

ROBERTS-STABENOW

UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020

SECTION-BY-SECTION DESCRIPTION

Section 1. Short Title.

Provides that the short title of the bill is the “United States Grain Standards Reauthorization Act of 2020.”

Section 2. Notification of Discontinuance by State Agencies.

Section 7(e)(2)(C)(i) of the Act requires that if a delegated State agency intends to temporarily discontinue official inspection or weighing services, that State agency must notify the Secretary of Agriculture in writing at least 72 hours in advance of the discontinuation date. Section 2 of the bill requires the State Agency to provide the same notice to customers or applicants for inspection or weighing services.

Section 2 also amends section 7(j)(5) of the Act to extend the authority for the Secretary to charge and collect fees from official agencies and delegated State agencies to fund official inspections from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2025.

Section 3. Weighing Authority.

Section 3 amends section 7A(l)(4) of the Act to extend the authority for the Secretary to charge and collect fees from delegated agencies and to fund official weighing from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2025.

Section 4. Limitation on Administrative and Supervisory Costs.

Section 4 amends section 7D of the Act to extend the cap on the administrative and supervisory costs under the Act from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2025.

Section 5. Reporting Requirements.

Section 17B of the Act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to report annually to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives regarding the effectiveness of official inspection and weighing under the Act, and include information on related matters.

Section 5 of the bill amends section 17B of the Act to require the Secretary to report on a quarterly basis certain inspection program data for intrinsic quality factors and food safety factors that have been included in the annual report for the most recent five years.

Section 5 also requires the Secretary to report, on a quarterly basis, the number of—

- (1) exceptions for inspections across geographic boundaries either requested or granted under section 7(f)(2)(B) of the Act; and
- (2) waivers for official weighing or inspection either requested or granted under section 5(a)(1) of the Act.

Section 5 also authorizes the Secretary to publish additional data related to testing, inspection, and weighing activities under the Act, after consultation with State agencies, official agencies, and the grain industry.

Finally, section 5 requires that any trade secrets or confidential business information collected by the Secretary under the authorities provided by section 5 shall not be publicly disclosed.

Section 6. Appropriations.

Section 6 amends section 19 of the Act to require that user fees collected by the Federal Grain Inspection Service for official grain inspection and weighing services may not be used for activities related to the development or maintenance of grain standards, or for any other activity that is not directly related to the performance of an official inspection or weighing service.

Section 6 also amends section 19 of the Act to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out the Act from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2025.

Section 7. Advisory Committee.

Section 7 amends section 21 of the Act to provide that members of the advisory committee may serve up to two consecutive terms.

Section 7 also extends the authorization of the advisory committee from September 30, 2020 until September 30, 2025.

Section 8. Review of Geographic Boundaries for Official Agencies.

Section 8 requires the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a comprehensive nationwide review of the official agency geographic areas, after taking into consideration a number of specific factors. The Secretary is required to report the results of the review and any recommendations to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives no later than 18 months after the date of enactment.

Section 9. Technical Correction.

Section 9 amends section 4(a)(1) of the Act to replace a comma that was inadvertently omitted in an earlier amendment made by section 5(a) of P.L. 94-582 (October 1, 1976).