



Legislative Bulletin.....December 12, 2013

Contents:

H.R. 3695 - Temporary Extension of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008

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Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled to be considered on December 12, 2013, under a rule, H.Res. 438. The rule provides for the consideration of H.J.Res. 59, H.R. 3695, the approval of the journal, etc.

With respect to H.R. 3694, the rule waives all points of order against the bill and provides for 40 minutes of debate that is equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Agriculture. The rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: This legislation authorizes programs under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill), until January 31, 2014. This authorization is made retroactive to September 30, 2013.

The legislation also suspends the permanent price support authorities that apply to certain commodities. The legislation also authorizes certain disaster programs that were included in the 2008 Farm Bill (P.L. 110-246) but their authorizations were allowed to expire after September 30, 2011, but were then reauthorized as part of H.R. 8 from the 112th Congress.

Additional Background: If a farm bill is not passed, then the 2013 crops of various commodities would revert to legislation passed in 1938 and 1949. Some commodities would be subject to production quotas and price supports would be based on “parity,” an old formula that would have the effect of installing radically higher price supports – in some cases, double current prices or even more. These provisions are known as “permanent law,” and a goal of this legislation is to avoid the cliff created by permanent law.

Legislative History: The authorizations for farm and food programs expired on September 30, 2013. The 2008 Farm Bill, which is current law, originally passed the House on May 22, 2008, by a [roll call vote of 306-110](#). The legislation was vetoed by President George W. Bush on June 18, 2008, and on June 18, 2008, the House overrode the President’s veto by a [roll call vote of 317-109](#) and the bill later became P.L. 110-246. This legislation authorized food and farm program through fiscal year 2012. On January 1, 2013, the House passed H.R. 8 (112th

Congress) by a [roll call vote of 257-167](#), which extended the authorization of these program through fiscal year 2013.

The House voted on a new 5-year authorization, H.R. 1947, on June 20, 2013, and the legislation failed by [a roll call vote of 195-234](#). This legislation included both farm and food titles.

After H.R. 1947 failed to pass the House, the House considered H.R. 2642, which was a farm-only Farm Bill and did not contain a nutrition title. This legislation passed the House on July 11, 2013, by a [roll call vote of 216-208](#). The Senate amended H.R. 2642 on July 18, 2013, and inserted their version of the Farm Bill that passed the Senate, and this was sent back to the House. The House considered H.R. 3102, a nutrition-only portion of the Farm Bill, which passed on September 19, 2013, by a [roll call vote of 217-210](#).

The House then passed H.Res. 361 on September 28, 2013, which, among other things, acted as a substitute amendment for H.R. 2642. H.Res. 361 struck the Senate language of H.R. 2642 and added the earlier House-passed language of H.R. 2642 back to the bill. H.Res. 361 also added the language of H.R. 3102 to H.R. 2642 as Title IV.

The House and Senate have through a Conference Committee to produce a new farm bill, and that work continues. This legislation is meant to provide a short-term extension of current law so that the cliff created by permanent law is avoided. This would allow the Conference negotiations to continue and possibly conclude.

Committee Action: H.R. 3695 was introduced on December 11, 2013, and was referred to the House Agriculture Committee, which took no action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO estimate is unavailable as of press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Intergovernmental, Local-Government or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation does not contain earmarks, limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits.

Constitutional Authority: A statement of constitutional authority is not available as of press time.

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