

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3665

To transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, Mr. DE LA GARZA, Mr. EMERSON, Mr. ROSE, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BAKER of Louisiana, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. COOLEY of Oregon, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BALDACCI, and Mr. WISE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture.

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 “Census of Agriculture
5 Act of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE**
2 **OF THE AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THE CEN-**
3 **SUS OF AGRICULTURE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 526 of the Revised Stat-
5 utes (7 U.S.C. 2204) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(c) CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in
9 1998 and in every 5th year beginning after 1998,
10 take a census of agriculture. In connection with each
11 such census, the Secretary may conduct any survey
12 or other data collection, and employ any sampling or
13 other statistical method, that the Secretary deter-
14 mines is necessary and appropriate.

15 “(2) DATA.—The data collected in each census
16 taken under this subsection shall relate to the year
17 immediately preceding the year in which the census
18 is taken.

19 “(3) REFUSAL OR NEGLECT TO ANSWER QUES-
20 TIONS; FALSE ANSWERS.—Any person who refuses
21 or neglects to answer questions submitted to such
22 person in connection with a census or survey under
23 this subsection, or who answers any such questions
24 falsely, shall be subject to section 221 of title 13,
25 United States Code, to the same extent and in the
26 same manner as if—

1 “(A) section 142 of title 13, United States
2 Code, had remained in effect; and

3 “(B) the census or survey were a census or
4 survey under such section 142, rather than
5 under this subsection.

6 “(4) GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE.—Each census under
7 this subsection shall include each State, and as may
8 be determined by the Secretary, the District of Co-
9 lumbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, the Common-
10 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the
11 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any such other
12 possessions and areas over which the United States
13 exercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty. Inclu-
14 sion of other areas over which the United States ex-
15 ercises jurisdiction, control, or sovereignty shall be
16 subject to the concurrence of the Secretary of State.

17 “(5) ACCESS TO DATA COLLECTED UNDER
18 TITLE 13.—The Secretary of Commerce may, upon
19 written request of the Secretary of Agriculture, fur-
20 nish any information collected under title 13, United
21 States Code, which the Secretary of Agriculture con-
22 siders necessary for the taking of a census or survey
23 under this subsection. Any information so furnished
24 may not be used for any purpose other than the sta-
25 tistical purposes for which it is supplied.

1 “(6) ACCESS TO DATA COLLECTED UNDER THIS
2 SUBSECTION.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall,
3 upon written request of the Secretary of Commerce,
4 furnish any information collected in a census taken
5 under this subsection, which the Secretary of Com-
6 merce considers necessary for the taking of a census
7 or survey under title 13, United States Code. Any
8 information so furnished may not be used for any
9 purpose other than the statistical purposes for which
10 it is supplied.

11 “(7) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—Any rules or
12 regulations necessary to carry out this subsection
13 may be prescribed by—

14 “(A) the Secretary, to the extent that mat-
15 ters within the jurisdiction of the Secretary are
16 involved; and

17 “(B) the Secretary of Commerce, to the
18 extent that matters within the jurisdiction of
19 the Secretary of Commerce are involved.”.

20 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Effective October
21 1, 1998—

22 (1) section 142 of title 13, United States Code,
23 and the item relating to section 142 in the table of
24 sections for chapter 5 of such title 13, are repealed;
25 and

1 “(e) Nothing in this section shall be considered to
2 prohibit any release of information under section
3 526(c)(6) of the Revised Statutes (7 U.S.C. 2204(c)(6)).”.

4 (2) CONTINUED CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFOR-
5 MATION RECEIVED.—Information furnished under
6 section 526(c)(6) of the Revised Statutes shall, for
7 purposes of sections 9 and 214 of title 13, United
8 States Code, be treated as if it were information fur-
9 nished under the provisions of such title 13.

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