GENERAL PROVISIONS

The estimates include General Provisions language as follows (new language underscored; deleted matter enclosed in brackets):

Section 701: Provides authority for the purchase, replacement, and hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year [2023]2024 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: Provided, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety: Provided further, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing[, and receives approval from,] the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

This change (line 8) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being available for obligation. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time as required.

Section 702: Authorizes the transfer of discretionary, unobligated funds appropriated by this Act or other available unobligated discretionary balances to the Working Capital Fund (WCF) for the purpose of acquiring plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services with approval of the Agency Administrator. Amounts transferred under this authority would not be available for obligation until the Committees on Appropriations of Congress are notified. In addition, language allows up to 4 percent of total annual income to the WCF for fiscal year 2023 may be retained in the Fund for fiscal year 2023, to remain available until expended, to be used for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center, the amounts reserved are not available for obligation without notification to the Appropriations Committees. Funds available for investment from among the equity accounts of the Department’s WCF may be allocated among the activities the WCF supports for any purpose relating to information technology modernization.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund [for the acquisition of]to acquire and improve property[,] plant and[ ]equipment[ and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services], and other support systems necessary for the implementation and delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: Provided further, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to[ and the prior approval of] the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to[ and prior approval of] the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress[ as required by section 716 of this Act]: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan,
develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to[ and prior approval of] the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress[ and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act]: Provided further, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: Provided further, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: Provided further, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: Provided further, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

The first, second, third, and fourth changes (lines 4 and 6) This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

The fifth change (line 12) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being available for obligation. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time as required.

The sixth change (line 15) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being available for obligation or expenditure for the Department’s National Finance Center. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time as required.

The seventh change (line 16) removes language referencing another general provision which is proposed for removal.

The eighth change (line 21) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time as required.

The ninth change (line 22) This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time of any reprogramming plans.

Section 703: Provides that no part of any appropriation in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless otherwise specified.
SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

Section 704: Limits the negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements between the Department and nonprofit institutions to 10 percent of the value of the agreement.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

Section 705: Provides that subsidy authority for Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account remain available until expended to cover obligations.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

Section 706: Prohibits the use of funds to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), without approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Technology Investment Review Board and Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to [and the prior approval] of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over $25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: Provided further, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to $250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

This change (line 6) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Section 707: Allows funds made available in a fiscal year for the Agricultural Management Assistance Program to remain available until expended to cover obligations made in the same fiscal year but are not available for new obligations.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.
Section 708: Continues language to expand eligibility for loans and grants under the Rural Economic Development (RED) Grants program to former RUS borrowers and entities.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

Section 709: Allows up to $20 million of unobligated balances from the Farm Service Agency mission area salaries and expenses account to be used for information technology expenses through FY 2025.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than $20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for information technology expenses.

Section 710: Prohibits the use of funds for first-class travel that does not comply with Federal regulations on temporary duty travel allowances.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

Section 711: Continues language providing the authority to use Commodity Credit Corporation funds provided for certain Farm Bill programs for technical assistance and administrative expenses related to those programs and excludes programs for which indefinite amounts are provided, with regard to the limitations contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

1. such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and
2. the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

Section 712: Provides a spending limit of $2.9 million for activities related to all Federal Advisory Committee Act committees of the Department.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than $2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

Section 713: Prohibits a computer network from being established or maintained unless the network blocks the viewing, downloading and exchanging of pornography, except for entities carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

[SEC. 713. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.]
(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 714: Allows the Agricultural Marketing Service to retain unobligated balances until expended for Section 32 purposes, with up to $350 million of balances allowed for direct payments to reestablish farmers' purchasing powers. The total Section 32 spending cap for 2021 is $1.36 billion. Commodity Purchase Services, administrative funds, is to be funded at $38.81 million.

SEC. [714]713. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110-246 (7 U.S.C. 612c-6; in this section referred to as "section 14222"), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as "section 32") in excess of $1,472,339,000 (exclusive of carryover appropriations from prior fiscal years), as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities--$485,000,000; State Option Contracts--$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities--$2,500,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases--$37,178,000: Provided, That, of the total funds made available in the matter preceding this proviso that remain unobligated on October 1, 2024, such unobligated balances shall carryover into fiscal year 2025 and shall remain available until expended for any of the purposes of section 32, except that any such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not exceed $350,000,000 and may not be obligated until the Secretary of Agriculture provides written notification of the expenditures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least two weeks in advance: Provided further, That, with the exception of any available carryover funds authorized in any prior appropriations Act to be used for the purposes of clause (3) of section 32, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

Section 715: Prohibits the use of funds to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language to Congress that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fee proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the budget submission.

[SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President's budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2024 appropriations Act.]"
(a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89-106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;
(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;
(4) relocates an office or employees;
(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or
(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;
(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or
(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;
(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with ten or more personnel; or
(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request;

unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.
(c) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time of any reprogramming plans.

Section 717: Allows the Secretary to assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan of up to 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. [717]714. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

Section 718: Prohibits the use of USDA funds to transmit or otherwise make available to any non-USDA employee reports, questions, or responses requested for the appropriations hearing process.

[SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.]

This change deletes the entire language. This is requested to permit the Executive Branch to carry out programs in the most efficient manner.

Section 719: Prohibits the use of appropriated funds to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio that indicates that the prepackaged story was prepared or funded by the Department of Agriculture.

[SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out programs in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 720: Requires reimbursements for USDA employees detailed for more than 60 days in a fiscal year.

[SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out programs in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 721: Requires a spending plan by program, project, and activity no later than 30 days after enactment for all funds, including appropriated user fees.

[SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed spending plan by
program, project, and activity for all the funds made available under this Act including appropriated user fees, as defined in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of this consolidated Act).]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out programs in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 722: Restricts funding for the Food and Drug Administration from creating any rule or taking action concerning drugs or biological products being distributed electronically if it is subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

[SEC. 722. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action with respect to, allowing or requiring information intended for a prescribing health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 503(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.]

This change deletes the entire language.

Section 723: Continues to exclude incarcerated prison populations for the purposes of determining program eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Development Programs.

SEC. [723]715. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural [Development]Housing Service programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

This change revises the available agency for language. This provision is included in the 2018 Farm Bill for Rural Utilities and Rural Business programs but not Rural Housing programs.

Section 724: Allows the Secretary to increase the program level by not more than 25 percent for loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority. Prior to implementing the increase, the Secretary is required to provide written notification at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. [724]716. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: Provided, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

Section 725: Limits the use of refunds or rebates from credit card purchases to the acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and for the improvement and implementation of Department financial management, information technology, and other support systems and requires advanced congressional notification.

SEC. [725]717. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to[; and the prior approval of;] the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available [for obligation only for the acquisition of]to acquire and improve property, [plant and] equipment, [including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the implementation and delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.
The first change (line 4) provides that the Committees on Appropriations of Congress only be notified in advance of funds being available for obligation. The Department will continue its policy of informing the Congress in sufficient time as required.

The second, third, and fourth change (lines 5 - 6) provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 726: Prohibits FNS from implementing and executing final food stocking requirements at approved SNAP retailers until the Secretary amends the definition of the term "variety" to increase the number of acceptable, qualifying items in each staple food category beyond the number and "variety" currently included in the final rule published on December 15, 2016. Until such time, FNS shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to SNAP retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014.

(SEC. 726. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the "variety" requirements of the final rule entitled "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term "variety" as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and "variety" as applied in the definition of the term "staple food" as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: Provided, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 727: Allows the section 502 single family housing guaranteed loan program similar to FHA and VA home loan guarantees, allowing lenders to issue loan guarantees on behalf of the Federal government.

SEC. [727]718. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

Section 728: Restricts usage of funds to propose, finalize, or implement any regulation which disseminates a new user fee pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701.

[SEC. 728. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 729: Cancels $315 million of unobligated balances in the WIC Program.

[SEC. 729. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), $315,000,000 are hereby rescinded: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the
Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

This change deletes the entire language. This is a one-time provision.

Section 730: Continues language that allows the Secretary to charge and retain such funds received as available until expended for inspections occurring outside of approved inspection shifts or on Federal holidays.

SEC. [730]719. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: Provided, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): Provided further, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

Section 731: Requires establishment of a prioritization process for APHIS to conduct audits or reviews of countries or regions that have received animal health status recognitions to export animals or animal products to the U.S. This process shall be applied consistent with obligations under international trade agreements.

[SEC. 731. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

   (A) veterinary control and oversight;
   (B) disease history and vaccination practices;
   (C) livestock demographics and traceability;
   (D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;
   (E) surveillance practices;
   (F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and
   (G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 732: Includes language providing priority to the definition of rural areas as defined in the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act for Water and Waste Disposal facilities.

[SEC. 732. In this fiscal year and thereafter, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 in a manner inconsistent with section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.]

This change deletes the entire language. The provision is no longer needed as it was made a hereafter provision in 2023.

Section 733: Prevents APHIS from conducting activities or incurring expenses related to issuance or renewal of licenses to class B dealers who sell dogs and cats for use in research, experiments, teaching, or testing.
[SEC. 733. In this fiscal year and thereafter, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any activities or incur any expense related to the issuance of licenses under section 3 of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2133), or the renewal of such licenses, to class B dealers who sell Random Source dogs and cats for use in research, experiments, teaching, or testing.]

This change deletes the entire language. The provision is no longer needed as it was made a hereafter provision in 2023.

Section 734: Prohibits funding a public water or wastewater system unless all iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States. The Secretary may waive this requirement under certain conditions.

[SEC. 734. (a)

(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;
(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or
(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for "Rural Utilities Service--Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account" for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms "United States" and "State" shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.
Section 735: Prohibits the use of funds to influence Congressional action on legislation or appropriation matters other than to communicate with Members or officials of Congress as authorized by law.

[SEC. 735. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 736: Requires that at least 10 percent of the direct loans and grants for various Rural Development Programs be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties (counties that have 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses and the 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the U.S.), including those counties with county seats having populations within 110 percent of the authorized population limit.

[SEC. 736. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: "Rural Housing Service--Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account"; "Rural Housing Service--Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants"; "Rural Housing Service--Rural Housing Assistance Grants"; "Rural Housing Service--Rural Community Facilities Program Account"; "Rural Business-Cooperative Service--Rural Business Program Account"; "Rural Business-Cooperative Service--Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account"; "Rural Business-Cooperative Service--Rural Cooperative Development Grants"; "Rural Business-Cooperative Service--Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program"; "Rural Utilities Service--Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account"; "Rural Utilities Service--Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account"; and "Rural Utilities Service--Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program", to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: Provided, That for purposes of this section, the term "persistent poverty counties" means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the United States: Provided further, That with respect to specific activities for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 737: Restricts funding for the Food and Drug Administration from conducting research on a human embryo that is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic moderation.

[SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.]

This change deletes the entire language.

Section 738: Restricts funding for the Food and Drug Administration from enforcing the Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.
SEC. [738] 720. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption," and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

Section 739: Provides $5 million to remain available until September 30, 2024, for a pilot program to provide grants from NIFA to non-profit organizations to for services to establish and enhance ranching opportunities for military veterans.

[SEC. 739. There is hereby appropriated $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for a pilot program for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for programs and services to establish and enhance farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 740: Prohibits any limits on using vegetables to substitute for fruits under the school breakfast program.

[SEC. 740. For school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the matter following the first comma in the second sentence of footnote (c) of section 220.8(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to the substitution of vegetables for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 741: Prohibits funds from being used to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of industrial hemp in research as authorized by Section 7606 of the 2014 Farm Bill, subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or Section 10114 of the 2018 Farm Bill.

SEC. [741] 721. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

Section 742: Provides $3 million to remain available until expended to provide grants for shelters for domestic violence victims with pets (Farm Bill Section 12502).

[SEC. 742. There is hereby appropriated $3,000,000, to remain available until expended, for grants under section 12502 of Public Law 115-334.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 743: Provides $1 million for the International Agricultural Education Fellowship program (Farm Bill Section 3307).

[SEC. 743. There is hereby appropriated $1,000,000 to carry out section 3307 of Public Law 115-334.]
This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 744: Allows the Secretary to waive the matching funds requirement for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture programs under Section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998.

SEC. [744]722. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

Section 745: Provides $2 million for grants to non-profit organizations that provide financial and legal services to multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate the acquisition of multi-family housing properties in areas at-risk of losing affordable housing.

[SEC. 745. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified non-profit organizations and public housing authorities to provide technical assistance, including financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate the acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities as authorized by law that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 746: Provides $4 million to remain available until September 30, 2023, to develop and test methods to increase the purchase and consumption of fluid milk by members of households that receive SNAP benefits (Farm Bill Section 4208).

[SEC. 746. There is hereby appropriated $4,000,000, to carry out section 4208 of Public Law 115-334, including for project locations in additional regions.]

This change deletes the entire language. The 2024 budget includes appropriation request for funds under current law.

Section 747: Provides $4 million for Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach program (Farm Bill Section 12301).

[SEC. 747. There is hereby appropriated $4,000,000 to carry out section 12301 of Public Law 115-334, Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach.]

This change deletes the entire language. The 2024 budget includes appropriation request in the Office of the Secretary account.

Section 748: Allows the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program to provide potable water to eligible communities for an additional 120 days beyond Program requirements to protect public health during a natural disaster.

[SEC. 748. In response to an eligible community where the drinking water supplies are inadequate due to a natural disaster, as determined by the Secretary, including drought or severe weather, the Secretary may provide potable water through the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Program for an additional period of time not to exceed 120 days beyond the established period provided under the Program in order to protect public health.]

This change deletes the entire language. This authorization was provided in the 2018 Farm Bill.
Section 749: Requires that PL-480, Title II funds may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. [749]723. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

Section 750: Inspection of Agricultural Research Service facilities will be inspected by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act.

[SEC. 750. In this fiscal year and thereafter, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, ARS facilities as described in the "Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Concerning Laboratory Animal Welfare" (16-6100-0103-MU Revision 16-1) shall be inspected by APHIS for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations and standards.]

This change deletes the entire language. The provision is no longer needed as it was made a hereafter provision in 2023.

Section 751: Prohibits the use of funds to procure raw or processed poultry products imported from China for use in the school lunch program, the Child and Adult Food Care Program, the Summer Food Service Program, or the School Breakfast Program.

[SEC. 751. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products imported into the United States from the People's Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).]

This change deletes the entire language. Provisions of the Buy American Act restrict the Department’s ability to procure products from China for the Child Nutrition Programs.

Section 752: Continues language stating that only a school food authority (SFA) that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, is required to comply with paid lunch equity requirements, which ensure the SFA has sufficient funds for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced-price meals.

SEC. [752]724. For school year [2023-2024]2024-2025, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

Section 753: Provides $2 million to carry out a pilot program that provides technical assistance of current hospital management practices to improve financial health.

[SEC. 753. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a pilot program that assists rural hospitals to improve long-term operations and financial health by providing technical assistance through analysis of current hospital management practices.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.
Section 754: Clarifies USDA's authority to set aside funds for the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program.

SEC. [754]725. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: Provided, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

Section 755: Provides $400,000 to continue a Honeybee and Pollinator Research Coordinator (Farm Bill Section 7209).

[SEC. 755. There is hereby appropriated $400,000 to carry out section 1672(g)(4)(B) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925(g)(4)(B)) as amended by section 7209 of Public Law 115-334.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 756: Prevents APHIS from conducting activities or incurring expenses related to official inspection reports not recording any observed violations of the Animal Welfare Act or its regulations.

[SEC. 756. Hereafter, none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act, may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel to implement any activities related to the permitting of non-recording of observed violations of the Animal Welfare Act or its regulations on official inspection reports.]

This change deletes the entire language. The provision is no longer needed as it was made a hereafter provision in 2023.

Section 757: The bill provides $4 million, available until September 30, 2024, available for necessary expenses for cotton classing activities including equipment and facility upgrades.

[SEC. 757. For necessary expenses associated with cotton classing activities pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 55, to include equipment and facility upgrades, and in addition to any other funds made available for this purpose, there is appropriated $4,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024: Provided, That amounts made available in this section shall be treated as funds collected by fees authorized under Mar. 4, 1923, ch. 288, §5, 42 Stat. 1518, as amended (7 U.S.C. 55).]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 758: Prohibits the use of funds to reorganize an agency outside of the mission area it was located in on August 1, 2018, without specific legislation affirming the move.

[SEC. 758. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 759: Provides authorization for NRCS to provide technical assistance for the Watershed Operations and Rehabilitation and also the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

SEC. [759]726. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention
Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

Section 760: Provides additional guidance on the Rural Utilities Service ReConnect Pilot Program funding usage.

[SEC. 760. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are "Areas Rural in Character": Provided, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading "Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program" for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115-141 may be used for this purpose.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 761: Continues language prohibiting inspections of horses for slaughter.

SEC. [761]727. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);
(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104-127); or
(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

Section 762: Provides $4 million in no-year funds to implement non-renewable agreements for preservation of water bank and flooded agricultural lands.

[SEC. 762. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated $4,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-renewable agreements on eligible lands, including flooded agricultural lands, as determined by the Secretary, under the Water Bank Act (16 U.S.C. 1301-1311).]

This change removes this language as it is being proposed in its own account in the 2024 budget.

Section 763: Revises advice provided in the notice of availability entitled “Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability” to be consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

[SEC. 763. Out of amounts appropriated to the Food and Drug Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than September 30, 2023, and following the review required under Executive Order No. 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled "Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration; Revised Fish Advice; Availability" (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.]

This change deletes the entire language.

Section 764: Provides $5 million of no-year funding for mitigation banking (Farm Bill Section 2103).
SEC. [764]728. There is hereby appropriated $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 2103 of Public Law 115-334: Provided, That the Secretary shall prioritize the wetland compliance needs of areas with significant numbers of individual wetlands, wetland acres, and conservation compliance requests.

Section 765: Requires "genetically engineered" be included prior to the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019).

SEC. 765. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the acceptable market name of any engineered animal approved prior to the effective date of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard (February 19, 2019) shall include the words "genetically engineered" prior to the existing acceptable market name.

This change deletes the entire language.

Section 766: The bill provides $5 million to remain available until expended, for expenses related to testing soil, water or agricultural products for PFAS at the request of the producer, assisting agricultural producers affected by PFAS contamination to mitigate the impacts, and indemnifying agricultural producers to alleviate the impact by PFAS contamination.

SEC. [766]729. [There is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, for an additional amount for "Agricultural Programs--Processing, Research, and Marketing--Office of the Secretary", $5,000,000, which shall remain available until expended, for necessary expenses, under]Under such terms and conditions determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall administer a program related to testing soil, water, or agricultural products for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at the request of an agricultural producer, assisting agricultural producers affected by PFAS contamination with costs related to mitigate the impacts to their operation that have resulted from such contamination [and indemnifying agricultural producers for the value of unmarketable crops, livestock, and other agricultural products related to PFAS contamination]enhancing scientific knowledge on PFAS uptake in crops and livestock and PFAS mitigation and remediation methods, and disseminate such knowledge to agricultural producers, and activities related to the detection and measurement of PFAS: Provided, That the Secretary shall prioritize such assistance to agricultural producers in states and territories that have established a tolerance threshold for PFAS in a food or agricultural product: Provided further, That, not later than 90 days after the end of fiscal year 2023, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress specifying the type, amount, and method of such assistance by state and territory and the status of the amounts obligated and plans for further expenditure, and include improvements that can be made to U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, either administratively or legislatively, to increase support for agricultural producers impacted by PFAS contamination and to enhance scientific knowledge on PFAS uptake in crops and livestock and PFAS mitigation and remediation methods and disseminate such knowledge to agricultural producers.

The first change (line 1) is requested to remove the funding provided for PFAS activities from the general provision as funding is being requested in the Office of the Secretary appropriation.

The second change (line 7) is requested to remove the indemnification requirements for USDA’s PFAS work as the Department will focus efforts on researching the issues and studying the effects on water and soil.

The third change (line 13) is requested to remove the reporting requirements associated with this provision as the Department requires additional time to study the agricultural impacts of PFAS prior to making recommendations.

Section 767: Includes language setting aside funding from certain RD programs, until August 15, 2023, equal to the amount obligated in Rural Economic Area Partnership Zones.

SEC. 767. The Secretary shall set aside for Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zones, until August 15, 2023, an amount of funds made available in title III under the headings of Rural Housing Insurance
Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants, Rural Housing Assistance Grants, Rural Community Facilities Program Account, Rural Business Program Account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, and Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account, equal to the amount obligated in REAP Zones with respect to funds provided under such headings in the most recent fiscal year any such funds were obligated under such headings for REAP Zones.]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 768: Provides $500,000 to continue a NOAA Working Group for research for Farming of Kelp and Seagrass.

[SEC. 768. There is hereby appropriated $500,000 to carry out the duties of the working group established under section 770 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6; 133 Stat. 89).]

This change deletes the entire language. This change is requested to provide the Secretary the flexibility needed to carry out the programs of the Department in the most efficient and effective manner.

Section 769: Provides $15 million to remain available until expended for NIFA to continue the Institute for Rural Partnership’s researching causes and condition of challenges facing rural areas and develop community partnerships to address such challenges.

[SEC. 769. For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, $15,000,000, to remain available until expended, to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships as established in section 778 of Public Law 117-103: Provided, That the Institute for Rural Partnerships shall continue to dedicate resources to researching the causes and conditions of challenges facing rural areas, and develop community partnerships to address such challenges: Provided further, That administrative or other fees shall not exceed one percent: Provided further, That such partnership shall coordinate and publish an annual report.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 770: Rescinds unobligated balances from Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

[SEC. 770. Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations made available under the heading "Farm Service Agency--Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account", $73,000,000 are hereby rescinded.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 771: Provides $25 million to remain available until expended to pay for contracts for 2021 reissuance year which were subject to a reduction in the 2023 Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA), specifically the cap set forth in the SRA. The amount provided in the bill will be used to pay the difference between the amount actually paid (subject to the cap) and the amount that would have been paid (if no cap).

[SEC. 771. In addition to the amount of reimbursement for administrative and operating expenses available for crop insurance contracts described in subsection (a)(2)(F) of section III of the 2023 Standard Reinsurance Agreement (SRA) that cover agricultural commodities described in section 101 of title I of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 note), there is hereby appropriated $25,000,000, to remain available until expended, to pay, with respect to such contracts for the 2021 reinsurance year, an amount that is equal to the difference between the amount to be paid pursuant to the SRA for the applicable reinsurance year and the amount that would be paid if such contracts were not subject to a reduction described in subsection (a)(2)(G) of section III of the SRA but subject to a reimbursement rate equal to 17.5 percent of the net book premium.]
Section 772: Provides $1.3 million to remain available until expended for the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study of topics and scientific questions related to alcohol previously published by USDA and Health and Human Services. In addition, a report is required no later than 18 months after the date of enactment and the 2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans include a recommendation for alcohol based upon scientific and medical knowledge.

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 773: Provides additional requirements for the report on Foreign Landholding required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act including the impact foreign ownership has on family farms, rural communities, and the domestic food supply. In addition, within 3 years the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of the data must be compiled in a database which is found on the internet and contains all previous disclosures.

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 774: Provides guidance to FDA on an acceptable market name for ocean-formed Seriola rivoliana as it pertains to labeling and marketing.
[SEC. 774. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the common name "Kanpachi" shall serve as an acceptable market name under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) for labeling and marketing of ocean-farmed Seriola rivoliana.]

This change deletes the entire language.

Section 775: Transfers the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility from the Secretary of Homeland Security to the Secretary of Agriculture along with up to 40 full time equivalent positions.

[SEC. 775. In this or any subsequent fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the operation of and all property required to operate the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, Kansas: Provided, That, such transfer of function shall include the transfer of up to 40 full time equivalent positions, to be completed within 120 days of the effective date of the transfer of function, as jointly determined by the Secretaries.]

This change deletes the entire language. The provision is no longer needed as it was made a hereafter provision in 2023.

Section 776: Extends the current prohibition on requiring matching funds on grants for improvements to meat and poultry facilities to allow for interstate shipment. With the extension, the prohibition will be in place until the end of fiscal year 2023. In addition, this GP extends the authority to conduct the Livestock Mandatory Reporting program.


(b) Section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) is amended by striking "[2022]2023" and inserting "[2023]2024".

Section 777: Amends Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act by renaming the “Access to Local Foods: Farm to School program.” to “Access to Local Foods: Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program.”

[SEC. 777. Section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)) is amended by striking "Access to Local Foods: Farm to School program." and inserting "Access to Local Foods: Patrick Leahy Farm to School Program".]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision and revised the name of the program in 2023.

Section 778: Includes language allowing projects which received a direct loan from the program in Fiscal Year 2018 to remain available through Fiscal Year 2028 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2018.

[SEC. 778. Notwithstanding 7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13), the Secretary shall consider a city or town to be a rural area for the purposes of eligibility for a guaranteed loan funded through the Rural Community Facilities Program Account if the project to be funded received a prior loan from such account in fiscal year 2021.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 779: Rescinds unobligated balances from the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund.

[SEC. 779. Of the unobligated balances in the "Nonrecurring Expenses Fund" established in section 742 of division A of Public Law 113-235, $150,000,000 are hereby rescinded not later than September 30, 2023.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 780: Includes language allowing projects which received a direct loan from the program in Fiscal Year 2018 to remain available through Fiscal Year 2028 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2018.
SEC. [780]731. Funds made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) for the "Rural Community Facilities Program Account" under section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S.C. 1926, for the principal amount of direct loans are to remain available through fiscal year 2028 for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred in fiscal year 2018.

Section 781: Rescinds $80 million in unobligated balances from the Food and Nutrition Service’s Children and Youth in Urban and Rural Areas Program provided in Fiscal Year 2010.

[SEC. 781. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to carry out section 749(g) of the Agricultural Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-80), $80,000,000 are hereby rescinded: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 732: Provides $12 million in additional Farm to School grant funds in 2024 as a general provision instead of in the appropriations account.

SEC. 732. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated $12,000,000 to carry out section 18(g)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(8)), to remain available until expended.

Section 733: Provides $2 million for the Institute of Child Nutrition in 2024 as a general provision instead of in the appropriations account.

SEC. 733. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated $2,000,000 to carry out subsections (a)(2) and (e)(2) of section 21 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769b–1(a)(2) and (e)(2) to remain available until expended.

Section 734: Provides guidance on Single Family Housing and Multi-family Housing Programs, including Multi-family Housing Direct loans and Farm Labor Housing Direct loans and grants, to include in new construction funding for renewable energy projects that support Climate change initiative.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available under this Act to carry out sections 504, 514, 515, 516, 523, 533 and 538 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1474, 1484–1486, 1490c, 1490m, 1490p–2) may be used to award loans or grants for new construction or improvements projects unless such projects improve energy or water efficiency, indoor air quality, or sustainability improvements; implement low-emission technologies, materials, or processes, including zero-emission electricity generation, energy storage, building electrification, or electric car charging station installations; or address climate resilience of multifamily properties.

Section 735: Amends the Housing Act of 1949. Rural Development includes a legislative proposal in the 2024 budget of extending the repayment term for Section 523 site development loans from two years to five years. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing, which is urgently needed in rural America.

SEC. 735. Section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c) is amended in subsection (b)(1)(B) by striking “two years” and inserting “five years”.

Section 736: Amends the Housing Act of 1949. Rural Development includes a legislative proposal in the 2024 budget of extending the repayment term for Section 524 site development loans from two years to five years. This change will encourage the construction of new affordable housing, which is urgently needed in rural America.

SEC. 736. Section 524 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490d) is amended in subsection (a)(1) by striking “two years” and inserting “five years”.

37-22
Section 737: Cancels $9.156 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Broadband Treasury Rate Loan program. Because of funding provided for ReConnect in the annual appropriations and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, loans for this purpose are being provided thru the ReConnect program.

SEC. 737. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the Broadband Treasury Rate Loan program, authorized in section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb), $9,156,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 738: Cancels $5 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for a Multi-family Housing maturing mortgage pilot program. The budget supports an increase in multi-family housing programs for increasing affordable housing.

SEC. 738. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in prior Acts for the pilot program described in section 749 of division A of Public Law 115-141, including from amounts made available in any successor provision for such purpose, $5,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 739: Amends Section 593 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408a) to facilitate the sale of Real Estate Owned properties.

SEC. 739. Section 592 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11408a) is amended —
(a) in the section heading by striking “FMHA” and inserting “USDA”;
(b) in subsection (a), by, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), striking “program and nonprogram”; and
(c) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following: “(b) Priority.—The priority uses of inventory property under this section shall be given priority equal to or higher than the disposition of such property in accordance with priorities determined by the Secretary as necessary to protect the best interests of the Federal Government.”.

Section 740: Cancels $8 million from unobligated balances from amount made available for the Rural Cooperative Development Grants. The budget supports the technical assistance provided by Agriculture Innovation Center grants seeking to engage in developing and marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products.

SEC. 740. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in prior Acts under the heading “Rural Cooperative Development Grants” for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized by section 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b), as amended, $8,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts shall be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Section 741: Amend the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 to provide authority to standardize foreclosures across states, consistent with how HUD is authorized to carryout foreclosures. The efficiency created by USDA having independent foreclosure authority will dramatically reduce the timeframes required to dispose of the property and will facilitate more expedient and direct re-use according to community needs.

SEC. 741. Section 363 of the Multifamily Mortgage Foreclosure Act of 1981 (12 U.S.C. 3702) is amended at subsection (10) by inserting after “Secretary of Housing Urban Development” the following: “and the Secretary of Agriculture”.

37-23
Section 742: Provides revisions to beginning farmer reserved funds authorizing language.

SEC. 742. Section 346(b)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1994(b)(2)) is amended—
(a) In subparagraph (A)(i)(II) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal year”;
(b) In subparagraph (A)(iii) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “September 1 of the fiscal year”; and
(c) In subparagraph (B)(iii) by inserting “to the extent practicable” after “April 1 of the fiscal year”.

Section 743: The current language defines a qualifying loss from a disaster event as being at least 30 per centum loss of normal per acre or per animal production. Removal of this language ensures that the Secretary has maximum flexibility in defining loss to improve eligibility for agricultural producers seeking emergency loan funding. The intent of this action is to improve producer access to emergency funding.

SEC. 743. Section 329 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1970) is amended in the first sentence by striking “at least a 30 per centum” and all that follows through “in effect for the previous year”, and inserting in lieu thereof the following: “a qualifying production loss, as determined by the Secretary, as a result of the disaster.”.

Section 744: Agricultural producers impacted by a disaster who wish to use emergency loan funding must provide a written declination from a commercial lender, and the Secretary must take into account the applicants’ assets and liabilities. Removal of this requirement will give the Secretary maximum flexibility in regards to applicant eligibility for emergency loans and so improve producer access to emergency funding.

SEC. 744. Section 322 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1962) is hereby amended by striking “(a)” and by striking subsection (b).

Section 745: Includes language to eliminate the limit on the number of vouchers RHS can issue. Currently Section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 limits issuing vouchers to 5,000 any fiscal year. The General Provision amends the Housing Act.

SEC. 745. Section 542 of the Housing Act, (42 USC 1490r,) is amended—
(a) in the heading of section (b), striking “and limitation”;
(b) by striking “; and” at the end of subsection (b)(1) and inserting a period; and
(c) by striking subsection (b)(2).

Section 746: Amends the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for inflation of the maximum fees collected for the Health and Human Services Secretary’s certification on the export product being unadulterated or misbranded.

SEC. 746. Section 801(e)(4) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 381(e)(4)) is amended—
(a) in subparagraph (B) by striking “but shall not exceed $175 for each certification” and inserting “in an amount specified in subparagraph (F)”; and
(b) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs: “(F) The fee for each written export certification issued by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not exceed (i) $600 for fiscal year 2024; and (ii) for each subsequent fiscal year, the prior fiscal year maximum amount multiplied by the inflation adjustment under section 738(c)(2)(C), applied without regard to the limitation in clause (ii)(II) of such subparagraph. (G) The Secretary shall, for each fiscal year, publish in the Federal Register a notice of the export certification fee under this paragraph for such year, not later than 60 days before such fee takes effect.”

Section 747: Allows the availability of salaries and expenses to be available for primary and secondary schooling of eligible dependents of Health and Human Services personnel stationed in Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and possessions of the United States.

SEC. 747. Funds appropriated in this or any prior Act that are available for salaries and expenses of employees of the Food and Drug Administration shall also be available for the primary and secondary
schooling of eligible dependents of Department of Health and Human Services personnel stationed in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the possessions of the United States at costs not in excess of those paid for or reimbursed by the Department of Defense.

Section 2101: Authorization for Rural Development to use up to three percent of the funding available under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act for administrative expenses.

[SEC. 2101. In addition to other funds available for such purposes, not more than three percent of the amounts provided in each account under the "Rural Development Programs" heading in this title shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses" for administrative costs to carry out the emergency rural development programs in this title.]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.

Section 2102: Provides additional funding for the Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services in the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act.

[SEC. 2102. For necessary expenses for salary and related costs associated with Agriculture Quarantine and Inspection Services activities pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 136a(6), and in addition to any other funds made available for this purpose, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $125,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to offset the loss of quarantine and inspection fees collected pursuant to sections 2508 and 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136, 136a): Provided, That amounts made available in this section shall be treated as funds collected by fees authorized under sections 2508 and 2509 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (21 U.S.C. 136, 136a) for purposes of section 421(f) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231(f)).]

This change removes this language as it is a one-time provision.