

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2341

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2023

Ms. SMITH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to authorize grants for eligible institutions to carry out agriculture workforce training programs, 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. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING PRO-**  
4 **GRAM GRANTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2501(d) of the Food, Ag-  
6 riculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.  
7 2279(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1           “(16) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE TRAINING  
2 PROGRAM GRANTS.—

3           “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

4           “(i) AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE  
5 TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ‘agri-  
6 culture workforce training program’ means  
7 a training program developed by an eligible  
8 institution in collaboration with a targeted  
9 industry partner through which students  
10 enrolled at that eligible institution receive  
11 training from that targeted industry part-  
12 ner, including through—

13                   “(I) internships;

14                   “(II) apprenticeships;

15                   “(III) experience-based curricula;

16                   and

17                   “(IV) educational programs and  
18 workshops to promote technical skills.

19           “(ii) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The  
20 term ‘eligible institution’ means—

21                   “(I) an 1862 Institution (as de-  
22 fined in section 2 of the Agricultural  
23 Research, Extension, and Education  
24 Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601));

1 “(II) an 1890 Institution (as de-  
2 fined in that section);

3 “(III) a 1994 Institution (as de-  
4 fined in section 532 of the Equity in  
5 Educational Land-Grant Status Act  
6 of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note; Public  
7 Law 103–382));

8 “(IV) a non-land-grant college of  
9 agriculture (as defined in section  
10 1404 of the National Agricultural Re-  
11 search, Extension, and Teaching Pol-  
12 icy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103));

13 “(V) Hispanic-serving agricul-  
14 tural colleges and universities (as de-  
15 fined in that section);

16 “(VI) a center of excellence rec-  
17 ognized under section 1673;

18 “(VII) a junior or community  
19 college (as defined in section 312 of  
20 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
21 U.S.C. 1058)) that offers a program  
22 of study in agriculture; and

23 “(VIII) an area career and tech-  
24 nical education school (as defined in  
25 section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Ca-

1           reer and Technical Education Act of  
2           2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302)) that offers a  
3           program of study in agriculture.

4           “(iii) TARGETED INDUSTRY PART-  
5           NER.—The term ‘targeted industry part-  
6           ner’ means 1 or more of the following enti-  
7           ties:

8                       “(I) A member of the agriculture  
9                       industry, such as a company or indus-  
10                      try association.

11                     “(II) An apprenticeship program  
12                     in agriculture registered under the  
13                     Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly  
14                     known as the ‘National Appren-  
15                     ticeship Act’) (50 Stat. 664, chapter 663;  
16                     29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

17                     “(III) A nonprofit organization  
18                     that aims to help individuals gain em-  
19                     ployment in the agriculture industry.

20                     “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—The  
21                     Secretary, acting through the Director of the  
22                     National Institute of Food and Agriculture,  
23                     shall award grants in accordance with this sub-  
24                     section to eligible institutions to develop and

1 carry out agriculture workforce training pro-  
2 grams—

3 “(i) to promote the growth of the ag-  
4 riculture industry;

5 “(ii) to foster competitiveness within  
6 the agriculture industry; and

7 “(iii) to improve the training and re-  
8 tention of workers in the agriculture indus-  
9 try.

10 “(C) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible  
11 institution awarded a grant under this para-  
12 graph shall use not less than 5 percent of the  
13 funds received through the grant to carry out  
14 an agriculture workforce training program, in-  
15 cluding—

16 “(i) preliminary recruitment measures  
17 to encourage students to participate in the  
18 agriculture workforce training program;  
19 and

20 “(ii) professional development sessions  
21 to train faculty to prepare students for em-  
22 ployment in the agriculture industry.”.

23 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than January 31,  
24 2024, the Secretary of Agriculture shall implement para-  
25 graph (16) of section 2501(d) of the Food, Agriculture,

1 Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 2279(d))

2 (as added by subsection (a)).

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