

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2427

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to offer to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate the development of recommendations to carry out an improved inspection program for meat and poultry products, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 25 (legislative day, AUGUST 18), 1994

Mr. HEFLIN (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. DURENBERGER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. HELMS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to offer to enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate the development of recommendations to carry out an improved inspection program for meat and poultry products, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. DEVELOPMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR**
2 **IMPROVED MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION**
3 **FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

4 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to pro-
5 tect the public health by providing for the development
6 of a detailed framework for an improved meat and poultry
7 inspection program that is both scientifically reliable and
8 concentrates on hazards posing the greatest risk to human
9 health.

10 (b) **COORDINATION BY NATIONAL ACADEMY OF**
11 **SCIENCES.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of en-
12 actment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred
13 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall offer to enter
14 into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences
15 (referred to in this section as the “Academy”), under
16 which the Academy will coordinate the development and
17 evaluation of strategies and mechanisms for carrying out
18 an improved meat and poultry inspection program under
19 the jurisdiction of the Secretary that is both scientifically
20 reliable and concentrates on hazards posing the greatest
21 risk to human health.

22 (c) **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.**—Not later than 180
23 days after the date on which the agreement is entered into
24 under subsection (b), the Academy shall submit to Con-
25 gress and the Secretary a report describing the results of

1 the activities conducted pursuant to the agreement. The
2 report shall include:

3 (1) An evaluation of the adequacy of the cur-
4 rent scientific basis (as of the date of the report) for
5 carrying out risk-based meat and poultry inspection
6 programs using the approach known as hazard anal-
7 ysis critical control point. The evaluation shall in-
8 clude an examination of—

9 (A) data necessary to evaluate and com-
10 pare the public health impacts of current (as of
11 the date of the report) and future meat and
12 poultry inspection programs; and

13 (B) current (as of the date of the report)
14 and anticipated biological and food science tech-
15 nologies needed to conduct risk-based meat and
16 poultry inspection programs.

17 (2) If deficiencies are found in the current sci-
18 entific basis described in paragraph (1), rec-
19 ommendations regarding strategies needed to
20 achieve the level of scientific data and technology re-
21 quired to adequately protect the public health in
22 conducting meat and poultry inspection programs.

23 (3) Recommendations regarding the manage-
24 ment structure in the Department of Agriculture
25 and resources necessary for—

1 (A) training the current meat and poultry
2 inspection work force (as of the date of the re-
3 port) to move from a visual inspection system
4 to a risk-based inspection system; and

5 (B) carrying out an effective risk-based
6 meat and poultry inspection program on a uni-
7 form basis throughout the United States.

8 (4) A description of the legislative and regu-
9 latory changes needed to carry out the recommenda-
10 tions made under paragraph (3).

11 (d) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

12 (1) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report
13 required by subsection (c), the Academy shall con-
14 sult with the Meat and Poultry Advisory Committee
15 and the National Advisory Committee on
16 Microbiological Criteria.

17 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committees re-
18 ferred to in paragraph (1) shall provide to the Acad-
19 emy written recommendations concerning the pro-
20 gram referred to in subsection (b). On receipt of the
21 recommendations, the Academy shall include the rec-
22 ommendations as an appendix to the report required
23 by subsection (c).

1 (e) FUNDING.—From funds available to the Sec-
2 retary for fiscal year 1995, the Secretary may use not
3 more than \$200,000 to carry out this section.

