



## H.J. Res. 88 - Title III of H.R. 2419

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.J.Res. 88 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 May 22, 2008.

This bill is identical to the conference report for H.R. 2419, except that it includes a provision that deems the legislative history for H.R. 2419 to be the legislative history for the new, complete bill and vitiates provisions of H.R. 2419 upon enactment of H.R. 6124 to ensure there is no duplication.

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### BACKGROUND

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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. Congress has enacted five short-term extensions of the farm bill, the most recent of which expires on May 16, 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 version of the bill included 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 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 appointed conferees to reconcile the Senate and House versions of the Farm Bill on April 9, 2008. The Republican motion to instruct conferees directed conferees to oppose any provision that would result in a tax increase. This Republican motion passed by a vote of 400 – 11. The Conference Report for the Farm bill was filed on May 13, 2008.

The House passed the conference report for H.R. 2419 on May 14, 2008, by a vote of 318 to 106. The Senate passed the conference report the following day by a vote of 81 to 15. H.R. 2419 was subsequently cleared for the White House.

However, the enrolled copy of H.R. 2419 that was certified by the Speaker and the Clerk of the House and presented to the President was missing Title III of the bill. The President vetoed the incomplete version of the bill on May 21, 2008, and sent his veto message back to the House and Senate. On that same day, the House voted to override the President's veto of the incomplete version of H.R. 2419 by a vote of 316 to 108.

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### SUMMARY

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***\*\*\*Note: H.J.Res. 88 only contains the text of Title III of the conference report for the Farm Bill (H.R. 2419).\*\*\****

#### **Title III – Trade**

**Food Prepositioning**: The conference agreement increases funding for pre-positioning of U.S. food aid overseas to \$10 million per year.



International Food Aid: The international food aid programs operated by the USDA and USAID are extended through 2012.

WTO Compliance: The international food aid programs operated by the USDA and USAID are extended through 2012. The Export Credit Guarantee Programs are reformed to bring them into WTO compliance, with changes including the removal of a 1% fee cap on an export credit program and the elimination of long term export credit.

*\*Note: These changes were made in response to a March 2005 WTO ruling that the United States export credit programs functioned as export subsidies and were in violation of WTO rules.*

Market Access Program (MAP): Funding for MAP, which promotes U.S. agricultural products overseas, is maintained at \$200 million in mandatory spending for over ten years.

Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products: The conference agreement establishes a Consultative Group to Eliminate the Use of Child Labor and Forced Labor in Imported Agricultural Products. The Group must make recommendations to the Secretary within two years of enactment for a standard set of practices for independent, third-party monitoring and verification of imported agricultural products to reduce the likelihood that child and forced labor is not used.

Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement: The agreement establishes a \$60 million pilot program for purchasing food aid in developing countries.

Global Crop Diversity Trust: The conference agreement authorizes \$60 million for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to contribute to the Global Crop Diversity Trust to assist in the conservation of genetic diversity in food crops through the collection and storage of germplasm. The conference agreement specifically states that the U.S. contribution to the Trust cannot exceed 25 percent of the total funds contributed.

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#### STAFF CONTACT

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