

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to increase access to Federal crop insurance for specialty crops.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to increase access to Federal crop insurance for specialty crops.

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 “Increasing Insurance
5 Access for Specialty Crops Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 505 of the Federal Crop
8 Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1505) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
2 (E), (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F),
3 (G), and (H), respectively;

4 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
5 (D) the following:

6 “(E) The Chairperson of the Specialty
7 Crop Advisory Committee established by sub-
8 section (f).”; and

9 (iii) in subparagraph (H) (as so reded-
10 igned), by striking “specialty crop” and
11 inserting “livestock”; and

12 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “sub-
13 paragraphs (E), (F), and (G) of paragraph (2)”
14 and inserting “subparagraphs (F), (G), and
15 (H) of paragraph (2) and the members of the
16 Specialty Crop Advisory Committee described in
17 subsection (f)(2)”; and

18 (2) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(f) SPECIALTY CROP ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
21 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
22 Secretary shall—

23 “(A) establish a Specialty Crop Advisory
24 Committee (referred to in this subsection as the
25 ‘Committee’); and

1 “(B) appoint to the Committee in accord-
2 ance with paragraph (2) the initial members
3 that will assist the Corporation in the research,
4 creation, and improvement of policies or plans
5 of insurance for specialty crops.

6 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

7 “(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of
8 the Committee shall be an individual with expe-
9 rience in crop insurance and the unique nature
10 of the specialty crop industry.

11 “(B) MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
12 consist of—

13 “(i) individuals with an understanding
14 of the production methods, markets, and
15 risks (including losses due to weather,
16 trade damages, and supply chain disrup-
17 tions) unique to specialty crop production;

18 “(ii) not fewer than 5 producers and
19 not more than 10 total members; and

20 “(iii) not fewer than 1 producer from
21 each of the West, Midwest, South, and
22 Northeast regions of the United States (as
23 identified by the Bureau of the Census).

24 “(3) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

1 “(A) advise the manager of the Corpora-
2 tion on issues relating to specialty crop insur-
3 ance policies;

4 “(B) provide input, through the Chair-
5 person of the Committee, to the Board on deci-
6 sions relating to specialty crop insurance poli-
7 cies;

8 “(C) review available educational programs
9 and make recommendations to the manager of
10 the Corporation on how to enhance the effec-
11 tiveness of such programs for specialty crop
12 producers;

13 “(D) provide recommendations to the man-
14 ager of the Corporation regarding the presen-
15 tation of policies to the Board required by sec-
16 tion 508(a)(6);

17 “(E) advise the manager of the Corpora-
18 tion on entering into partnerships and contracts
19 to carry out subsections (d) and (e)(2)(B) of
20 section 522; and

21 “(F) meet not less than 2 times each year
22 to carry out the duties described in this para-
23 graph.”.

24 (b) SPECIALTY CROPS COORDINATOR.—Section
25 507(g) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C.

1 1507(g)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
2 ing the following:

3 “(2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Specialty Crops
5 Coordinator shall have primary responsibility
6 for addressing the needs of specialty crop pro-
7 ducers, and for providing information and ad-
8 vice, in connection with the activities of the
9 Corporation to improve and expand the insur-
10 ance program for specialty crops.

11 “(B) OTHER DUTIES.—In carrying out
12 this paragraph, the Specialty Crops Coordinator
13 shall—

14 “(i) act as the liaison of the Corpora-
15 tion with representatives of specialty crop
16 producers and the Specialty Crop Advisory
17 Committee established under section
18 505(f); and

19 “(ii) assist the Corporation with the
20 knowledge, expertise, and familiarity of the
21 producers with risk management and pro-
22 duction issues pertaining to specialty
23 crops.”.

24 (c) ANNUAL REVIEW OF NEW AND SPECIALTY
25 CROPS.—Section 508(a)(6)(A) of the Federal Crop Insur-

1 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)(6)(A)) is amended by insert-
2 ing “(in consultation with the Specialty Crop Advisory
3 Committee established under section 505(f))” after “Cor-
4 poration”.