

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The estimates include General Provisions language as follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Section 701: Provides authority for the purchase, replacement, and hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year [2024]2025 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

Section 702: Authorizes the transfer of discretionary, unobligated funds appropriated by this Act or other available unobligated discretionary balances to the Working Capital Fund (WCF) for the purpose of acquiring plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services with approval of the Agency Administrator. Amounts transferred under this authority would not be available for obligation until the Committees on Appropriations of Congress are notified. In addition, language allows up to 4 percent of total annual income to the WCF for fiscal year 2024 may be retained in the Fund for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until expended, to be used for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center, the amounts reserved are not available for obligation without notification to the Appropriations Committees. Funds available for investment from among the equity accounts of the Department's WCF may be allocated among the activities the WCF supports for any purpose relating to information technology modernization.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund to acquire and improve property, equipment, and other support systems necessary for the implementation and delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center,

the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

Section 703: Provides that no part of any appropriation in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless otherwise specified.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

Section 704: Limits the negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements between the Department and nonprofit institutions to 10 percent of the value of the agreement.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

Section 705: Provides that subsidy authority for Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account remain available until expended to cover obligations.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

Section 706: Prohibits the use of funds to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), without approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Technology Investment Review Board and Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

Section 707: Allows funds made available in a fiscal year for the Agricultural Management Assistance Program to remain available until expended to cover obligations made in the same fiscal year but are not available for new obligations.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

Section 708: Continues language to expand eligibility for loans and grants under the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants program to former RUS borrowers and entities.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

Section 709: Allows up to \$20 million of unobligated balances from the Farm Service Agency mission area salaries and expenses account to be used for information technology expenses through FY 2026.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, [2025]2026, for information technology expenses.

Section 710: Prohibits the use of funds for first-class travel that does not comply with Federal regulations on temporary duty travel allowances.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

Section 711: Continues language providing the authority to use Commodity Credit Corporation funds provided for certain Farm Bill programs for technical assistance and administrative expenses related to those programs and excludes programs for which indefinite amounts are provided, with regard to the limitations contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

- (1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and
- (2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

Section 712: Provides a spending limit of \$2.9 million for activities related to all Federal Advisory Committee Act committees of the Department.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

Section 713: Allows the Agricultural Marketing Service to retain unobligated balances until expended for Section 32 purposes, with up to \$350 million of balances allowed for direct payments to reestablish farmers' purchasing powers. The total Section 32 spending cap for 2021 is \$1.36 billion. Commodity Purchase Services, administrative funds, is to be funded at \$38.81 million.

SEC. 713. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as "section 14222"), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as "section 32") in excess of [\$1,472,339,000]\$1,622,930,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities--\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts--

\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities--\$2,500,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—[\$37,178,000]\$37,728,828: *Provided*, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, [2024]2025, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year [2025]2026 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed \$350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: *Provided further*, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

Section 714: Allows the Secretary to assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan of up to 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 714. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

Section 715: Continues to exclude incarcerated prison populations for the purposes of determining program eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Development Programs.

SEC. 715. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

Section 716: Allows the Secretary to increase the program level by not more than 25 percent for loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority. Prior to implementing the increase, the Secretary is required to provide written notification at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 716. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

Section 717: Limits the use of refunds or rebates from credit card purchases to the acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems and requires advanced congressional notification.

SEC. 717. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available to acquire and improve property, equipment, and other support systems necessary for the implementation and delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

Section 718: Allows the section 502 single family housing guaranteed loan program similar to FHA and VA home loan guarantees, allowing lenders to issue loan guarantees on behalf of the Federal government.

SEC. 718. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

Section 719: Language that allows the Secretary to charge and retain such funds received as available until expended for inspections occurring outside of approved inspection shifts or on Federal holidays.

[SEC. 719. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection

Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided*, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further*, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested as we focus on implementing a multi-year solution.

Section 720: Restricts funding for the Food and Drug Administration from enforcing the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. [720]719. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption," and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

Section 721: Prohibits funds from being used to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp in research as authorized by Section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill, subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or Section 10114 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

SEC. [721]720. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

- (1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or
- (2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

Section 722: Allows the Secretary to waive the matching funds requirement for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture programs under Section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

SEC. [722]721. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

Section 723: Requires that PL-480, Title II funds may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. [723]722. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

Section 724: Continues language stating that only a school food authority (SFA) that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, is required to comply with paid lunch equity requirements, which ensure the SFA has sufficient funds for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

SEC. [724]723. For school year [2024-2025]2025-2026, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, [2023]2024, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

Section 725: Clarifies USDA's authority to set aside funds for the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program.

SEC. [725]724. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

Section 726: Provides authorization for NRCS to provide technical assistance for the Watershed Operations and Rehabilitation and also the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

SEC. [726]725. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

Section 727: Continues language prohibiting inspections of horses for slaughter.

SEC. [727]726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

- (1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);
- (2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or
- (3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

Section 728: Provides \$5 million of no-year funding for mitigation banking (Farm Bill Section 2103).

[SEC. 728. There is hereby appropriated \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115-334: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 729: The bill provides \$5 million to remain available until expended, for expenses related to testing soil, water or agricultural products for PFAS at the request of the producer, assisting agricultural producers affected by PFAS contamination to mitigate the impacts, and indemnifying agricultural producers to alleviate the impact by PFAS contamination.

SEC. [729]727. Under such terms and conditions determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall administer a program related to testing soil, water, or agricultural products for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the request of an agricultural producer, assisting agricultural producers affected by PFAS contamination with costs related to mitigate the impacts to their operation that have resulted from such contamination enhancing scientific knowledge on PFAS uptake in crops and livestock and PFAS mitigation and remediation methods, and disseminate such knowledge to agricultural producers, and activities related to the detection and measurement of PFAS[: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize such assistance to agricultural producers in states and territories that have established a tolerance threshold for PFAS in a food or agricultural product].

This change (line 9) is requested to ensure that USDA has maximum flexibilities for program administration.

Section 730: Extends the current prohibition on requiring matching funds on grants for improvements to meat and poultry facilities to allow for interstate shipment. With the extension, the prohibition will be in place until the end of fiscal year 2025. In addition, this GP extends the authority to conduct the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program.

SEC. [730]728. (a) Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "[2024]2025".

(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) is amended by striking "2023" and inserting "[2024]2025".

Section 731: Includes language allowing projects which received a direct loan from the program in Fiscal Year 2018 to remain available through Fiscal Year 2028 for liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2018.

SEC. [731]729. Funds made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) for the "Rural Community Facilities Program Account" under section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S.C. 1926, for the principal amount of direct loans are to remain available through fiscal year 2028 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2018.

Section 732: Provides \$12 million in additional Farm to School grant funds as a general provision instead of in the appropriations account.

[SEC. 732. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated \$12,000,000 to carry out section 18(g)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(8)), to remain available until expended.]

This change removes this language as a one-time provision and moves it to the appropriations language.

Section 733: Provides \$2 million for the Institute of Child Nutrition as a general provision instead of in the appropriations account.

[SEC. 733. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b-1(a)(2) and (e)(2) to remain available until expended.]

This change removes this language as a one-time provision and moves it to the appropriations language.

Section 734: Provides guidance on Single Family Housing and Multi-family Housing Programs, including Multi-family Housing Direct loans and Farm Labor Housing Direct loans and grants, to include in new construction funding for renewable energy projects that support Climate change initiative.

SEC. [734]730. None of the funds made available under this Act to carry out sections 504, 514, 515, 516, 523, 533 and 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474, 1484-1486, 1490c, 1490m, 1490p-2) may be used to award loans or grants for new construction or improvements projects unless such projects improve energy or water efficiency, indoor air quality, or sustainability improvements; implement low-emission technologies, materials, or processes, including zero-emission electricity generation, energy storage, building electrification, or electric car charging station installations; or address climate resilience of multifamily properties.

Section 735: Amends the Housing Act of 1949. Rural Development includes a legislative proposal in the 2025 budget of extending the repayment term for Section 523 site development loans from two years to five years. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing, which is urgently needed in rural America.

SEC. [735]731. Section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c) is amended in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking "two years" and inserting "five years".

Section 736: Amends the Housing Act of 1949. Rural Development includes a legislative proposal in the 2025 budget of extending the repayment term for Section 524 site development loans from two years to five years. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing, which is urgently needed in rural America.

SEC. [736]732. Section 524 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490d) is amended in subsection (a)(1) by striking "two years" and inserting "five years".

Section 737: Cancels \$10.28 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Broadband Treasury Rate Loan program. Because of funding provided for ReConnect in the annual appropriations and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, loans for this purpose are being provided thru the ReConnect program.

SEC. [737]733 Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the Broadband Treasury Rate Loan program, authorized in section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb), [\$9,156,000]\$10,280,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 738: Cancels \$5 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for a Multi-family Housing maturing mortgage pilot program. The budget supports an increase in multi-family housing programs for increasing affordable housing.

[SEC. 738. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in prior Acts for the pilot program described in section 749 of division A of Public Law 115-141, including from amounts made available in any successor provision for such purpose, \$5,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 739: Amends Section 593 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408a) to facilitate the sale of Real Estate Owned properties.

SEC. [739]734. Section 592 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408a) is amended —

- (a) in the section heading by striking “FMHA” and inserting “USDA”;
- (b) in subsection (a), by, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), striking “program and nonprogram”;
- and
- (c) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following: “(b) Priority.—The priority uses of inventory property under this section shall be given priority equal to or higher than the disposition of such property in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary as necessary to protect the best interests of the Federal Government.”.

Section 740: Cancels \$8 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Rural Cooperative Development Grants. The budget supports the technical assistance provided by Agriculture Innovation Center grants seeking to engage in developing and marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products.

SEC. [740]735. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in prior Acts under the heading “Rural Cooperative Development Grants” for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized by section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b), as amended, \$8,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 741: Amends the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 to provide authority to standardize foreclosures across states, consistent with how HUD is authorized to carryout foreclosures. The efficiency created by USDA having independent foreclosure authority will dramatically reduce the timeframes required to dispose of the property and will facilitate more expedient and direct re-use according to community needs.

SEC. [741]736. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at subsection (10) by inserting after “Secretary of Housing Urban Development” the following: “and the Secretary of Agriculture”.

Section 742: Provides revisions to beginning farmer reserved funds authorizing language ensure FSA has the necessary flexibilities for optimal loan dispersal to all agricultural producers.

SEC. [742]737. Section 346(b)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—

- (a) In subparagraph (A)(i)(II) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal year”;
- (b) In subparagraph (A)(iii) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the fiscal year”;
- and
- (c) In subparagraph (B)(iii) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal year”.

Section 743: The current language defines a qualifying loss from a disaster event as being at least 30 per centum loss of normal per acre or per animal production. Removal of this language ensures that the Secretary has maximum flexibility in defining loss to improve eligibility for agricultural producers seeking emergency loan funding. The intent of this action is to improve producer access to emergency funding.

SEC. [743]738. Section 329 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1970) is amended in the first sentence by striking “at least a 30 per centum” and all that follows through “in effect

for the previous year”, and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “a qualifying production loss, as determined by the Secretary, as a result of the disaster,”.

Section 744: Agricultural producers impacted by a disaster who wish to use emergency loan funding must provide a written declination from a commercial lender, and the Secretary must take into account the applicants’ assets and liabilities. Removal of this requirement will give the Secretary maximum flexibility in regards to applicant eligibility for emergency loans and so improve producer access to emergency funding.

SEC. [744]739. Section 322 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1962) is hereby amended by striking “(a)” and by striking subsection (b).

Section 745: Includes language to eliminate the limit on the number of vouchers RHS can issue. Currently Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 limits issuing vouchers to 5,000 any fiscal year. The General Provision amends the Housing Act.

SEC. [745]740. Section 542 of the Housing Act, (42 USC 1490r,) is amended—
 (a) in the heading of section (b), striking “and limitation”;
 (b) by striking “; and” at the end of subsection (b)(1) and inserting a period; and
 (c) by striking subsection (b)(2).

Section 746: Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for inflation of the maximum fees collected for the Health and Human Services Secretary’s certification on the export product being unadulterated or misbranded.

SEC. [746]741. Section 801(e)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(e)(4)) is amended —
 (a) in subparagraph (B) by striking “but shall not exceed \$175 for each certification” and inserting “in an amount specified in subparagraph (F)”;

(b) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs: “(F) The fee for each written export certification issued by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not exceed (i) \$600 for fiscal year 2024; and (ii) for each subsequent fiscal year, the prior fiscal year maximum amount multiplied by the inflation adjustment under section 738(c)(2)(C), applied without regard to the limitation in clause (ii)(II) of such subparagraph. (G) The Secretary shall, for each fiscal year, publish in the Federal Register a notice of the export certification fee under this paragraph for such year, not later than 60 days before such fee takes effect.”

Section 747: Allows the availability of salaries and expenses to be available for primary and secondary schooling of eligible dependents of Health and Human Services personnel stationed in Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and possessions of the United States.

SEC. [747]742. Funds appropriated in this or any prior Act that are available for salaries and expenses of employees of the Food and Drug Administration shall also be available for the primary and secondary schooling of eligible dependents of Department of Health and Human Services personnel stationed in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the possessions of the United States at costs not in excess of those paid for or reimbursed by the Department of Defense.

Section 743: Cancels \$16,500,000 from unobligated balances made available for non-emergency Avian Health (\$8.5 million); National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility as transition has completed (\$5.0 million); and antimicrobial resistance work as base dashboard is completed (\$3.0 million).

SEC. 743 Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service--Salaries and Expenses", \$16,500,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 744: Cancels \$8 million in unobligated balances made available for the Food and Nutrition Service office relocation.

SEC. 744 Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in Public Law 115-31 under the heading "Nutrition Programs Administration" for relocation expenses and for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250, \$8,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an

emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 745: Cancels \$603,535 from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Public Broadcasting System Grants. The Public Broadcasting System funding is no longer necessary and may be cancelled.

SEC. 745 Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in Public Law 108-199 under the heading "Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program", \$603,535 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 746: Cancels \$11,786,000 from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Rural Housing Voucher program.

SEC. 746 Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available for "Rural Housing Voucher Account", as authorized by the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81-171), \$11,786,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: *Provided*, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 747: Amends the Nonrecurring Expense Fund language to allow for funds to be used for more than capitalizable facilities infrastructure expenses and allow for them to also be used for information technology services.

SEC. 747 Section 2250b of title 7, United States Code, is hereby amended in the second proviso by striking "capital acquisition" and after "infrastructure" inserting "and information technology services".

Section 748 Amends the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to restore the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection user fee account's ability to maintain a reasonable balance to maintain operations even in times of declining collections.

SEC. 748 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to maintain a reasonable balance in the accounts that incur the costs associated with the provision of agricultural quarantine and inspection services as provided in the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade (FACT) Act of 1990, and may prescribe and collect fees to maintain such a balance for all user fee types in fiscal year 2025.

Section 749: Allows for the Office of the General Counsel to enter into reimbursable agreements with USDA agencies when the level of services requested exceed the number of hours allocated to a particular agency.

SEC. 749 The agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture may reimburse the Office of the General Counsel (OGC), Department of Agriculture, for costs incurred by OGC in providing services to such agency or office: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.