

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3091

To implement the recommendations of the General Accounting Office on improving the administration of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 by the Department of Agriculture.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ASHCROFT, and Mr. BROWNBACK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To implement the recommendations of the General Accounting Office on improving the administration of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 by the Department 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 “Packers and Stock-
5 yards Enforcement Improvement Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENFORCEMENT.**

7 (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL ACCOUNT-
8 ING OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after Sep-

1 tember 21, 2000, the Secretary of Agriculture shall imple-
2 ment the recommendations of the report issued by the
3 General Accounting Office entitled “Packers and Stock-
4 yards Programs: Actions Needed to Improve Investiga-
5 tions of Competitive Practices”, GAO/RCED-00-242,
6 dated September 21, 2000.

7 (b) CONSULTATION.—During the implementation pe-
8 riod referred to in subsection (a), and for such an addi-
9 tional time period as needed to assure effective implemen-
10 tation, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult and work
11 with the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade
12 Commission in order to—

13 (1) implement the investigation management,
14 operations, and case methods development processes
15 recommendations in the report; and

16 (2) effectively identify and investigate com-
17 plaints of unfair and anti-competitive practices, and
18 enforce the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921.

19 (c) TRAINING.—Not later than September 21, 2001,
20 the Secretary of Agriculture shall develop and implement
21 a training program for staff of the Department of Agri-
22 culture engaged in investigations of complaints of unfair
23 and anti-competitive activity, drawing on existing training
24 materials and programs available at the Department of

1 Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, to the extent
2 practicable.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT.**

4 Title IV of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921
5 is amended by—

6 (1) redesignating section 415 (7 U.S.C. 229) as
7 section 416; and

8 (2) inserting after section 414 the following:

9 “SEC. 415. Not later than March 1 of each year, the
10 Secretary shall submit to Congress and make publicly
11 available a report that—

12 “(1) assesses the general economic state of the
13 cattle and hog industries; and

14 “(2) identifies business practices or market op-
15 erations or activities in those industries that rep-
16 resent possible violations of this Act or are incon-
17 sistent with the goals of this Act.”.

18 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**

19 The Secretary of Agriculture shall report to Congress
20 on October 1, 2001, on the actions taken to comply with
21 section 2.

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