

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize capacity building grants for community college agriculture and natural resources programs.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. HICKENLOOPER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize capacity building grants for community college agriculture and natural resources programs.

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 “Community College  
5       Agriculture Advancement Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY**  
2 **COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RE-**  
3 **SOURCES PROGRAMS.**

4 Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Ex-  
5 tension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310  
6 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 1473I. CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY**  
8 **COLLEGE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RE-**  
9 **SOURCES PROGRAMS.**

10 “(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

11 “(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term ‘eligible en-  
12 tity’ means—

13 “(A) a junior or community college sup-  
14 porting agriculture advancement; and

15 “(B) a consortium or alliance of 2-year  
16 public colleges supporting agriculture advance-  
17 ment.

18 “(2) **JUNIOR OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**—The  
19 term ‘junior or community college’ has the meaning  
20 given the term in section 312 of the Higher Edu-  
21 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058).

22 “(b) **COMPETITIVE GRANTS.**—The Secretary shall  
23 make competitive grants to eligible entities to assist the  
24 eligible entities in maintaining and expanding the capacity  
25 of the eligible entities to conduct workforce training, edu-  
26 cation, research, and outreach activities relating to—

1           “(1) agriculture; and

2           “(2) other similar disciplines.

3           “(c) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subsection  
4 (b), the Secretary shall give priority to an eligible entity  
5 coordinating with a local agriculture industry operator to  
6 provide experiential training and other opportunities for  
7 students.

8           “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
9 a grant under subsection (b) may use the funds made  
10 available through the grant to expand and maintain the  
11 capacity of the eligible entity—

12           “(1) to successfully compete for funds from  
13 Federal grants and other sources to carry out edu-  
14 cational, research, and outreach activities that ad-  
15 dress priority concerns of national, regional, State,  
16 and local interest;

17           “(2) to offer educational programming on agri-  
18 cultural industry jobs, including farm business man-  
19 agement-related subjects, such as accounting, para-  
20 legal studies, and finance;

21           “(3) to disseminate information relating to the  
22 priority concerns described in paragraph (1) to in-  
23 terested members of the agriculture and other rel-  
24 evant communities and to the public;

1           “(4) to encourage members of those commu-  
2           nities to participate in priority education, research,  
3           and outreach activities through providing matching  
4           funding from sources other than funds received  
5           through the grant; and

6           “(5) through—

7                   “(A) the purchase or other acquisition of  
8                   equipment and other infrastructure (not includ-  
9                   ing the alteration, repair, renovation, or con-  
10                  struction of buildings);

11                   “(B) the professional growth and develop-  
12                  ment of faculty; and

13                   “(C) the development of apprenticeships  
14                  and other work-based learning opportunities.

15           “(e) CENTERS OF AGRICULTURE ADVANCEMENT.—

16                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may sub-  
17                  mit to the Secretary an application for designation  
18                  and funding as a center of excellence for agriculture  
19                  advancement.

20                   “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—A center of excellence  
21                  for agriculture advancement designated under para-  
22                  graph (1) shall use funding received as a result of  
23                  that designation—

24                   “(A) to demonstrate best practices relating  
25                  to agriculture; and

1                   “(B) to provide leadership in capacity  
2                   building at a regional or national level.

3           “(f) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 3  
4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-  
5 retary shall—

6                   “(1) conduct an evaluation of activities carried  
7                   out under this section; and

8                   “(2) submit a report describing the evaluation  
9                   conducted under paragraph (1) to—

10                   “(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the  
11                   House of Representatives;

12                   “(B) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutri-  
13                   tion, and Forestry of the Senate;

14                   “(C) the Committee on Appropriations of  
15                   the House of Representatives; and

16                   “(D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
17                   the Senate.

18           “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
20 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.