

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1340

To establish a National Community Garden Grant Program to promote the prevention and elimination of urban blight and to meet community developmental needs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2 (legislative day, JUNE 30), 1993

Mr. BINGAMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

A BILL

To establish a National Community Garden Grant Program to promote the prevention and elimination of urban blight and to meet community developmental needs, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Community
5 Garden Grant Program Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) in communities across the United States
2 there are thousands of acres of vacant lots, the num-
3 ber of which is rapidly increasing;

4 (2) these vacant lots contribute to the deterio-
5 ration of neighborhoods and engender feelings of
6 hopelessness among residents and community lead-
7 ers; and

8 (3) a National Community Garden Grant Pro-
9 gram will aid in the prevention and elimination of
10 urban blight by beautifying neighborhoods, develop-
11 ing communities and community leadership, and in-
12 creasing nutritional awareness and gardening skills.

13 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to create
14 a National Community Garden Grant Program, which will
15 be a national partnership of the Secretary of Agriculture,
16 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Adminis-
18 trator of General Services, citizens, private organizations,
19 and representatives of State and local agencies from all
20 parts of the United States, for the promotion of commu-
21 nity gardens.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 As used in this Act (unless the context otherwise re-
24 quires):

1 (1) COMMUNITY GARDEN PROGRAM.—The term
2 “community garden program” means a gardening
3 program that incorporates 1 or more of the following
4 elements:

5 (A) Methods of gardening that promote
6 improved nutrition and nutrition education.

7 (B) Gardening education.

8 (C) Community beautification.

9 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
10 the Secretary of Agriculture.

11 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL COMMUNITY GARDEN GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
14 grants to eligible applicants to conduct community
15 garden programs in accordance with this Act.

16 (2) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—For purposes of
17 paragraph (1), an eligible applicant for a grant
18 under this Act is a unit of general local government
19 or a nonprofit organization that is, or is capable of,
20 carrying out a community garden program in ac-
21 cordance with this Act.

22 (3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT AND NUMBER.—The
23 Secretary shall award up to 100 grants, each of
24 which may not exceed \$20,000.

1 (4) FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CONTRIBU-
2 TIONS.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share at-
4 tributable to this section of the cost of carrying
5 out a program for which a grant is made under
6 this section shall be 25 percent.

7 (B) CALCULATION.—In providing for the
8 remaining share of the cost of carrying out such
9 a program, each grantee under this section—

10 (i) shall provide for such share
11 through a payment in cash or in kind, fair-
12 ly evaluated, including facilities, equip-
13 ment, or services; and

14 (ii) may provide for such share
15 through State sources, local sources, or
16 Federal sources (other than funds made
17 available under this section).

18 (5) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall award
19 grants in a manner that reflects the geographical di-
20 versity of the United States, to the maximum extent
21 practicable.

22 (6) SET-ASIDE.—The Secretary shall allocate at
23 least 20 percent of the grant funds made available
24 under this section to grantees located in commu-

1 nities with populations not exceeding 50,000 inhab-
2 itants.

3 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunc-
5 tion with the Secretary of the Department of Health
6 and Human Services and the Secretary of Housing
7 and Urban Development, shall develop selection cri-
8 teria and application procedures consistent with the
9 purposes of this Act.

10 (2) FACTORS.—In selecting grantees, at a mini-
11 mum, the Secretary shall consider the following cri-
12 teria:

13 (A) The extent to which the applicant will
14 maximize the use of public-private partnerships
15 and available surplus property.

16 (B) The extent to which the applicant will
17 target minority, underserved, and high-risk pop-
18 ulations.

19 (C) The likelihood of the applicant develop-
20 ing a sustainable community gardening pro-
21 gram.

22 (3) CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—The Sec-
23 retary shall certify the eligibility of each grantee.

24 (4) OTHER FUNDS.—Funds from other sources
25 may be used by a grantee in conjunction with funds

1 made available under this Act. This Act shall not af-
2 fect any guidelines governing the use of other funds.

3 **SEC. 5. DATA COLLECTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
5 database to compile information submitted under sub-
6 section (b) and information related to the effectiveness of
7 the National Community Garden Grant Program in each
8 participating community.

9 (b) FEDERAL FUNDS.—Grantees shall furnish the
10 Secretary with information regarding the amount of Fed-
11 eral funds received by each grantee, including funds from
12 the Secretary, the Administrator of General Services, and
13 the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

14 **SEC. 6. DONATION OF PROPERTY.**

15 A grantee under this Act may use surplus property
16 obtained from the Administrator of General Services and
17 the Secretary of Defense to carry out a community garden
18 program.

19 **SEC. 7. PROFITS FROM COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECTS.**

20 If a grantee derives a profit from the sale of a prod-
21 uct produced by a community garden program that re-
22 ceives funds under this Act, the grantee shall use the prof-
23 its only to further carry out such program.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act, \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 and \$2,000,000
4 for each of fiscal years 1996, 1997, and 1998.

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