

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4482

To increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. AXNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To increase the number of CBP Agriculture Specialists and support staff in the Office of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

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 “Protecting America’s
5 Food and Agriculture Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) it is in the national security interest of the
2 United States to ensure that the Nation’s food sup-
3 ply is sufficiently protected; and

4 (2) a vital part of such protection is the avail-
5 ability of adequate resources at the border to con-
6 duct inspections of incoming food and agricultural
7 goods.

8 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
14 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

15 (B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-
16 tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

17 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
18 of the House of Representatives; and

19 (D) the Committee on Agriculture of the
20 House of Representatives.

21 (2) CBP.—The term “CBP” means U.S. Cus-
22 toms and Border Protection.

1 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTEC-**
2 **TION PERSONNEL.**

3 (a) CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—The Commis-
4 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may hire,
5 train, and assign 240 new CBP Agriculture Specialists
6 above the current attrition level during every fiscal year
7 until the total number of CBP Agriculture Specialists
8 equals and sustains the requirements identified each year
9 in the Agriculture Resource Allocation Model.

10 (b) MISSION AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT STAFF.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S.
12 Customs and Border Protection may hire, train, and
13 assign support staff to support CBP Agriculture
14 Specialists.

15 (2) CBP AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS.—The
16 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
17 tion may hire, train, and assign 200 new CBP Agri-
18 culture Technicians during each fiscal year until the
19 total number of CBP Agriculture Technicians equals
20 and sustains the requirements identified each year in
21 the Mission and Operational Support Resource Allo-
22 cation Model.

23 (c) CBP AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—The Com-
24 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may
25 hire, train, and assign 20 new CBP agriculture canine

1 teams during each of the first 3 fiscal years beginning
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (d) TRAFFIC FORECASTS.—In calculating the num-
4 ber of CBP Agriculture Specialists needed at each port
5 of entry through the Agriculture Resource Allocation
6 Model, the Office of Field Operations shall—

7 (1) rely on data collected regarding the inspec-
8 tions and other activities conducted at each such
9 port of entry; and

10 (2) consider volume from seasonal surges, other
11 projected changes in commercial and passenger vol-
12 umes, the most current commercial forecasts, and
13 other relevant information.

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 (1) CBP AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out sub-
17 section (a)—

18 (A) \$29,900,000 for fiscal year 2020;

19 (B) \$36,100,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

20 (C) \$40,500,000 for fiscal year 2022.

21 (2) CBP AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS.—There
22 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out sub-
23 section (b)—

24 (A) \$11,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

25 (B) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

1 (C) \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

2 (3) CBP AGRICULTURE CANINE TEAMS.—There
3 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out sub-
4 section (c)—

5 (A) \$3,500,000 for fiscal year 2020;

6 (B) \$7,400,000 for fiscal year 2021; and

7 (C) \$12,200,000 for fiscal year 2022.

8 (4) TRAINING.—There is authorized to be ap-
9 propriated for training costs associated with the new
10 CBP personnel and canine teams hired pursuant to
11 subsections (a), (b), and (c) \$6,000,000 for each of
12 the fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

13 **SEC. 5. GAO STUDY, BRIEFING, AND REPORT.**

14 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
15 States, after consultation with the appropriate congres-
16 sional committees, shall conduct a review of the efforts
17 of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department
18 of Agriculture, and other Federal agencies to address risks
19 to the agricultural supply that analyzes—

20 (1) interagency coordination and the distribu-
21 tion of responsibilities among Federal agencies with
22 respect to the inspection of agricultural commodities
23 entering the United States;

24 (2) the effectiveness of such inspection respon-
25 sibilities among Federal agencies; and

1 (3) the training provided to, and working condi-
2 tions of, CBP Agriculture Specialists.

3 (b) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
5 brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding
6 the results of the study conducted pursuant to subsection
7 (a).

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the brief-
9 ing required under subsection (b), the Comptroller Gen-
10 eral shall complete the study required under subsection (a)
11 and make the results of the study available to the public.

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