

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2894

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish in the Department of Agriculture the position of Rural Health Liaison.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2018

Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish in the Department of Agriculture the position of Rural Health Liaison.

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 “Rural Health Liaison
5 Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title II of the De-
8 partment of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7

1 U.S.C. 6941 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
2 the following:

3 **“SEC. 236. RURAL HEALTH LIAISON.**

4 “(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall establish
5 in the Department the position of Rural Health Liaison.

6 “(b) DUTIES.—The Rural Health Liaison shall—

7 “(1) in consultation with the Secretary of
8 Health and Human Services, coordinate the role of
9 the Department with respect to rural health;

10 “(2) integrate across the Department the stra-
11 tegic planning and activities relating to rural health;

12 “(3) improve communication relating to rural
13 health within the Department and between Federal
14 agencies;

15 “(4) advocate on behalf of the health care and
16 relevant infrastructure needs in rural areas;

17 “(5) provide to stakeholders, potential grant ap-
18 plicants, Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian
19 Tribes, private organizations, and academic institu-
20 tions relevant data and information, including the
21 eligibility requirements for, and availability and out-
22 comes of, Department programs applicable to the
23 advancement of rural health;

24 “(6) maintain communication with public
25 health, medical, occupational safety, and tele-

1 communication associations, research entities, and
2 other stakeholders to ensure that the Department is
3 aware of current and upcoming issues relating to
4 rural health;

5 “(7) consult on programs, pilot projects, re-
6 search, training, and other affairs relating to rural
7 health at the Department and other Federal agen-
8 cies;

9 “(8) provide expertise on rural health to sup-
10 port the activities of the Secretary as Chair of the
11 Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural
12 Prosperity; and

13 “(9) provide technical assistance and guidance
14 with respect to activities relating to rural health to
15 the outreach, extension, and county offices of the
16 Department.”.

17 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of
18 the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of
19 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(9) The authority of the Secretary to establish
22 in the Department the position of Rural Health Li-
23 aison under section 236.”.

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