



H.R. 5937 – Farm Bill Extension

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5937 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Collin Peterson (D-MN) on May 1, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture, but was never considered.

H.R. 5937 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5937 would provide a clean extension to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 through May 16, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Federal farm laws cover a broad range of farm policies and agricultural programs, including price and income support, farm credit, agricultural conservation, support for rural development, and foreign and domestic food programs. The most recent farm reauthorization, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-171), was signed into law on May 13, 2002. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 was authorized for five years, and was set to expire in 2007.

On July 27, 2007, the House passed its version of the farm bill (H.R. 2419) by a vote of 231-191 ([Legislative Digest for H.R. 2419](#)). The House version of the bill includes a number of provisions including increases to federal farming subsidies for producers of wheat, barley, oats, soybeans, seeds, and cotton textile mills. Additionally, the House bill removes the cap on the number of payments an individual can receive in federal loan payments. On December 14, 2007, the Senate passed its version of the farm bill by a vote of 79 to 14. Both the House and the Senate farm bills contain provisions that would make changes to tax laws, as well as to commodity support and risk management policies and programs.

The Administration opposed both the previous House and Senate versions of the farm bill. The Administration cited provisions in both bills, including those relating to taxes, farm income subsidies, and commodity and crop insurance programs, to be among the reasons for its opposition to the bills.

[White House Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 2419 - Senate farm bill](#)

[White House Statement of Administration Policy H.R. 2419– House farm bill](#)

The Omnibus Appropriation Act (P.L. 110-161), which the President signed into law on December 26, 2007, provided a three month extension of federal Farm laws. On March 12, 2008, the House passed another farm bill extension, S. 2745, which provided a clean extension to farm bill programs until April 18, 2008. The bill passed in the House by voice vote and was signed into law by the President on March 14, 2008 (P.L. 110 – 196). Subsequently, the House and Senate have passed two additional clean farm bill extensions, with the most recent extension (S. 2903) set to expire May 2, 2008. S. 2903 passed both chambers on April 24, 2008 and was signed into law by the President on April 25, 2008 (P.L. 110-205).

The House appointed conferees to reconcile the Senate and House versions of the Farm Bill on April 9, 2008. The Republican motion to instruct conferees directed conferees to oppose any provision that would result in a tax increase. This Republican motion passed by a vote of 400 – 11. Conferees have made



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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progress on ironing out the differences between the two bills, agreeing to spend approximately \$10 billion over the farm bill's \$560 billion, ten year baseline.

COST

There was no Congressional Budget Office estimate for the bill available at the time of this publication.

STAFF CONTACT

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