

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 301

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and provide emergency assistance under the Livestock Assistance Program to poultry farmers whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2001

Mr. SHOWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to make emergency loans under the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act and provide emergency assistance under the Livestock Assistance Program to poultry farmers whose energy costs have escalated sharply.

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 “Poultry Farmers’  
5        Emergency Energy Assistance Act of 2001”.

6        **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7        The Congress finds that—

1           (1) sudden and dramatic increases in energy  
2           prices have caused an economic disaster in the poul-  
3           try farming industry; and

4           (2) such an economic disaster is as devastating  
5           to a community as a natural disaster and should be  
6           regarded as such.

7 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY LOANS FOR POULTRY FARMERS**  
8                   **WHOSE ENERGY COSTS HAVE ESCALATED**  
9                   **SHARPLY.**

10          A qualified energy price increase found by the Sec-  
11          retary of Agriculture to have been experienced by a poul-  
12          try farming operation shall be considered a natural dis-  
13          aster for purposes of subtitle C of the Consolidated Farm  
14          and Rural Development Act, but only with respect to such  
15          an operation.

16 **SEC. 4. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR POUL-**  
17                   **TRY FARMERS WHOSE ENERGY COSTS HAVE**  
18                   **ESCALATED SHARPLY.**

19          (a) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—As soon as prac-  
20          ticable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
21          Secretary of Agriculture shall provide financial assistance  
22          directly to poultry farming operations that the Secretary  
23          finds had a qualified energy price increase to assist the  
24          operations in covering all or a portion of the higher oper-

1 ating costs incurred as a result of the increase in energy  
2 prices.

3 (b) EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.—The eligibility of a  
4 poultry farming operation for assistance under this section  
5 does not require either the existence of a natural disaster  
6 in the county in which the poultry farming operation is  
7 located or an emergency designation by the President or  
8 the Secretary.

9 (c) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made  
10 available under section 806 of the Agriculture, Rural De-  
11 velopment, Food and Drug Administration, and Related  
12 Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted by Public  
13 Law 106–387; 114 Stat. 1549A–51), for the Livestock As-  
14 sistance Program to provide assistance to poultry farming  
15 operations under this section.

16 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) POULTRY FARMING OPERATION.—The term  
19 “poultry farming operation” means a farming oper-  
20 ation used for the production of poultry for commer-  
21 cial purposes. The term includes a poultry farming  
22 operation in which the operator raises poultry owned  
23 by another person under a contractual agreement,  
24 but has a financial interest and risk in the produc-  
25 tion.

1           (2) POULTRY.—The term “poultry” includes  
2 poultry used for the production of eggs and poultry  
3 raised for slaughter.

4           (3) QUALIFIED ENERGY PRICE INCREASE.—The  
5 term “qualified energy price increase” means, with  
6 respect to a poultry farming operation, that the av-  
7 erage price paid for energy for the operation during  
8 the period that began on January 1, 2000, and  
9 ended on the date of the enactment of this Act is  
10 at least 25 percent greater than the average price  
11 paid for energy for the operation during the period  
12 that began on January 1, 1997, and ended on De-  
13 cember 31, 1999.

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