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114–206

AGRICULTURE REAUTHORIZATIONS ACT OF 2015

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

ON

H.R. 2051

FEBRUARY 8, 2016.—Ordered to be printed

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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Mr. ROBERTS, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 2051]

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 2051) to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to extend the livestock mandatory price reporting requirements, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment (in the nature of a substitute) and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this legislation is to reauthorize expiring authority for livestock mandatory price reporting, the National Forest Foundation, and federal grain inspection. The legislation also makes improvements to increase effectiveness, certainty, and transparency in the livestock mandatory price reporting and federal grain inspection programs for U.S. farmers and other market participants.

The reported bill provides authority for the National Forest Foundation through fiscal year 2018 and authority for the livestock mandatory price reporting and federal grain inspection programs through fiscal year 2020.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

TITLE I—MANDATORY PRICE REPORTING

Under the authority of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (P.L. 106–78) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (AMA), meat packers are required to report the prices they pay for cattle, swine, and lambs to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as well as the prices they receive for the sale of wholesale beef, pork, and lamb. In addition, USDA is required to issue daily, weekly and monthly reports that detail the various transactions occurring in livestock and meat markets. This information provides producers and market participants a more transparent view of marketplace conditions, allowing them to make informed business decisions.

The current authorization for livestock mandatory price reporting expires on September 30, 2015. The reported bill reauthorizes the program through September 30, 2020.

The bill also makes technical improvements to swine and lamb reporting including: creating a negotiated formula purchase price category for swine reporting to be composed of trades currently categorized in the swine or pork market formula purchase category, shifting late in the day swine transactions to the reports issued the following morning, and creating definitions for lamb importer and lamb packer. These changes will facilitate capturing additional trades that are occurring between swine and lamb producers and packers, and lamb imports coming in the U.S. market, which will provide a more descriptive landscape of the market for swine and lambs.

Lastly, the legislation directs the Secretary to conduct a study on the workability of livestock mandatory price reporting in advance of the next reauthorization. In conducting the study, the Secretary is directed to enter into conversations with organizations representing beef, lamb and pork producers, packers, and other market participants. This dialogue will serve to identify potential legislative and regulatory improvements that can be made to the program.

TITLE II—NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The National Forest Foundation, originally chartered by Congress in 1992, serves as a non-profit partner of the U.S. Forest Service to leverage public and private funding to restore and enhance the Nation's federal forests and grasslands. The National Forest Foundation has been funded through the annual appropriations process despite its authority expiring in 1997. The reported bill extends the National Forest Foundation authority through fiscal year 2018 with discretionary funding at $3 million per year, which is consistent with recent annual appropriations funding levels. Authority for the National Forest Foundation will expire at the end of fiscal year 2018, making its duration consistent with the authorization periods for most forestry programs in the Farm Bill.

TITLE III—UNITED STATES GRAIN STANDARDS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

The Secretary, acting through the Federal Grain Inspection Service, is responsible for establishing official marketing standards for U.S. grains and oilseeds and managing inspection. In 2014, mandatory federal inspection lapsed at an export grain facility in Vancouver, Washington and trade was disrupted for 36 days. The reported bill reauthorizes various provisions in the United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) relating to federal grain inspection through fiscal year 2020. The statute was last reauthorized in 2005 with authorities set to expire on September 30, 2015. In addition to reauthorization, the bill also improves predictability and transparency for U.S. commodity producers, exporters, and trading partners with adding increased reporting and certification requirements.

Summary of Provisions

Title I—Mandatory Price Reporting

The legislation reauthorizes livestock mandatory price reporting for five years, through September 30, 2020. The bill also makes several technical improvements to livestock mandatory price reporting for swine and lamb.

With respect to swine, the legislation amends Section 231 of the AMA to create a new "negotiated formula purchase" price category. A "negotiated formula purchase" is defined as: "a swine or pork market formula purchase under which (A) the formula is determined by negotiation on a lot-by-lot basis; and (B) the swine are scheduled for delivery to the packer not later than 14 days after the date on which the formula is negotiated and swine are committed to the packer". The bill also amends Section 232 of the AMA to require that "late in the day reporting" be included in the next morning's reports.

For lamb, the legislation directs the Secretary to revise USDA regulations regarding the terms "packer" and "importer." The bill defines the term "packer" to apply to "any entity with 50 percent or more ownership in a facility" and to include a "federally-inspected plant which slaughtered or processed the equivalent of an average of 35,000 head of lambs per year during the immediately preceding 5 calendar years." The term may also include any other processing plant that doesn't meet that requirement if the Secretary determines the plant should be considered a packer after considering its capacity. The reported bill also defines the term "importer" to include "only those importers that imported an average of 1,000 metric tons of lamb meat products per year."

Lastly, the bill requires the Secretary to conduct a study in conjunction with organizations representing producers, packers and other market participants on the livestock mandatory price reporting program. The study is to be submitted to Congress no later than March 1, 2018.

Title II—National Forest Foundation Act Reauthorization

The reported bill extends the authority for the National Forest Foundation through fiscal year 2018 with a discretionary funding level of $3 million per year.

Title III—United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization

The reported bill reauthorizes various provisions of the USGSA through 2020. The bill also makes several important improvements to federal grain inspection and weighing in order to increase transparency and predictability in service.

The legislation creates certainty by mandating the use of emergency waiver authority. The Managers intend for the Secretary to waive official weighing and inspection requirements both in cases of emergency as well as other circumstances as long as the waiver does not impair the underlying objectives of the statute and the buyers and sellers agree and provide documentation of the agreement to the Secretary. This waiver requirement is intended to provide certainty to trading partners as well as U.S. suppliers.

The reported bill removes outdated requirements to ensure that grain entering an export facility is treated in the same manner, regardless of the mode of transportation.

The Managers recognize that the Secretary has a permanent statutory obligation to ensure that there is continuity of export inspection operations regardless if the services are performed by federal employees, a delegated agency, or some other means. To guarantee this responsibility is met, the bill establishes transparent disruption notification and reporting requirements. Specifically, it requires a delegated state to notify the Secretary 72 hours in advance of a temporary disruption of export inspection or weighing. The advance notification is to allow the Secretary time to maintain export inspection or weighing services. Upon notification, the bill requires the Secretary to immediately take actions to address the disruption and resume inspections or weighing. The Secretary is required to notify the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate within 24 hours of a disruption occurring. The Secretary must describe the disruption and identify any actions necessary so that inspections and weighing may resume. The Chair and Ranking Member have confirmed that the Secretary has broad authority to take action, including hiring security personnel or other third party services that are appropriate. Finally, the bill requires the Secretary to provide daily updates for the duration of any disruption.

The reported bill creates a transparent certification process for existing delegated state agencies that carry out export inspection. It requires the Secretary to establish the certification process within one year pursuant to statutory criteria, including personnel, training, fee collection, and recordkeeping. In such process, the Secretary is required to provide for public comment and public notice of whether the certification has been granted and on what basis the decision was made. The Managers intend for the certification process to be implemented and the first reviews of delegated states complete in a timely manner prior to 2020. The bill requires recertification of each delegated state every five years.

For designated agencies, the bill requires the Secretary to consult with customers of designated entities to ensure satisfaction with performance and address any service issues identified during this process. The bill also increases the duration of designation authority for domestic inspection and weighing services from three to five years.

The bill removes the geographic boundary restriction for domestic inspection and weighing if both the applicant for service and the current officially designated agency for the geographic area are in agreement.

The reported bill requires that inspection and weighing fees based on export tonnage be based on a more predictable, rolling five-year average of export tonnage volumes. It also requires the

Secretary to annually review and adjust fees in order to maintain a three to six month operating reserve.

The bill reauthorizes the following provisions in the USGSA until September 30, 2020: authority for delegated and designated state agencies to collect fees, the cap on administrative and supervisory costs, authority for appropriations, and the authority for the Grain Inspection Advisory Committee.

Outside of the USGSA, the reported bill requires the Secretary to issue a report within 180 days of date of enactment to both the authorizing and appropriations Committees about the 2014 disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports. The report must include: (1) specific factors which led to the disruption at the Port of Vancouver in the summer of 2014, (2) a description of the port facility, the security situation and available resources, as well as any other significant factors, and (3) any changes in policy that the Secretary has implemented to ensure that a similar disruption in inspection of grain exports does not occur at the Port of Vancouver or other locations in the future.

The bill also requires the Secretary, in consultation with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, to issue a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate that describes: (1) the policy barriers to U.S. grain producers in countries, including Canada, that do not offer official grading for U.S. grain or provide only the lowest designation for U.S. grain, including an analysis of their possible inconsistencies with trade obligations, and (2) any actions the Administration is taking to remedy such barriers and put U.S. producers on equal footing with their counterparts in countries imposing such barriers.

Legislative History

On June 9, 2015, H.R. 2051 was passed by the House of Representatives by voice vote on a motion to suspend the rules. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry in the Senate.

On September 17, 2015, the Committee held a business meeting to consider H.R. 2051. Chairman Roberts offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute which was adopted by unanimous consent. In addition to livestock mandatory price reporting, the amendment contained two additional bills (H.R. 2394 and H.R. 2088) previously passed by the House of Representatives by voice vote on a motion to suspend the rules. The amendment text related to grain standards act reauthorization is substantially similar to S. 1417, which was reported favorably by the Committee by voice vote on May 21, 2015. The Committee then ordered H.R. 2051, as amended, reported favorably by voice vote.

Estimated Costs

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

H.R. 2051—Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015

Summary: H.R. 2051 would amend and extend through 2020 the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) authority to require certain meat packers to report on the supply, demand, and prices of certain livestock. The bill also would authorize the appropriation of matching funds for administrative and project expenses to the National Forest Foundation through 2018; that authorization expired on September 30, 1996. Finally, H.R. 2051 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for the Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) to carry out activities under the United States Grain Standards Act and extend GIPSA's authority to collect and spend fees for certain inspection and weighing services.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2051 would cost $151 million over the 2016–2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, CBO estimates that such effects would not be significant in any year. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 2051 contains an intergovernmental mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) because it would preempt state and local laws. CBO estimates the cost of complying with the mandate would be small and would fall well below the threshold established in UMRA for intergovernmental mandates ($77 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation).

H.R. 2051 would impose a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, on grain exporters by extending GIPSA's authority to collect fees. It also would impose a mandate on certain packers, processors, and importers of livestock by extending and amending mandatory reporting requirements related to cattle, swine, and lambs. Based on information from USDA and industry experts, CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates ($154 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation).

Estimated cost to the Federal Government: The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 2051 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 300 (natural resources) and 350 (agriculture).

	By fiscal year, in millions of dollars					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016–2020
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Title I—Mandatory Price Reporting						
Estimated Authorization Level	8	7	7	7	7	36
Estimated Outlays	8	7	7	7	7	36
Title II—National Forest Foundation						
Authorization Level	3	3	3	0	0	9
Estimated Outlays	3	3	3	0	0	9
Title III—Grain Inspection						
Estimated Authorization Level	20	21	21	22	22	106
Estimated Outlays	20	21	21	22	22	106
Total						
Estimated Authorization Level	31	31	31	29	29	151
Estimated Outlays	31	31	31	29	29	151

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 2051 will be enacted by the end of calendar year 2015, and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated in each of the next five years.

Title I—Mandatory Price Reporting

The legislation would extend until September 30, 2020, the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to require certain livestock packers, processors, and importers, to continue reporting prices and supply and demand information to the government on a daily and weekly basis. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) processes and provides this information to the public. Based on information from AMS, CBO estimates that continuing to provide these reports to the public would cost $7 million a year.

H.R. 2051 also would require the Secretary, in consultation with relevant producers and packers, to identify legislative or regulatory recommendations to improve the collection and dissemination of information under the livestock reporting program. Based on the cost of similar work, CBO estimates that this study would cost $1 million in 2016.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing title I would cost $36 million over the 2016–2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.

Title II—National Forest Foundation Act Reauthorization

The act would authorize the appropriation of $3 million a year through 2018 to support the National Forest Foundation. The foundation is a nonprofit corporation established by federal law that awards grants to maintain recreational resources, such as trails, and to restore watersheds, wildlife habitats, and plant species within national forests and grasslands. The foundation also carries out activities to educate individuals about the National Forest System.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost $9 million over the 2016–2018 period.

Title III—United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization

The legislation would reauthorize, through 2020, annual appropriations for GIPSA activities under the United States Grain Standards Act. Based on the current funding for the agency (in 2015, GIPSA received an appropriation of $20 million), CBO estimates that continuing its activities would cost $106 million over the 2016–2020 period. That estimate is based on the assumption that the agency's current funding level would be adjusted for anticipated inflation.

The act also would extend GIPSA's authority to collect and spend fees for inspection and weighing services for grain destined for export. GIPSA establishes such fees to recover the costs of providing those services. CBO estimates that offsetting receipts from such fees and associated spending total about $45 million annually and that the provision would not have a significant net effect on direct spending in any year.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 established budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that any net change in direct spending under H.R. 2051 would be insignificant over the 2015–2025 period. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

Impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Under current law, the Department of Agriculture's program for price reporting preempts state and local laws that are in addition to, or inconsistent with, any requirements of the program. Because H.R. 2051 would reauthorize the program and thus extend the preemption that would otherwise expire on September 30, 2015, the bill would impose an intergovernmental mandate as defined in UMRA. While the preemption would limit the application of state and local laws, it would impose no duty that would result in significant additional spending. Consequently, CBO estimates that the costs would fall well below the threshold established in the UMRA for intergovernmental mandates ($77 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation).

Estimated impact to the private sector: H.R. 2051 contains private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA, but CBO estimates that the aggregate cost of complying with the mandates would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates ($154 million in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation). The act would impose a private-sector mandate on exporters of grain by extending GIPSA authority to collect fees for grain inspection and weighing services. Exporters are required to use those services. Based on information from GIPSA, CBO estimates that the fees paid by grain exporters would amount to $50 million to $60 million annually. The act also would impose mandates on certain packers, processors, and importers of livestock by extending and amending mandatory reporting requirements related to cattle, swine, and lambs. Based on information from USDA and industry experts, CBO estimates that the cost of those mandates would total about $1 million annually.

Previous CBO estimates: On June 4, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 1417, the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, on May 21, 2015. On May 13, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2088, the United States Grain Standards Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on April 30, 2015. Title III of H.R. 2051, S. 1417, and H.R. 2088, have similar provisions and CBO's estimates of the budgetary effects are the same.

On May 29, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2394, the National Forest Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2015, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on May 20, 2015. Title II of H.R. 2051 and H.R. 2394 are similar, and CBO's estimates of the budgetary effects are the same.

On May 21, 2015, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2051, the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015, as reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on April 30, 2015. Title I of the House and Senate versions of H.R. 2051 are similar, and CBO's estimates of the budgetary effects are the same.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Jim Langley and Jeff LaFave; Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: J'nell Blanco Suchy; Impact on the Private Sector: Amy Petz.

Estimate approved by: H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with subsection (b)(2) of paragraph 11 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is necessary to dispense with the requirements of paragraph (1) of that subsection in order to expedite the business of the Senate. The Committee does not expect that significant new regulatory burdens will result from the regulations issued pursuant to the reported bill. The regulations issued will prescribe and define implementation of the changes authorized in the reported bill.

NUMBER OF PERSONS COVERED

H.R. 2051 would make improvements to increase effectiveness, certainty, and transparency in existing programs. Accordingly, the number of persons covered should be largely consistent with the current levels of individuals and businesses covered by the provisions of law addressed in the bill. To the extent there are new individuals or businesses covered, such expansion is generally supported by the persons or entities added.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The reported bill will not have an adverse economic impact on the United States. To the contrary, the legislation makes improvements to increase the effectiveness, certainty, and transparency in the livestock mandatory price reporting and federal grain inspection programs for U.S. farmers and other market participants. The legislation also supports restoration and enhancement of the Nation's federal forest and grassland resources. By supporting quality jobs in the U.S. and economic activity in rural America, the bill will have a positive impact on the national economy.

PRIVACY

The reported bill will not have a negative impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

PAPERWORK

The Committee does not anticipate a major increase in paperwork burdens resulting from the reported bill.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

In compliance with paragraph 4(b) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee does not believe that the reported bill contains any congressionally directed spending.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 designates the short title for the legislation as the "Agriculture Reauthorizations Act of 2015."

Section 101. Extension of livestock mandatory reporting

Section 101 amends Section 260 of the AMA and Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 to extend the authority for livestock mandatory price reporting through September 30, 2020.

Section 102. Swine reporting

Section 102 makes several technical improvements for livestock mandatory price reporting for swine. First, subsection (a) amends Section 231 of the AMA to add a definition of "negotiated formula purchase." Subsection (b) then amends Section 232 of the AMA to require that the Secretary publish information about hogs sold through negotiated purchases and negotiated formula purchases in USDA's daily reports. Subsection (b) also requires that any information reported late in the day be included in the next morning's reports.

Section 103. Lamb reporting

Section 103 requires the Secretary to update the regulations for livestock mandatory price reporting within 180 days of enactment to define the terms "packer" and "importer."

Section 104. Study on livestock mandatory reporting

Section 104 requires the Secretary to conduct a study on livestock mandatory reporting in consultation with cattle, swine and lamb producers, packers, and other market participants. The study shall: (1) analyze current marketing practices in cattle, swine and lamb markets, (2) identify legislative or regulatory recommendations made by producers, packers and other market participants, (3) analyze the price and supply information reporting services at USDA, and (4) address any other issues that the Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary is required to submit a report by March 1, 2018 to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate on the findings of the study.

Section 201. National Forest Foundation Act reauthorization

Section 201 amends the National Forest Foundation Act to extend the authority for matching funds and the authorization of appropriations through fiscal year 2018. Subsection (c) then makes certain technical changes to the Act.

Section 301. Reauthorization of United States Grain Standards Act

Section 301 reauthorizes various provisions of the USGSA through 2020 and makes several changes to federal inspection and weighing.

Subsection (a) amends Section 5(a)(1) of the USGSA to require the Secretary to waive official weighing and inspection requirements both in cases of emergency as well as other circumstances as long as the waiver does not impair the underlying objectives of the statute and the buyers and sellers agree and provide documentation of the agreement to the Secretary.

Subsection (a) also amends Section 5(a)(2) to remove outdated requirements to ensure that grain going into an export facility is treated in the same manner, regardless of the mode of transportation. In addition, subsection (a) adds new language to Section 5 of the USGSA that would establish disruption notification and reporting requirements in order to increase transparency. The Secretary is required to take immediate action to address disruption in service and resume inspection or weighing. Further, the Secretary is required to submit a report to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate within 24 hours of a disruption that includes a description of the disruption and any actions necessary to resume inspection or weighing. Finally, the Secretary is required to then provide daily updates until inspection or weighing services at the site of disruption have resumed.

Subsection (b) amends Section 7(e) of the USGSA by adding new language that creates a certification process for existing delegated state agencies. The Secretary is required to establish a certification process within one year of date of enactment pursuant to existing statutory criteria, including personnel, training, fee collection and recordkeeping. The Secretary must review delegation of authority every five years, provide for public comment on each certification review, and give public notice of the outcome of such review. Subsection (b) also requires delegated states to provide 72 hours of advance notice of their intent to discontinue inspection or weighing services. Whether a state has met this requirement is then to be considered by the Secretary in administering the delegation of authority to a state.

With respect to designated agencies, subsection (b) amends Section 7(f)(1) of the USGSA by adding a requirement that the Secretary periodically consult with customers of the designated agency to review the performance of the agency and work with the agency to address any concerns identified. And, the length of the designation of authority is extended from three years to five years.

Subsection (b) of the reported bill amends Sections 7(f)(2) and 7A(i)(2) of the USGSA to remove the geographic boundary restriction for domestic inspection and weighing if certain criteria are met.

Lastly, subsection (b) of the legislation amends Section 7(g) of the USGSA to require that the portion inspection fees based on export tonnage be based on a rolling five-year average of export tonnage volumes. Subsection (b) also requires the Secretary to annually review and adjust inspection fees to maintain a three to six month operating reserve. Subsection (c) then amends Section 7A of the USGSA to make these same two changes for weighing fees.

Subsection (d) amends Section 7D of the USGSA to authorize the 30 percent cap on administrative and supervisory costs through 2020.

Subsection (e) amends Section 8(b) of the USGSA to extend any licenses issued under the USGA from three years to five years.

Subsection (f) amends Section 19 of the USGSA to reauthorize the authorization of appropriations through 2020.

Section (g) amends Section 21 of the USGSA to reauthorize the Advisory Committee through 2020.

Section 302. Report on disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports

Section 302 of the legislation requires the Secretary to issue to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the 2014 disruption in Federal inspection of grain exports within 180 days of enactment of this legislation. The Secretary is required to include: (1) specific factors which led to the disruption at the Port of Vancouver in the summer of 2014, (2) a description of the port facility, the security situation and available resources, as well as other significant factors, and (3) any changes in policy that the Secretary has implemented to ensure that a similar disruption in inspection of grain exports does not occur at the Port of Vancouver or other locations in the future.

Section 303. Report on policy barriers to grain producers

Section 303 requires the Secretary, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, to submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report within 180 days of enactment of this legislation. The Secretary is required to include: (1) the policy barriers to U.S. grain producers in countries that do not offer official grading for U.S. grain or provide only the lowest designation for U.S. grain, and (2) any actions the Administration is taking to remedy such barriers and put U.S. producers on equal footing.

Changes in Existing Law

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee states that, in its opinion, it is necessary to dispense with the requirements of that paragraph in order to expedite the business of the Senate.

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