



H.R. 5578 – To extend agricultural programs beyond March 15, 2008, to suspend permanent price support authorities beyond that date, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5578 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 March 11, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was never considered.

H.R. 5578 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on March 12, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5578 would provide a clean extension to Farm Bill programs through April 18, 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. 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, which are currently set to expire on March 15, 2008.

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 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 payment 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 House and Senate have yet to reach an agreement on a final bill, with differences remaining over offsets to pay for \$10 billion in additional spending.

The Administration is opposed to both the House and Senate versions of the farm bill in their current forms. The Administration cites 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](#)

COST

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

STAFF CONTACT

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