programs.
- Sec. 305. General authorization for extension education.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- Sec. 401. Role of Secretary of Agriculture regarding food and agricultural sciences research, education, and extension.
- Sec. 402. Office of Pest Management Policy.
- Sec. 403. Sense of Congress regarding importance of school-based agricultural education.

1 **TITLE I—COORDINATION, PLAN-**
 2 **NING, AND DEFINITIONS RE-**
 3 **GARDING AGRICULTURAL RE-**
 4 **SEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
 5 **EDUCATION**

6 **SEC. 101. PRIORITIES AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES FOR**
 7 **FEDERALLY SUPPORTED AND CONDUCTED**
 8 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION,**
 9 **AND EXTENSION.**

10 (a) PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS.—Section 1402 of
 11 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
 12 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101) is amend-
 13 ed—

14 (2) by inserting “(a) PURPOSES.—” before
 15 “The purposes”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 17 section:

1 “(b) PRIORITY SETTING PROCESS.—Consistent with
2 subsection (a), the Secretary shall establish priorities for
3 agricultural research, extension, and education activities
4 conducted or funded by the Department. In establishing
5 such priorities, the Secretary shall solicit and consider
6 input and recommendations from the Advisory Board and
7 persons who conduct or use agricultural research, exten-
8 sion, or education.”.

9 (b) MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.—Such section is fur-
10 ther amended by adding after subsection (b), as added by
11 subsection (a)(2), the following new subsection:

12 “(c) MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES.—To the maximum
13 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that feder-
14 ally supported and conducted agricultural research, edu-
15 cation, and extension activities are accomplished in a man-
16 ner that—

17 “(1) integrates agricultural research, education,
18 and extension functions to better link research to
19 technology transfer and information dissemination
20 activities;

21 “(2) encourages multi-State and multi-institu-
22 tional programs to address relevant issues of com-
23 mon concern and to better leverage scarce resources;
24 and

1 “(3) achieves agricultural research, education,
2 and extension objectives through multi-institutional
3 and multifunctional approaches and by conducting
4 research at facilities and institutions best equipped
5 to achieve those objectives.”.

6 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The heading of such
7 section is amended by inserting “, **PRIORITIES, AND**
8 **MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**” after “**PURPOSES**”;

9 **SEC. 102. PRINCIPAL DEFINITIONS REGARDING AGRICUL-**
10 **TURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTEN-**
11 **SION.**

12 (a) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.—Para-
13 graph (8) of section 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-
14 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
15 U.S.C. 3103) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(8) FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES.—
17 The term ‘food and agricultural sciences’ means
18 basic, applied, and developmental research, exten-
19 sion, and teaching activities in food and fiber, agri-
20 cultural, renewable natural resources, forestry, and
21 physical and social sciences, including (but not lim-
22 ited to) activities relating to the following:

23 “(A) Animal health, production, and well-
24 being.

25 “(B) Plant health and production.

1 “(C) Animal and plant germ plasm collec-
2 tion and preservation.

3 “(D) Aquaculture.

4 “(E) Food safety.

5 “(F) Soil and water conservation and im-
6 provement.

7 “(G) Forestry, horticulture, and range
8 management.

9 “(H) Nutritional sciences and promotion.

10 “(I) Farm enhancement, including finan-
11 cial management, input efficiency, and profit-
12 ability.

13 “(J) Home economics.

14 “(K) Rural human ecology.

15 “(L) Youth development and agricultural
16 education, including 4–H.

17 “(M) Expansion of domestic and inter-
18 national markets for agricultural commodities
19 and products, including agricultural trade bar-
20 rier identification and comprehension.

21 “(N) Information management and tech-
22 nology transfer related to agriculture.

23 “(O) Biotechnology related to agri-
24 culture.”.

1 (b) REFERENCES TO TEACHING OR EDUCATION.—
2 Paragraph (14) of such section is amended by striking
3 “the term ‘teaching’ means” and inserting “TEACHING
4 AND EDUCATION.—The terms ‘teaching’ and ‘education’
5 mean”.

6 (c) APPLICATION OF DEFINITIONS TO AGRICUL-
7 TURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND EDUCATION.—Such
8 section is further amended by striking the section heading
9 and all that follows through the matter preceding para-
10 graph (1) and inserting the following:

11 **“SEC. 1404. PRINCIPAL DEFINITIONS REGARDING AGRICUL-**
12 **TURAL RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTEN-**
13 **SION.**

14 “When used in this title or any other law relating
15 to any research, extension, or education activities of the
16 Department of Agriculture regarding the food and agricul-
17 tural sciences (unless the context requires otherwise):”.

18 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is
19 further amended—

20 (1) by striking “the term” in paragraphs (1),
21 (2), (3), (5), (6), (7), (10) through (13), and (15),
22 (16), and (17) and inserting “The term”,

23 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “the terms”
24 and inserting “The terms”;

1 (3) in paragraph (9), by striking “the term”
2 the first place it appears and inserting “The term”;

3 (4) by striking the semicolon at the end of
4 paragraphs (1) through (7) and (9) through (15)
5 and inserting a period; and

6 (5) in paragraph (16)(F), by striking “; and”
7 and inserting a period.

8 **SEC. 103. CONSULTATION WITH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL**
9 **RESEARCH, EXTENSION, EDUCATION, AND**
10 **ECONOMICS ADVISORY BOARD.**

11 Subsection (d) of section 1408 of the National Agri-
12 cultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
13 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3123) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(d) CONSULTATION.—

15 “(1) AS AFFECTING ADVISORY BOARD.—In car-
16 rying out this section, the Advisory Board shall so-
17 licit opinions and recommendations from persons
18 who will benefit from and use federally funded agri-
19 cultural research, extension, education, and econom-
20 ics.

21 “(2) AS AFFECTING SECRETARY.—To comply
22 with a provision of this title or any other law that
23 requires the Secretary to consult or cooperate with
24 the Advisory Board or that authorizes the Advisory

1 Board to submit recommendations to the Secretary,
2 the Secretary shall—

3 “(A) solicit the written opinions and rec-
4 ommendations of the Advisory Board; and

5 “(B) provide a written response to the Ad-
6 visory Board regarding the manner and extent
7 to which the Secretary will implement rec-
8 ommendations submitted by the Advisory
9 Board.”.

10 **SEC. 104. RELEVANCE AND MERIT OF FEDERALLY FUNDED**
11 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
12 **EDUCATION.**

13 (a) REVIEW OF RELEVANCE AND MERIT.—Subtitle
14 K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
15 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting be-
16 fore section 1463 (7 U.S.C. 3311) the following new sec-
17 tion:

18 **“SEC. 1461. RELEVANCE AND MERIT OF FEDERALLY FUND-**
19 **ED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION,**
20 **AND EDUCATION.**

21 “(a) REVIEW OF COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH,
22 EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE.—

23 “(1) PEER REVIEW OF RESEARCH GRANTS.—
24 The Secretary shall establish procedures that pro-
25 vide for scientific peer review of each agricultural re-

1 search grant administered, on a competitive basis,
2 by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and
3 Extension Service.

4 “(2) MERIT REVIEW OF EXTENSION AND EDU-
5 CATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures
6 that provide for merit review of each agricultural ex-
7 tension or education grant administered, on a com-
8 petitive basis, by the Cooperative State Research,
9 Education, and Extension Service. The Secretary
10 shall consult with the Advisory Board in establishing
11 such merit review procedures.

12 “(b) REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS; EVALUATION.—

13 “(1) CONSULTATION WITH ADVISORY BOARD.—
14 When formulating a request for proposals involving
15 an agricultural research, extension, or education ac-
16 tivity funded, on a competitive basis, by the Sec-
17 retary, and when evaluating proposals submitted in
18 response to such a request, the Secretary shall con-
19 sult with the Advisory Board

20 “(2) USER INPUT.—In formulating a request
21 for proposals described in paragraph (1), the Sec-
22 retary shall solicit and consider input from users of
23 agricultural research, extension, and education con-
24 cerning the prior year’s request for proposals.

1 “(c) SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL
2 RESEARCH SERVICE RESEARCH.—

3 “(1) PEER REVIEW PROCEDURES.—The Sec-
4 retary shall establish procedures that ensure sci-
5 entific peer review of research activities of the Agri-
6 cultural Research Service.

7 “(2) REVIEW PANEL REQUIRED.—As part of
8 the procedures, a review panel shall verify, at least
9 once every three years, that each research activity of
10 the Agricultural Research Service and research con-
11 ducted under each research program of the Agricul-
12 tural Research Service—

13 “(A) has scientific merit and relevance to
14 the priorities established pursuant to section
15 1402(b); and

16 “(B) has national or multistate signifi-
17 cance;

18 “(3) COMPOSITION OF REVIEW PANEL.—A re-
19 view panel shall be comprised of individuals with sci-
20 entific expertise, a majority of whom are not employ-
21 ees of the Agricultural Research Service.

22 “(4) SUBMISSION OF RESULTS.—The results of
23 the panel reviews shall be submitted to the Advisory
24 Board.

1 “(5) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The
2 Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)
3 and title XVIII of this Act (7 U.S.C. 2281 et seq.)
4 shall not apply to a review panel.

5 “(d) MERIT REVIEW OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY
6 RESEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.—

7 “(1) LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS.—Effective
8 beginning October 1, 1998, to be eligible to obtain
9 agricultural research or extension funds from the
10 Secretary for an activity, a land-grant college or uni-
11 versity shall—

12 “(A) establish a process for merit review of
13 the activity; and

14 “(B) review the activity in accordance with
15 the process.

16 “(2) 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—Effective beginning
17 October 1, 1998, to obtain agricultural extension
18 funds from the Secretary for an activity, each 1994
19 Institution (as defined in section 532 of the Equity
20 in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994
21 (Public Law 103–382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)) shall—

22 “(A) establish a process for merit review of
23 the activity; and

24 “(B) review the activity in accordance with
25 the process.”.

1 (b) REPEAL OF PROVISIONS FOR WITHHOLDING
2 FUNDS.—

3 (1) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 6 of the
4 Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 346) is repealed.

5 (2) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Section 7 of the
6 Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361g) is amended by
7 striking the last paragraph.

8 (3) NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH, EX-
9 TENSION, AND TEACHING POLICY ACT OF 1977.—The
10 National Agricultural Research, Extension, and
11 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended—

12 (A) in section 1444 (7 U.S.C. 3221)—

13 (i) by striking subsection (f); and

14 (ii) by redesignating subsection (g) as
15 subsection (f);

16 (B) in section 1445(g) (7 U.S.C. 3222(g)),
17 by striking paragraph (3); and

18 (C) by striking section 1468 (7 U.S.C.
19 3314).

20 **SEC. 105. EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO**
21 **COST-REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.**

22 Section 1473A of the National Agricultural Research,
23 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
24 3319a) is amended in the first sentence by inserting “or
25 other colleges and universities” after “institutions”.

1 **TITLE II—REFORM OF EXISTING**
2 **RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
3 **EDUCATION AUTHORITIES**
4 **Subtitle A—Smith-Lever Act and**
5 **Hatch Act of 1887**

6 **SEC. 201. ADOPTION OF SHORT TITLES FOR SMITH-LEVER**
7 **ACT AND HATCH ACT OF 1887.**

8 (a) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—The Act of May 8, 1914
9 (commonly known as the Smith-Lever Act; 7 U.S.C. 341
10 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following
11 new section:

12 **“SEC. 11. SHORT TITLE.**

13 “This Act may be cited as the ‘Smith-Lever Act’.”.

14 (b) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—The Act of March 2,
15 1887 (commonly known as the Hatch Act of 1887; 7
16 U.S.C. 361a et seq.), is amended by adding at the end
17 the following new section:

18 **“SEC. 10. SHORT TITLE.**

19 “This Act may be cited as the ‘Hatch Act of 1887’.”.

20 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER AMENDMENTS.—
21 For purposes of executing amendments made by provi-
22 sions of this Act other than this section, this section shall
23 be treated as having been enacted immediately before the
24 other provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 202. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY OF COLLEGES AND UNI-**
2 **VERSITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.**

3 Subsection (d) of section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act
4 (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended to read as follows:

5 “(d) FUNDS FOR COORDINATING EXTENSION AC-
6 TIVITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL, AND OTHER
7 SERVICES.—

8 “(1) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
9 shall receive such amounts as Congress shall deter-
10 mine for administrative, technical, and other services
11 and for coordinating the extension work of the De-
12 partment and the States.

13 “(2) ELIGIBILITY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVER-
14 SITIES FOR EXTENSION FUNDING.—A college or uni-
15 versity (as such terms are defined in section 1404(4)
16 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
17 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
18 3103(4))), including a foundation established by a
19 college or university, shall be eligible for extension
20 funds provided to the Secretary under paragraph
21 (1). The Secretary shall award such funds to col-
22 leges and universities on a competitive basis unless
23 the funds are required to be provided under a statu-
24 tory formula.”.

1 **SEC. 203. CONSISTENT MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENTS**
2 **UNDER HATCH ACT OF 1887 AND SMITH-**
3 **LEVER ACT.**

4 (a) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Subsection (d) of section
5 3 of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 “(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—

8 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in
9 paragraph (4), no allotment shall be made to a State
10 under subsections (b) and (c), and no payments of
11 such allotment shall be made to a State, in excess
12 of the amount which the State makes available out
13 of non-Federal funds for agricultural research and
14 for the establishment and maintenance of facilities
15 for the performance of such research.

16 “(2) FAILURE TO PROVIDE MATCHING
17 FUNDS.—If a State fails to comply with the require-
18 ment to provide matching funds for a fiscal year
19 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture
20 shall withhold from payment to the State for that
21 fiscal year an amount equal to the difference be-
22 tween—

23 “(A) the amount that would be allotted
24 and paid to the State under subsections (b) and
25 (c) (if the full amount of matching funds were
26 provided by the State); and

1 “(B) the amount of matching funds actu-
2 ally provided by the State.

3 “(3) REAPPORTIONMENT.—The Secretary shall
4 reapportion amounts withheld under paragraph (2)
5 for a fiscal year among the States satisfying the
6 matching requirement for that fiscal year.

7 “(4) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
8 apply to funds provided to a State from the Regional
9 research fund, State agricultural experiment sta-
10 tions, under subsection (c)3.”.

11 (b) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 3 of the Smith-
12 Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (c)2, by striking “That pay-
14 ments” and all that follows through “*Provided fur-*
15 *ther,*”; and

16 (2) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the
17 following new subsection:

18 “(e) MATCHING FUNDS.—

19 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—No allotment shall be
20 made to a State under subsections (b) and (c), and
21 no payments of such allotment shall be made to a
22 State, in excess of the amount which the State
23 makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooper-
24 ative extension work.

1 “(2) FAILURE TO PROVIDE MATCHING
2 FUNDS.—If a State fails to comply with the require-
3 ment to provide matching funds for a fiscal year
4 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Agriculture
5 shall withhold from payment to the State for that
6 fiscal year an amount equal to the difference be-
7 tween—

8 “(A) the amount that would be allotted
9 and paid to the State under subsections (b) and
10 (c) (if the full amount of matching funds were
11 provided by the State); and

12 “(B) the amount of matching funds actu-
13 ally provided by the State.

14 “(3) REAPPORTIONMENT.—The Secretary shall
15 reapportion amounts withheld under paragraph (2)
16 for a fiscal year among the States satisfying the
17 matching requirement for that fiscal year.

18 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR 1994 INSTITUTIONS.—
19 There shall be no matching requirement for funds
20 made available to 1994 Institutions pursuant to sub-
21 section (b)(3).”.

22 (c) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

23 (1) RECOGNITION OF STATEHOOD OF ALASKA
24 AND HAWAII.—Section 1 of the Hatch Act of 1887

1 (7 U.S.C. 361a) is amended by striking “Alaska,
2 Hawaii,”.

3 (2) **ROLE OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.**—
4 Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “Federal
7 Extension Service” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
8 culture”;

9 (2) in subsection (c)1, by striking “Federal Ex-
10 tension Service” and inserting “Secretary of Agri-
11 culture”; and

12 (3) in subsection (g)(1), by striking “through
13 the Federal Extension Service”.

14 **SEC. 204. USE OF FUNDS FOR MULTI-STATE AND MULTI-IN-**
15 **STITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES UNDER SMITH-**
16 **LEVER ACT.**

17 (a) **MULTI-STATE AND MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL USE**
18 **REQUIRED.**—Section 3 of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C.
19 343) is amended by striking subsection (f) and inserting
20 the following new subsection:

21 “(f) **MULTI-STATE AND MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL CO-**
22 **OPERATIVE EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.**—

23 “(1) **DETERMINATION OF PAST PRACTICES.**—
24 The Secretary of Agriculture shall determine for
25 each State the percentage of Federal funds provided

1 under subsections (b) and (c) for fiscal years 1997
2 and 1998, that the State expended for cooperative
3 extension activities in which—

4 “(A) two or more States cooperated to
5 solve problems that concerned more than one
6 State; or

7 “(B) more than one educational institution
8 in the State cooperated to solve problems that
9 concerned the State.

10 “(2) REQUIRED EXPENDITURES.—For fiscal
11 year 1999 and each fiscal year thereafter, a State
12 shall expend for multi-state or multi-institutional ac-
13 tivities described in paragraph (1) not less than 25
14 percent of the Federal funds provided to the State
15 under subsections (b) and (c) for that fiscal year.

16 “(3) REDUCTION IN PERCENTAGE.—The Sec-
17 retary, by rule, may reduce the percentage specified
18 in paragraph (2) for all States if the Secretary de-
19 termines, based on the examination of past practices
20 under paragraph (1), that a majority of States will
21 be unable to satisfy the multi-state and multi-insti-
22 tutional activities requirement. The Secretary may
23 not reduce the percentage on a State-by-State basis.

24 “(4) APPLICABILITY.—This subsection does not
25 apply to funds provided—

1 “(A) by a State or local government pursu-
2 ant to a matching requirement;

3 “(B) to a 1994 Institution (as defined in
4 section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-
5 Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-
6 382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note)); or

7 “(C) to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
8 the Virgin Islands, or Guam.”.

9 **SEC. 205. TRANSFER OF SMITH-LEVER ACT AND HATCH ACT**
10 **OF 1887 FUNDS BETWEEN RESEARCH AND EX-**
11 **TENSION ACTIVITIES.**

12 (a) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 3 of the Smith-
13 Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343) is amended by adding at the
14 end the following new subsection:

15 “(h) TRANSFER TO RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—

16 “(1) TRANSFER AUTHORIZED.—Of the funds
17 provided to a State under subsections (b) and (c)
18 (other than funds expended by a State under sub-
19 section (k)) for a fiscal year for cooperative agricul-
20 tural extension work, the State may use an amount
21 not to exceed the percentage specified in paragraph
22 (2) for that fiscal year for agricultural research ac-
23 tivities authorized under the Hatch Act of 1887 (7
24 U.S.C. 361a et seq.).

1 “(2) LIMITATION.—The amount that a State
2 may transfer to research and education activities
3 under paragraph (1) may not exceed—

4 “(A) for fiscal year 1998, 10 percent;

5 “(B) for fiscal year 1999, 15 percent;

6 “(C) for fiscal year 2000, 20 percent; and

7 “(D) for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal
8 year thereafter, 25 percent.”.

9 (b) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Section 3 of the Hatch
10 Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new subsection:

12 “(h) TRANSFER TO EXTENSION ACTIVITIES.—

13 “(1) TRANSFER AUTHORIZED.—Of the funds
14 provided to a State under this section (other than
15 funds allotted for the Regional research fund, State
16 agricultural experiment stations) for a fiscal year for
17 State agricultural experiment station work, the State
18 may use an amount not to exceed the percentage
19 specified in paragraph (2) for that fiscal year for co-
20 operative agricultural extension work authorized
21 under the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.).

22 “(2) LIMITATION.—The amount that a State
23 may transfer to cooperative agricultural extension
24 work under paragraph (1) may not exceed—

25 “(A) for fiscal year 1998, 10 percent;

1 “(B) for fiscal year 1999, 15 percent;

2 “(C) for fiscal year 2000, 20 percent; and

3 “(D) for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal
4 year thereafter, 25 percent.”.

5 **SEC. 206. PLANS OF WORK TO ADDRESS CRITICAL RE-**
6 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ISSUES AND USE OF**
7 **PROTOCOLS TO MEASURE SUCCESS OF**
8 **PLANS.**

9 (a) SMITH-LEVER ACT.—Section 4 of the Smith-
10 Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 344) is amended—

11 (1) by striking “SEC. 4.” and inserting the fol-
12 lowing:

13 **“SEC. 4. ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTITLEMENT OF STATE TO**
14 **FUNDS, TIME AND MANNER OF PAYMENT,**
15 **STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, AND**
16 **PLANS FOR WORK.**

17 “(a) ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTITLEMENT.—”;

18 (2) in the last sentence, by striking “Such
19 sums” and inserting the following:

20 “(b) TIME AND MANNER OF PAYMENT; RELATED
21 REPORTS.—The amount to which a State is entitled”; and

22 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 sections:

24 “(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PLAN OF
25 WORK.—Each extension plan of work for a State required

1 under subsection (a) shall contain descriptions of the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(1) The critical short-term, intermediate, and
4 long-term agricultural issues in the State and the
5 current and planned extension programs and
6 projects targeted to address such issues.

7 “(2) The process established to consult with ex-
8 tension users regarding the identification of critical
9 agricultural issues in the State and the development
10 of extension programs and projects targeted to ad-
11 dress such issues.

12 “(3) Other colleges and universities in the State
13 and other States that have unique capacity to ad-
14 dress the identified agricultural issues in the State.

15 “(4) The current and emerging efforts to work
16 with these other institutions and States to build on
17 each other’s experience and take advantage of each
18 institution’s unique capacities, including the manner
19 in which the State will meet the multi-State and
20 multi-institutional activities requirement of section
21 3(f).

22 “(5) The manner in which research and exten-
23 sion, including research and extension activities
24 funded other than through formula funds, will co-
25 operate to address the critical issues in the State, in-

1 including the activities to be carried out separately,
2 the activities to be carried out sequentially, and ac-
3 tivities to be carried out jointly.

4 “(6) The education and outreach programs al-
5 ready underway to convey currently available re-
6 search results that are pertinent to a critical agricul-
7 tural issue, including efforts to encourage multi-
8 county cooperation in the dissemination of research
9 results.

10 “(d) EXTENSION PROTOCOLS.—The Secretary of Ag-
11 riculture shall develop protocols to be used to evaluate the
12 success of multi-State, multi-institutional, and multidisci-
13 plinary extension activities and joint research and exten-
14 sion activities in addressing critical agricultural issues
15 identified in the plans of work submitted under subsection
16 (a). The Secretary shall develop the protocols in consulta-
17 tion with the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
18 Education, and Economics Advisory Board and land-grant
19 colleges and universities.”.

20 (b) HATCH ACT OF 1887.—Section 7 of the Hatch
21 Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361g), as amended by section
22 105(b), is further amended—

23 (1) by striking “SEC. 7.” and inserting the fol-
24 lowing:

1 **“SEC. 7. DUTIES OF SECRETARY, ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTI-**
2 **TLEMENT OF STATE TO FUNDS, AND PLANS**
3 **FOR WORK.**

4 “(a) DUTIES OF SECRETARY.—”;

5 (2) by striking “On or before” and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(b) ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTITLEMENT.—On or be-
8 fore”;

9 (3) by striking “Whenever it shall appear” and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(c) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO EXPEND FULL ALLOT-
12 MENT.—Whenever it shall appear”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 sections:

15 “(d) PLAN OF WORK REQUIRED.—Before funds may
16 be provided to a State under this Act for any fiscal year,
17 plans for the work to be carried on under this Act shall
18 be submitted by the proper officials of the State and ap-
19 proved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

20 “(e) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PLAN OF
21 WORK.—Each research plan of work for a State required
22 under subsection (d) shall contain descriptions of the fol-
23 lowing:

24 “(1) The critical short-term, intermediate, and
25 long-term agricultural issues in the State and the

1 current and planned research programs and projects
2 targeted to address such issues.

3 “(2) The process established to consult with
4 users of agricultural research regarding the identi-
5 fication of critical agricultural issues in the State
6 and the development of research programs and
7 projects targeted to address such issues.

8 “(3) Other colleges and universities in the State
9 and other States that have unique capacity to ad-
10 dress the identified agricultural issues in the State.

11 “(4) The current and emerging efforts to work
12 with these other institutions and States to build on
13 each other’s experience and take advantage of each
14 institution’s unique capacities, including the manner
15 in which the State will conduct cooperative research
16 funded out of the Regional research fund, State ag-
17 ricultural experiment stations established under sec-
18 tion 3(c)3.

19 “(5) The manner in which research and exten-
20 sion, including research and extension activities
21 funded other than through formula funds, will co-
22 operate to address the critical issues in the State, in-
23 cluding the activities to be carried out separately,
24 the activities to be carried out sequentially, and ac-
25 tivities to be carried out jointly.

1 “(f) RESEARCH PROTOCOLS.—The Secretary of Agri-
2 culture shall develop protocols to be used to evaluate the
3 success of multi-State, multi-institutional, and multidisci-
4 plinary research activities and joint research and extension
5 activities in addressing critical agricultural issues identi-
6 fied in the plans of work submitted under subsection (d).
7 The Secretary shall develop the protocols in consultation
8 with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Edu-
9 cation, and Economics Advisory Board and land-grant col-
10 leges and universities.”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
13 this section shall take effect on October 1, 1998.

14 (2) DELAYED APPLICABILITY.—With respect to
15 a particular State, the Secretary of Agriculture may
16 delay the applicability of the requirements imposed
17 by the amendments made by this section until not
18 later than October 1, 1999, if the Secretary finds
19 that the State will be unable to meet such require-
20 ments by October 1, 1998, despite the good faith ef-
21 forts of the State.

1 **Subtitle B—National Agricultural**
2 **Research, Extension, and Teach-**
3 **ing Policy Act of 1977**

4 **SEC. 211. PLANS OF WORK FOR 1890 INSTITUTIONS TO AD-**
5 **DRESS CRITICAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**
6 **ISSUES AND USE OF PROTOCOLS TO MEAS-**
7 **URE SUCCESS OF PLANS.**

8 (a) EXTENSION AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.—Section
9 1444(d) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension,
10 and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(d)) is
11 amended—

12 (1) by striking “(d)” and inserting the follow-
13 ing:

14 “(d) ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTITLEMENT TO FUNDS,
15 TIME AND MANNER OF PAYMENT, STATE REPORTING
16 REQUIREMENTS, AND PLANS FOR WORK.—

17 “(1) ASCERTAINMENT OF ENTITLEMENT.—”;

18 (2) in the last sentence, by striking “Such
19 sums” and inserting the following:

20 “(2) TIME AND MANNER OF PAYMENT; RELAT-
21 ED REPORTS.—The amount to which an eligible in-
22 stitution is entitled”; and

23 (3) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(3) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PLAN OF
2 WORK.—Each extension plan of work for an eligible
3 institution required under subsection (a) shall con-
4 tain descriptions of the following:

5 “(A) The critical short-term, intermediate,
6 and long-term agricultural issues in the State
7 in which the eligible institution is located and
8 the current and planned extension programs
9 and projects targeted to address such issues.

10 “(B) The process established to consult
11 with extension users regarding the identification
12 of critical agricultural issues in the State and
13 the development of extension programs and
14 projects targeted to address such issues.

15 “(C) Other colleges and universities in the
16 State and other States that have unique capac-
17 ity to address the identified agricultural issues
18 in the State.

19 “(D) The current and emerging efforts to
20 work with these other institutions and States to
21 build on each other’s experience and take ad-
22 vantage of each institution’s unique capacities.

23 “(E) The manner in which research and
24 extension, including research and extension ac-
25 tivities funded other than through formula

1 funds, will cooperate to address the critical is-
2 sues in the State, including the activities to be
3 carried out separately, the activities to be car-
4 ried out sequentially, and activities to be carried
5 out jointly.

6 “(F) The education and outreach pro-
7 grams already underway to convey currently
8 available research results that are pertinent to
9 a critical agricultural issue, including efforts to
10 encourage multi-county cooperation in the dis-
11 semination of research results.

12 “(4) EXTENSION PROTOCOLS.—The Secretary
13 of Agriculture shall develop protocols to be used to
14 evaluate the success of multi-State, multi-institu-
15 tional, and multidisciplinary extension activities and
16 joint research and extension activities in addressing
17 critical agricultural issues identified in the plans of
18 work submitted under paragraph (1). The Secretary
19 shall develop the protocols in consultation with the
20 Advisory Board and land-grant colleges and univer-
21 sities.”.

22 (b) AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 INSTITU-
23 TIONS.—Section 1445(c) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 3222(c))
24 is amended—

1 (1) by striking “(c)” and inserting the follow-
2 ing:

3 “(d) PROGRAM AND PLANS FOR WORK.—

4 “(1) INITIAL COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF AG-
5 RICULTURAL RESEARCH.—”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new
7 paragraphs:

8 “(2) PLAN OF WORK REQUIRED.—Before funds
9 may be provided to an eligible institution under this
10 section for any fiscal year, plans for the work to be
11 carried on under this section shall be submitted by
12 the research director specified in subsection (d) and
13 approved by the Secretary of Agriculture.

14 “(3) REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PLAN OF
15 WORK.—Each research plan of work required under
16 paragraph (2) shall contain descriptions of the fol-
17 lowing:

18 “(A) The critical short-term, intermediate,
19 and long-term agricultural issues in the State
20 in which the eligible institution is located and
21 the current and planned research programs and
22 projects targeted to address such issues.

23 “(B) The process established to consult
24 with users of agricultural research regarding
25 the identification of critical agricultural issues

1 in the State and the development of research
2 programs and projects targeted to address such
3 issues.

4 “(C) Other colleges and universities in the
5 State and other States that have unique capac-
6 ity to address the identified agricultural issues
7 in the State.

8 “(D) The current and emerging efforts to
9 work with these other institutions and States to
10 build on each other’s experience and take ad-
11 vantage of each institution’s unique capacities.

12 “(E) The manner in which research and
13 extension, including research and extension ac-
14 tivities funded other than through formula
15 funds, will cooperate to address the critical is-
16 sues in the State, including the activities to be
17 carried out separately, the activities to be car-
18 ried out sequentially, and activities to be carried
19 out jointly.

20 “(4) RESEARCH PROTOCOLS.—The Secretary of
21 Agriculture shall develop protocols to be used to
22 evaluate the success of multi-State, multi-institu-
23 tional, and multidisciplinary research activities and
24 joint research and extension activities in addressing
25 critical agricultural issues identified in the plans of

1 work submitted under paragraph (3). The Secretary
2 shall develop the protocols in consultation with the
3 Advisory Board and land-grant colleges and univer-
4 sities.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by
7 this section shall take effect on October 1, 1998.

8 (2) DELAYED APPLICABILITY.—With respect to
9 a particular eligible institution (as described in sec-
10 tions 1444(a) and 1445(a) of the National Agricul-
11 tural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act
12 of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221(a), 3222(a)), the Secretary
13 of Agriculture may delay the applicability of the re-
14 quirements imposed by the amendments made by
15 this section until not later than October 1, 1999, if
16 the Secretary finds that the eligible institution will
17 be unable to meet such requirements by October 1,
18 1998, despite the good faith efforts of the eligi-
19 ble institution.

20 **SEC. 212. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**
21 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT 1890**
22 **LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING**
23 **TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.**

24 (a) IMPOSITION OF REQUIREMENT.—Subtitle G of
25 the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and

1 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 is amended by inserting after
2 section 1445 (7 U.S.C. 3222) the following:

3 **“SEC. 1446. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIREMENT FOR RE-**
4 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT ELI-**
5 **GIBLE INSTITUTIONS.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
8 ble institution’ means a college eligible to receive
9 funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C.
10 321 et seq.)(commonly known as the Second Morrill
11 Act), including Tuskegee University.

12 “(2) FORMULA FUNDS.—The term ‘formula
13 funds’ means the formula allocation funds distrib-
14 uted to eligible institutions under sections 1444 and
15 1445.

16 “(b) MATCHING FORMULA.—Notwithstanding any
17 other provision of this subtitle, the distribution of formula
18 funds to an eligible institution shall be subject to the fol-
19 lowing matching requirements:

20 “(1) In fiscal year 1999, the institution shall
21 provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in
22 an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the
23 formula funds to be distributed to the eligible insti-
24 tution.

1 “(2) In fiscal year 2000, the institution shall
2 provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in
3 an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the
4 formula funds to be distributed to the eligible insti-
5 tution.

6 “(3) In fiscal year 2001, the institution shall
7 provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in
8 an amount equal to not less than 75 percent of the
9 formula funds to be distributed to the eligible insti-
10 tution.

11 “(4) In fiscal year 2002, and each fiscal year
12 thereafter, the institution shall provide matching
13 funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal
14 to the entire amount of the formula funds to be dis-
15 tributed to the eligible institution.

16 “(c) USE OF MATCHING FUNDS.—Under terms and
17 conditions established by the Secretary, matching funds
18 provided as required by subsection (b) may be used by
19 an eligible institution for research, education, and exten-
20 sion activities.

21 “(d) REDISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Federal funds
22 that are not matched by an eligible institution in accord-
23 ance with subsection (b) shall be redistributed by the Sec-
24 retary to other eligible institutions in a manner consistent

1 with sections 1444 and 1445, as determined by the Sec-
2 retary.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1445(g) of
4 such Act (7 U.S.C. 3222(g)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking paragraph (2); and

6 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
7 graph (2).

8 (c) REFERENCES TO TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.—Such
9 Act is further amended—

10 (1) in section 1404 (7 U.S.C. 3103(10)), by
11 striking “Tuskegee Institute” in paragraphs (10)
12 and (16)(B) and inserting “Tuskegee University”;

13 (2) in section 1444 (7 U.S.C. 3221)—

14 (A) by striking the section heading and
15 “SEC. 1444.” and inserting the following:

16 **“SEC. 1444. EXTENSION AT 1890 LAND-GRANT COLLEGES, IN-**
17 **CLUDING TUSKEGEE UNIVERSITY.”; and**

18 (B) in subsections (a) and (b), by striking
19 “Tuskegee Institute” both places it appears and
20 inserting “Tuskegee University”; and

21 (3) in section 1445 (7 U.S.C. 3222)—

22 (A) by striking the section heading and
23 “SEC. 1445.” and inserting the following:

1 **“SEC. 1445. AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AT 1890 LAND-**
 2 **GRANT COLLEGES, INCLUDING TUSKEGEE**
 3 **UNIVERSITY.”;**

4 and

5 (B) in subsections (a) and (b)(2)(B), by
 6 striking “Tuskegee Institute” both places it ap-
 7 pears and inserting “Tuskegee University”.

8 **SEC. 213. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH, EXTENSION, AND**
 9 **TEACHING.**

10 (a) INCLUSION OF TEACHING.—Section 1458 of the
 11 National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching
 12 Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3291) is amended—

13 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**RE-**
 14 **SEARCH AND EXTENSION**” and inserting “**RE-**
 15 **SEARCH, EXTENSION, AND TEACHING**”;

16 (2) in subsection (a)—

17 (A) in paragraph (1)—

18 (i) by striking “related research and
 19 extension” and inserting “related research,
 20 extension, and teaching”; and

21 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
 22 “research and extension on” and inserting
 23 “research, extension, and teaching activi-
 24 ties addressing”;

25 (B) in paragraphs (2) and (6), by striking
 26 “education” and inserting “teaching”;

1 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking “sci-
2 entists and experts” and inserting “science and
3 education experts”;

4 (D) in paragraph (5), by inserting “teach-
5 ing,” after “development,”;

6 (E) in paragraph (7), by striking “research
7 and extension that is” and inserting “research,
8 extension, and teaching programs”; and

9 (F) in paragraph (8), by striking “research
10 capabilities” and inserting “research, extension,
11 and teaching capabilities”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “counterpart
13 agencies” and inserting “counterpart research, ex-
14 tension, and teaching agencies”.

15 (b) FULL TRANSFER OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE
16 FOR CERTAIN BINATIONAL PROJECT.—Such section is
17 further amended by adding at the end the following new
18 subsection:

19 “(d) FULL TRANSFER OF FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE
20 FOR CERTAIN BINATIONAL PROJECT.—In the case of the
21 cooperative arrangement entered into under subsection
22 (a)(2) between the Secretary and Israel, the full amount
23 of any funds appropriated to carry out cooperative
24 projects under the arrangement shall be transferred di-
25 rectly to the Israel-United States Binational Agricultural

1 Research and Development Fund to be expended in ac-
 2 cordance with the bylaws and under the direction of the
 3 Board of Directors of the Fund. The Secretary may not
 4 retain any portion of such appropriated amounts as an
 5 overhead or other administrative withholding.”.

6 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The subtitle head-
 7 ing of subtitle I of title XIV of the National Agricultural
 8 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
 9 U.S.C. 3291 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

10 **“Subtitle I—International Re-**
 11 **search, Extension, and Teach-**
 12 **ing”.**

13 **SEC. 214. TASK FORCE ON 10-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN FOR**
 14 **AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FACILITIES.**

15 (a) TRANSFER OF EXISTING PROVISION.—Section 4
 16 of the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390b)—

17 (1) is transferred to the National Agricultural
 18 Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of
 19 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.);

20 (2) is redesignated as section 1473B;

21 (3) is inserted after section 1473A of the Na-
 22 tional Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teach-
 23 ing Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319a); and

1 (4) is amended in subsection (f), by striking
2 “Notwithstanding section 2(1), in” and inserting
3 “In”.

4 (b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—The Research Facilities
5 Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.) is repealed.

6 **Subtitle C—Food, Agriculture, Con-**
7 **servation, and Trade Act of 1990**

8 **SEC. 231. NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WEATHER INFORMA-**
9 **TION SYSTEM.**

10 Subtitle D of title XVI of the Food, Agriculture, Con-
11 servation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5851–5855)
12 is amended to read as follows:

13 **“Subtitle D—National Agricultural**
14 **Weather Information System**

15 **“SEC. 1637. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.**

16 “(a) SHORT TITLE.—This subtitle may be cited as
17 the ‘National Agricultural Weather Information System
18 Act of 1997’.

19 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this subtitle are—

20 “(1) to facilitate the management and coordina-
21 tion of a national agricultural weather and climate
22 station network for Federal and State agencies, col-
23 leges and universities, and the private sector;

24 “(2) to ensure that timely and accurate infor-
25 mation is obtained and disseminated; and

1 “(3) to aid research and education that requires
2 a comprehensive agricultural weather and climate
3 database.

4 **“SEC. 1638. AGRICULTURAL WEATHER SYSTEM.**

5 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Agri-
6 culture may establish the National Agricultural Weather
7 Information System (referred to in this subtitle as the
8 ‘System’). The System shall be comprised of the oper-
9 ational and research activities of the Federal, State, and
10 regional agricultural weather information systems.

11 “(b) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding chapter 63 of
12 title 31, United States Code, to carry out this subtitle,
13 the Secretary may—

14 “(1) enter into contracts, grants, cooperative
15 agreements and interagency agreements without re-
16 gard to competitive requirements, except as other-
17 wise provided in this subtitle, with other Federal and
18 State agencies to—

19 “(A) support operational weather and cli-
20 mate data observations, analysis, and derived
21 products;

22 “(B) preserve historical data records for
23 research studies useful in agriculture;

24 “(C) jointly develop improved computer
25 models and computing capacity for storage, re-

1 retrieval, dissemination and analysis of agricul-
2 tural weather and climate information;

3 “(D) enhance the quality and availability
4 of weather and climate information needed by
5 the private sector for value-added products and
6 agriculturists for decisionmaking; and

7 “(E) sponsor joint programs to train pri-
8 vate sector meteorologists and agriculturists
9 about the optimum use of agricultural weather
10 and climate data;

11 “(2) obtain standardized weather observation
12 data collected in near real time through regional and
13 State agricultural weather information systems;

14 “(3) coordinate the activities of the Chief Mete-
15 orologist of the Department of Agriculture and
16 weather and climate research activities of the De-
17 partment of Agriculture with other Federal agencies
18 and the private sector;

19 “(4) make grants to plan and administer State
20 and regional agricultural weather information sys-
21 tems, including research in atmospheric sciences and
22 climatology;

23 “(5) encourage private sector participation in
24 the System through cooperation with the private sec-
25 tor, including cooperation in the generation of

1 weather and climate data useful for site-specific ag-
2 ricultural weather forecasting; and

3 “(6) make competitive grants to carry out re-
4 search in all aspects of atmospheric sciences and cli-
5 matology regarding the collection, retention, and dis-
6 semination of agricultural weather and climate ob-
7 servations and information with priority given to
8 proposals that emphasize—

9 “(A) techniques and processes that relate
10 to—

11 “(i) weather- or climate-induced agri-
12 cultural losses; and

13 “(ii) improvement of information on
14 weather and climate extremes (such as
15 drought, floods, freeze, and storms) well in
16 advance of their occurrence;

17 “(B) the improvement of site-specific
18 weather data collection and forecasting;

19 “(C) the impact of weather on economic
20 and environmental costs in agricultural produc-
21 tion; or

22 “(D) the preservation and management of
23 the ecosystem.

24 **“SEC. 1639. FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION.**

25 “(a) USE OF FUNDS.—

1 “(1) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC
2 ADMINISTRATION WORK.—Not more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the
3 funds made available for a fiscal year to carry out
4 this subtitle shall be used for work with the National
5 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

6 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
7 of Agriculture may retain for administration of the
8 System up to 4 percent of the amounts made avail-
9 able to carry out this subtitle, notwithstanding the
10 availability of any appropriation for administrative
11 expenses to carry out this subtitle.

12 “(3) LIMITATIONS.—

13 “(A) BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES.—Funds
14 made available to carry out this subtitle shall
15 not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilita-
16 tion, acquisition, or construction of a building
17 or facility.

18 “(B) EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.—Of funds
19 made available under a grant award under this
20 subtitle, a grantee may use for equipment pur-
21 chases not more than the lesser of—

22 “(i) \$15,000; or

23 “(ii) $\frac{1}{3}$ of the amount of the grant
24 award.

1 “(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS.—The Federal
2 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) and title XVIII
3 of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2281
4 et seq.) shall not apply to a panel or board created for
5 the purpose of reviewing applications or proposals submit-
6 ted for grants under section 1638.

7 **“SEC. 1640. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this subtitle \$15,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998
10 through 2002.”.

11 **SEC. 232. AGRICULTURAL GENOME INITIATIVE.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE OF INITIA-
13 TIVE.—Section 1671 of the Food, Agriculture, Conserva-
14 tion, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5924) is amended
15 by striking the section heading and subsection (a) and in-
16 serting the following:

17 **“SEC. 1671. AGRICULTURAL GENOME INITIATIVE.**

18 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Agri-
19 culture shall conduct a research initiative for the purpose
20 of—

21 “(1) supporting basic and applied research and
22 technology development in the area of genome struc-
23 ture and function in support of agriculturally impor-
24 tant species, with a particular focus on research
25 projects that will yield early, scientifically important

1 results that will enhance the usefulness of many ag-
2 riculturally important species;

3 “(2) studying and mapping agriculturally sig-
4 nificant genes to achieve sustainable and secure ag-
5 ricultural production;

6 “(3) ensuring that current gaps in existing ag-
7 ricultural genetics knowledge are filled;

8 “(4) identifying and developing a functional un-
9 derstanding of genes responsible for economically
10 important traits in agriculturally important species;

11 “(5) ensuring the future genetic improvement
12 of agriculturally important species;

13 “(6) supporting the preservation of diverse
14 germplasm; and

15 “(7) ensuring the preservation of biodiversity to
16 maintain access to genes that may be of importance
17 in the future.”.

18 (b) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—Subsection (b) of such
19 section is amended by striking “subsection (c)” and insert-
20 ing “subsection (a)”.

21 (c) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS; PROHIBITION ON
22 CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (c) of such section is amend-
23 ed to read as follows:

24 “(c) GRANT TYPES AND PROCESS; PROHIBITION ON
25 CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraphs (6), (7), and (11) of sub-

1 section (b) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Re-
2 search Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) shall apply with respect
3 to the making of grants under this section.”.

4 (d) MATCHING FUNDS.—Subsection (d) of such sec-
5 tion is amended to read as follows:

6 “(d) MATCHING OF FUNDS.—

7 “(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—If a grant
8 under this section is to the particular benefit of a
9 specific agricultural commodity, the Secretary shall
10 require the recipient of the grant to provide funds
11 or in-kind support (including office space, equipment
12 and staff support) to match the amount of funds
13 provided by the Secretary in the grant.

14 “(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the
15 matching funds requirement with respect to a re-
16 search project if the Secretary determines that—

17 “(A) the results of the project, while of
18 particular benefit to a specific agricultural com-
19 modity, are likely to be applicable to agricul-
20 tural commodities generally; or

21 “(B) the project involves a minor commod-
22 ity, deals with scientifically important research,
23 and the grant recipient would be unable to sat-
24 isfy the matching funds requirement.”.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
2 section (g) of such section is amended by striking “fiscal
3 years 1996 and 1997” and inserting “fiscal years 1998
4 through 2002”.

5 **Subtitle D—National Research**
6 **Initiative**

7 **SEC. 241. WAIVER OF MATCHING REQUIREMENT FOR CER-**
8 **TAIN SMALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.**

9 Subsection (b)(8)(B) of the Competitive, Special, and
10 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (1) by striking “the cost” and inserting “the
13 cost of”; and

14 (2) by adding at the end the following new sen-
15 tence: “The Secretary may waive all or a portion of
16 the matching requirement under this subparagraph
17 in the case of a smaller college or university (as de-
18 scribed in subsection (c)(2)(C)(ii) of section 793 of
19 the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform
20 Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 2204f)) if the equipment to
21 be acquired costs not more than \$25,000 and has
22 multiple uses within a single research project or is
23 usable in more than one research project.”.

1 **Subtitle E—Other Existing Laws**

2 **SEC. 251. FINDINGS, AUTHORITIES, AND COMPETITIVE RE-**
3 **SEARCH GRANTS UNDER FOREST AND**
4 **RANGELAND RENEWABLE RESOURCES RE-**
5 **SEARCH ACT OF 1978.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 2 of the Forest and Range-
7 land Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (16
8 U.S.C. 1641) is amended by striking “SEC. 2.” and sub-
9 section (a) and inserting the following:

10 **“SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

11 “(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

12 “(1) Forests and forest resources are of strate-
13 gic economic and ecological importance to the Unit-
14 ed States, and the Federal Government has an im-
15 portant and substantial role in ensuring the contin-
16 ued health, productivity, and sustainability of the
17 Nation’s forests.

18 “(2) Over 75 percent of the productive commer-
19 cial forest land in the United States is in private
20 ownership, with some 60 percent owned by small
21 nonindustrial private owners. These 10,000,000 non-
22 industrial private owners are critical to providing
23 both commodity and noncommodity values to the
24 citizens of the United States.

1 “(3) The National Forest System manages only
2 17 percent of the Nation’s commercial timberlands,
3 with over half of the standing softwoods inventory
4 located on those lands. Dramatic changes in Federal
5 agency policy during the early 1990’s have signifi-
6 cantly curtailed the management of this vast timber
7 resource, causing abrupt shifts in the supply of tim-
8 ber from public to private ownership. As a result of
9 these shifts in supply, some 60 percent of total wood
10 production in the United States is now coming from
11 private forest lands in the southern United States.

12 “(4) At the same time that pressures are build-
13 ing for the removal of even more land from commer-
14 cial production, the Federal Government is signifi-
15 cantly reducing its commitment to productivity-relat-
16 ed forestry research, which is critically needed by the
17 private sector to sustainably manage remaining
18 available timber resources.

19 “(5) Uncertainty over the availability of the
20 United States timber supply, increasing regulatory
21 burdens, and the lack of Federal Government sup-
22 port for research is causing domestic wood and
23 paper producers to move outside the United States
24 to find reliable sources of wood supplies, which in
25 turn results in a worsening of the United States

1 trade balance, the loss of employment and infra-
2 structure investments, and an increased risk of in-
3 festations of exotic pests and diseases from imported
4 wood products.

5 “(6) Wood and paper producers in the United
6 States are being challenged not only by shifts in
7 Government policy, but also by international com-
8 petition from tropical countries where growth rates
9 of trees far exceed those in the United States. Wood
10 production per acre will need to quadruple from
11 1996 levels for the United States forestry sector to
12 remain internationally competitive on an ever de-
13 creasing forest land base.”.

14 (b) HIGH PRIORITY FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDU-
15 CATION.—Subsection (d) of section 3 of the Forest and
16 Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978
17 (16 U.S.C. 1642) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(d) HIGH PRIORITY FORESTRY RESEARCH AND
19 EDUCATION.—The Secretary may conduct, support, and
20 cooperate in forestry research and education that is of the
21 highest priority to the United States and users of public
22 and private forest lands in the United States. Such re-
23 search and education priorities were comprehensively ad-
24 dressed in the report of the National Research Council of
25 the National Academy of Sciences entitled ‘Forestry Re-

1 search: A Mandate for Change’, dated _____, and include
2 the following:

3 “(1) The biology of forest organisms.

4 “(2) Ecosystem function and management.

5 “(3) Human-forest interactions.

6 “(4) Wood as a raw material.

7 “(5) International trade, competition, and co-
8 operation.”.

9 (c) FORESTRY COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS.—
10 Section 5 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Re-
11 sources Research Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 16442) is
12 amended—

13 (1) by striking the section heading and “SEC.
14 5.” and inserting the following:

15 **“SEC. 5. FORESTRY COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS.**

16 “(a) COMPETITIVE GRANT AUTHORITY.—”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

19 “(b) EMPHASIS ON CERTAIN HIGH PRIORITY FOR-
20 ESTRY RESEARCH.—The Secretary may use up to five
21 percent of the amounts made available for research grants
22 under subsection (a) to make competitive grants in the
23 five high priority forestry research areas identified in sec-
24 tion 3(d). In making such grants, the Secretary shall give
25 priority to research proposals in which—

1 “(1) the proposed research will be collaborative
2 research organized through a center of scientific ex-
3 cellence;

4 “(2) the applicant agrees to provide matching
5 funds (in the form of direct funding, in-kind sup-
6 port, or other support) in an amount equal to not
7 less than 50 percent of the grant amount; and

8 “(3) the proposed research will be conducted as
9 part of an existing private and public partnership or
10 cooperative research effort and involves several inter-
11 ested research partners.”.

12 **TITLE III—EXTENSION OR RE-**
13 **PEAL OF RESEARCH, EXTEN-**
14 **SION, AND EDUCATION INI-**
15 **TIATIVES**

16 **SEC. 301. NATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE UNDER COM-**
17 **PETITIVE, SPECIAL, AND FACILITIES RE-**
18 **SEARCH GRANT ACT.**

19 Subsection (b)(10) of the Competitive, Special, and
20 Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(10)) is
21 amended by striking “1997” and inserting “2002”.

22 **SEC. 302. EQUITY IN EDUCATIONAL LAND-GRANT STATUS**
23 **ACT OF 1994.**

24 Sections 533(b) and 535 of the Equity in Educational
25 Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382; 7

1 U.S.C. 301 note) are amended by striking “2000” each
2 place it appears and inserting “2002”.

3 **SEC. 303. EDUCATION GRANTS PROGRAMS FOR HISPANIC-**
4 **SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

5 Section 1455(c) of the National Agricultural Re-
6 search, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7
7 U.S.C. 3241(c)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 1997”
8 and inserting “each of the fiscal years 1997 through
9 2002”.

10 **SEC. 304. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR AGRICULTURAL**
11 **RESEARCH PROGRAMS.**

12 Section 1463 of the National Agricultural Research,
13 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
14 3311) is amended by striking “1997” each place it ap-
15 pears in subsections (a) and (b) and inserting “2002”.

16 **SEC. 305. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION FOR EXTENSION EDU-**
17 **CATION.**

18 Section 1464 of the National Agricultural Research,
19 Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
20 3312) is amended by striking “1997” and inserting
21 “2002”.

1 **TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS**
2 **PROVISIONS**

3 **SEC. 401. ROLE OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE REGARD-**
4 **ING FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**
5 **RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION.**

6 The Secretary of Agriculture shall be the principal
7 official in the executive branch responsible for coordinat-
8 ing all Federal research and extension activities related
9 to food and agricultural sciences.

10 **SEC. 402. OFFICE OF PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE; PRINCIPAL RE-
12 SPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall es-
13 tablish in the Department of Agriculture an Office of Pest
14 Management Policy, which shall be responsible for—

15 (1) the development and coordination of De-
16 partment of Agriculture policy on pest management
17 and pesticides;

18 (2) the coordination of activities of the Depart-
19 ment, including research, extension, and education
20 activities, regarding the development, availability,
21 and use of economically and environmentally sound
22 pest management tools and practices;

23 (3) assisting the Department in fulfilling its re-
24 sponsibilities under the Food Quality Protection Act

1 of 1996 (Public Law 104–170; 110 Stat. 1489) and
2 the amendments made by that Act; and

3 (4) performing such other functions as may be
4 required by law or prescribed by the Secretary.

5 (b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—In support of its
6 responsibilities under subsection (a), the Office of Pest
7 Management Policy shall coordinate interagency activities
8 with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food and
9 Drug Administration, and other Federal and State agen-
10 cies in activities, including research, extension, and edu-
11 cation, related to pest management.

12 (c) OUTREACH.—The Office of Pest Management
13 Policy shall consult with, and provide appropriate services
14 to, producer groups and other interested parties as nec-
15 essary in carrying out its responsibilities under this sec-
16 tion.

17 (d) DIRECTOR.—The Office of Pest Management
18 Policy shall be under the direction of a Director appointed
19 by the Secretary who shall report directly to the Secretary
20 or a designee of the Secretary.

21 **SEC. 403. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING IMPORTANCE**
22 **OF SCHOOL-BASED AGRICULTURAL EDU-**
23 **CATION.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agri-
25 culture and the Secretary of Education should collaborate

1 and cooperate in providing both instructional and tech-
2 nical support for school-based agricultural education.

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