



Amendments to H.R. 2 — Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018 (Rep. Conaway, R-TX)

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FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration beginning on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, subject to a structured [rule](#). The rule makes in order 20 amendments.

This Legislative Bulletin covers the amendments made in order by the Rules Committee.

Additional amendments, including a manager's amendment, are expected to be made in order by the Rules Committee. Those amendments will be included in future Legislative Bulletins.

The Legislative Bulletin for H.R. 2 can be found [here](#).

AMENDMENTS:

1. [Rep. King \(R-IA\) \(#55\)](#): would authorize the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to allow contracts with drainage districts for the use of existing drainage systems, or to upgrade drainage systems, to provide irrigation or water efficiency.

The EQIP gives financial aid and technical assistance to farmers who implement certain soil and water conservation practices. According to CBO, the underlying bill would increase outlays for EQIP by \$2.092 billion over the FY 2019 – 2023 period and by \$7.693 billion over the FY 2019 – 2028 period.

2. [Rep. Gibbs \(R-OH\) \(#2\)](#): would state a sense of Congress that the Federal Government should recognize and encourage partnerships at the watershed level between nonpoint sources and regulated point sources to advance the goals of the [Federal Water Pollution Control Act](#) (Clean Water Act) and provide benefits to farmers, landowners, and the public.
3. [Rep. Marino \(R-PA\) \(#72\)](#): would direct the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to carry out a pilot program in nine States “to determine whether data on specific items purchased with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits can be collected using existing reporting requirements and whether such reporting requirements may be improved.” In carrying out the pilot program, the Comptroller General of the United States would use the data required to be reported for the supplemental nutrition assistance program under the [Food and Nutrition Act of 2008](#) (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.)

4. [Rep. Rogers \(R-AL\) \(#100\)](#): would amend [section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008](#) by allowing users of SNAP to purchase a multivitamin-mineral dietary supplement for home consumption with their SNAP benefits. The amendment would define a multivitamin-mineral dietary supplement as a substance that provides at least half of the vitamins and minerals for which the National Academy of Medicine establishes dietary reference intakes, at 50 percent or more of the daily value for the intended life stage per daily serving as determined by the Food and Drug Administration; and does not exceed the tolerable upper intake levels for those nutrients.

Under [current law](#), SNAP benefits may only be used to purchase foods for the household to eat. Some conservatives may be concerned that the amendment would expand the use of SNAP benefits to non-food items.

5. [Rep. Bergman \(R-MI\) \(#49\)](#): would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the agricultural credit needs of farms, ranches, and related agricultural businesses that are owned or operated by Indian tribes on tribal lands; or enrolled members of Indian tribes on Indian allotments; and determine whether the institutions of the Farm Credit System have sufficient authority and resources to meet the needs. GAO would be directed to report to Congress. If GAO finds that the institutions of the Farm Credit System do not have sufficient authority or resources to meet the needs, the report would include legislative and other recommendations resulting in a system under which the needs are met in an equitable and effective manner.
6. [Rep. Arrington \(R-TX\) \(#99\)](#): would modify the Community Facilities Direct Loan and Guarantee Loan Program and the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program to include the refinancing of a debt obligation of a rural hospital as an eligible loan or loan guarantee purpose if the assistance would help preserve access to a health service in a rural community and meaningfully improve the financial position of the hospital.
7. [Rep. Jones \(R-NC\) \(#3\)](#): would determine that the first 1,500 individuals who reside in housing located on a military base would not be included in determining whether an area is 'rural' or a 'rural area'. The amendment would apply this definition change to the Rural Broadband Loans and Guarantee Program and the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loans and Grants program.
8. [Rep. Latta \(R-OH\) \(#47\)](#): would require the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in consultation with the United States Department of Agriculture, to establish a Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. The task force would identify and measure current gaps in the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land; develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved; and make other recommendations. The FCC would renew the Task Force every 2 years until the Task Force terminates on January 1, 2025. Some conservatives may believe these activities would be more appropriately handled by the private sector.
9. [Rep. Thompson \(R-PA\) \(#82\)](#): would add Chronic Wasting Disease to Section 7208, High-Priority Research and Extension Initiatives, allowing for research and extension grants may be made under the bill for projects relating to treating, mitigating, or eliminating chronic wasting disease.

10. [Rep. Herrera-Beutler \(R-WA\) \(#43\)](#): would direct the payment of a portion of stewardship project revenues to the county in which the stewardship project occurs. Services and in-kind resources received by the Chief or the Director under a stewardship contract project would not be considered monies received from the National Forest System or the public lands, but any payments made by the contractor to the Chief or Director under the project would be considered monies received from the National Forest System or the public lands.
11. [Rep. Gosar \(R-AZ\) \(#4\)](#): would authorize counties or Indian tribes to be included in Good Neighbor Authority cooperative agreements and contracts.
12. [Rep. Gianforte \(R-MT\) \(#56\)](#): would authorize salvage operation or reforestation activity proposed to be conducted on National Forest System lands or public lands adversely impacted by a large-scale catastrophic event to be completed within 60 days after the conclusion of the catastrophic event. The Secretary concerned would, to the maximum extent practicable, achieve reforestation of at least 75 percent of the impacted lands during the 5-year period following the conclusion of the catastrophic event, on public lands adversely impacted by a large-scale catastrophic event.
13. [Rep. Westerman \(R-AR\) \(#76\)](#): would amend determinations in collaborative forest management plans. In an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, the Secretary concerned would study, develop, and describe only the following two alternatives: the forest management activity; and the alternative of no action. As part of its weighing the equities while considering any request for an injunction that applies to any agency action as part of a forest management activity the court reviewing the agency action would balance the impact to the ecosystem likely affected by the forest management activity of the short- and long-term effects of undertaking the agency action; against the short- and long-term effects of not undertaking the action. The length of any preliminary injunctive relief and stays pending appeal that applies to any agency action as part of a forest management activity, would not exceed 60 days.
14. [Rep. Young \(R-AK\) \(#69\)](#): would exempt all National Forest System land in Alaska from the U.S. [Forest Service Roadless Rule](#).
15. [Rep. Pearce \(R-NM\) \(#6\)](#): would allow the Village of Santa Clara to purchase approximately 1,520 acres of National Forest System land from the United States Forest Service that was formerly part of Fort Bayard Military Reservation. The Village of Santa Clara would pay for all costs associated with the conveyance, including for the land survey, and any environmental analysis and resource surveys determined necessary by Federal law.
16. [Rep. LaMalfa \(R-CA\) \(#31\)](#): would streamline the Forest Service process for consideration of communications facilities location applications. The Secretary of Agriculture would be directed to issue regulations to streamline the process for considering applications to locate or modify communications facilities on covered land; to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the process is uniform and standardized across the organizational units of the Forest Service; and to require that the applications be considered and granted on a competitively neutral, technology neutral, and non-discriminatory basis. The Secretary of the Treasury would establish a special account in the Treasury for the Forest Service for the deposit of fees collected by the Forest Service for communications use authorizations on covered land granted, issued, or executed by the Forest Service.

17. [Rep. Westerman \(R-AR\) \(#77\)](#): would require the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior to submit a report to Congress on the number of acres of Federal land treated by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior for wildfire, insect infestation, or disease prevention; the number of acres of Federal land categorized as a high or extreme fire risk; the total timber production from Federal land; the number of acres and average fire intensity of wildfires affecting Federal land treated for wildfire, insect infestation, or disease prevention; the number of acres and average fire intensity of wildfires affecting Federal land not treated for wildfire, insect infestation, or disease prevention; and the Federal response time for each fire on greater than 25,000 acres.
18. [Rep. Pearce \(R-NM\) \(#8\)](#): would [amend section 4003 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009](#) reauthorize the [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program](#) for \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal year until 2023 to remain available until expended. According to the Forest Service, “The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes.”
19. [Rep. Tipton \(R-CO\) \(#1\)](#): would authorize the U.S. Forest Service to convey 3.61 acres of Forest Service Land to Dolores County, Colorado for the strict purpose of building a fire station. Any costs relating to the conveyance, including processing and transaction costs, would be paid by the County.
20. [Rep. Thornberry \(R-TX\) \(#28\)](#): would establish Cattle and Carcass Grading Correlation and Training Centers to provide education and training for cattle and carcass beef graders of the Agricultural Marketing Service, cattle producers, and other professionals involved in the reporting, delivery, and grading of feeder cattle, live cattle, and carcasses to limit the subjectivity in the application of beef grading standards; to provide producers with greater confidence in the price of the producers’ cattle; and to provide investors with both long and short positions more assurance in the cattle delivery system. The Centers shall be located near cattle feeding and slaughter populations and areas would be strategically identified in order to capture regional variances in cattle production. Funds made available to carry out the section would not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility.

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