

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3652

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a food waste research and technical assistance program and grant program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2021

Mrs. AXNE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a food waste research and technical assistance program and grant program, 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Food Waste  
5       Reduction Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

7       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Food Loss and Waste  
8       Reduction Liaison of the Department of Agriculture (in  
9       this section referred to as the “Liaison”) shall establish  
10      a partnership with 5 regional partner institutions, selected

1 under subsection (c), to carry out a Food Waste Research  
2 Program (in this section referred to as the “Program”).

3 (b) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM REQUIRE-  
4 MENTS.—

5 (1) DUTIES.—In carrying out the Program, the  
6 Liaison, in partnership with the 5 regional partner  
7 institutions selected under subsection (c), shall—

8 (A) plan, conduct, and arrange for public  
9 research, data, education, and recommendations  
10 within the areas of study specified in paragraph  
11 (2), as such areas relate to food waste reduction  
12 and food recovery issues nationwide, regionally,  
13 and locally;

14 (B) carry out the activities of the Program  
15 within a variety of regions in the United States,  
16 which are identified and categorized by the Li-  
17 aison based on the specific food recovery and  
18 food waste reduction issues of such regions;

19 (C) identify areas to increase efficiency in  
20 the allocation of resources, coordination, co-  
21 operation, and consolidation of efforts as they  
22 relate to local, statewide, Tribal, regional, and  
23 Federal food recovery and food waste reduction  
24 efforts;

1 (D) create a Program website, as described  
2 in paragraph (4), to disseminate information to  
3 the public; and

4 (E) collaborate with other colleges, univer-  
5 sities, and nonprofit organizations in the re-  
6 gions selected by the Liaison that have dem-  
7 onstrated capability for research, information  
8 dissemination, and professional training in  
9 order to develop regional networks that are  
10 knowledgeable in food waste reduction issues.

11 (2) AREAS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the du-  
12 ties listed in subsection (a), the Liaison and the re-  
13 gional partner institutions shall consider the fol-  
14 lowing areas of study:

15 (A) Reducing the volume of surplus food  
16 produced.

17 (B) Feeding individuals in need to utilize  
18 excess food, including through the use of dona-  
19 tions of surplus food.

20 (C) Diverting food unusable for purposes  
21 of subparagraph (B) to feed animals.

22 (D) Utilizing food waste to create renew-  
23 able energy sources.

24 (E) Composting food waste to create nutri-  
25 ent rich soil.

1 (F) Diminishing the deposits of food waste  
2 in landfills and reducing the incineration of  
3 food waste.

4 (3) USE OF FUNDS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Liaison may make  
6 funds available under this section to improve  
7 the facilities of the regional partner institutions  
8 to a level that meets the requirements of the  
9 role of a regional partner institution.

10 (B) PLAN.—A regional partner institution  
11 may not receive any funding for any facility up-  
12 grade under subparagraph (A), unless—

13 (i) the regional partner institution  
14 submits to the Liaison a plan detailing the  
15 type of facility construction or improve-  
16 ments to take place (including any land ac-  
17 quisition, engineering, design, and staffing  
18 and equipment needs, in addition to other  
19 information as required by the Liaison);  
20 and

21 (ii) the Liaison approves such plan.

22 (C) NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE FOR FA-  
23 CILITY IMPROVEMENT.—A regional partner in-  
24 stitutions shall be required to provide at least  
25 a 20 percent non-Federal cost share for facility

1 improvement or construction projects pursued  
2 by a regional partner institution under subpara-  
3 graph (A).

4 (D) MATCHING FUNDS FOR OPERATING  
5 EXPENSES.—A regional partner institution shall  
6 be required to provide at least a 30 percent  
7 non-Federal cost share for all Program oper-  
8 ating expenses related to such regional partner  
9 institution.

10 (E) WAGE RATE REQUIREMENTS.—A con-  
11 struction activity carried out pursuant to this  
12 section shall meet Federal prevailing wage re-  
13 quirements as determined by the Secretary of  
14 Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of  
15 chapter 31 of part A of subtitle II of title 40,  
16 United States Code, (commonly referred to as  
17 the “Davis-Bacon Act”).

18 (4) FOOD WASTE RESEARCH PROGRAM  
19 WEBSITE.—The Liaison shall establish a website  
20 that shall contain at least the following information:

21 (A) Key findings and best practices.

22 (B) A list of collaborations and partner-  
23 ships carried out pursuant to this section.

24 (C) Annual reports and other pertinent in-  
25 formation on the duties of the Program.

1 (D) The location and contact information  
2 for regional partner institutions.

3 (E) Federal, State, local, and regionally  
4 specific public research, data, education, and  
5 policy recommendations that shall be updated  
6 in a timely manner with new information.

7 (F) Tools for tracking reduction efforts  
8 and measuring food waste production.

9 (c) SELECTION OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-  
10 TIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
12 after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
13 Liaison shall select 5 regional partner institutions to  
14 partner with to carry out the requirements of the  
15 Program.

16 (2) CRITERIA FOR REGIONAL PARTNER INSTI-  
17 TUTIONS.—In making a selection under paragraph  
18 (1), the Liaison shall select an institution of higher  
19 education that—

20 (A) has a focus or expertise in at least one  
21 of the areas of study described in subsection  
22 (b)(2);

23 (B) has the ability to plan, conduct, and  
24 arrange for public research, data, education,  
25 and recommendations related to food waste re-

1           duction and the areas of study described in sub-  
2           section (b)(2);

3           (C) can assist the Liaison in fulfilling the  
4           duties listed in subsection (b)(1);

5           (D) can contribute the required non-Fed-  
6           eral funding to maintain a regional partner in-  
7           stitution center; and

8           (E) satisfies any other criteria determined  
9           by the Liaison.

10          (3) ELIGIBLE SUB-AWARDEES.—A State, Trib-  
11          al, or local government, local educational agency, ag-  
12          ricultural or commodity organization, farmer, or  
13          other organization focused on food waste prevention  
14          may serve as an eligible sub-awardee of a regional  
15          partner institution if the entity meets the require-  
16          ments of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of para-  
17          graph (2).

18          (4) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—Members of re-  
19          gional partner institutions shall not be considered  
20          Federal employees for any purpose.

21          (d) COLLABORATION WITH FEDERAL, REGIONAL,  
22          STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ORGA-  
23          NIZATIONS.—The Liaison, in conjunction with the 5 re-  
24          gional partner institutions selected under subsection (c)  
25          shall collaborate and share best practices on regional,

1 State, Tribal, and locally specific food waste and food  
2 waste reduction issues with—

3 (1) State and county governments;

4 (2) Tribal governments;

5 (3) units of local government;

6 (4) local educational entities;

7 (5) colleges and universities;

8 (6) agricultural and commodity organizations;

9 (7) farmers; and

10 (8) organizations focused on food waste preven-  
11 tion.

12 (e) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINA-  
13 TION.—

14 (1) REPORT OF REGIONAL PARTNER INSTITU-  
15 TIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the  
16 enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,  
17 the regional partnership institutions shall submit to  
18 the Liaison a report containing the activities, part-  
19 nerships, collaborations, Federal policy recommenda-  
20 tions, previous and continuing budgets, findings, and  
21 any other applicable information carried out under  
22 the Program.

23 (2) LIAISON REPORT.—Not later than 15  
24 months after the date of the enactment of this sec-  
25 tion, and annually thereafter, the Liaison shall sub-



1 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House  
2 of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
3 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate and  
4 publish on the Program website an annual report  
5 containing a compilation of the activities, partner-  
6 ships, collaborations, Federal policy recommenda-  
7 tions, previous and continuing budgets, findings, and  
8 any other applicable information relating to the Pro-  
9 gram.

10 (3) REVIEW OF REPORT.—The Liaison shall re-  
11 view the annual report from the regional partner in-  
12 stitutions to ensure that funds are being used effi-  
13 ciently according to the duties of the Program and  
14 that the Program is producing utilizable public re-  
15 search, data, education, and recommendations re-  
16 lated to food waste and food waste reduction issues.

17 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
19 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

20 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO RESEARCH CENTERS OR NON-PROFIT**  
21 **ORGANIZATIONS.**

22 (a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—Not later than 180 days  
23 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Food  
24 Loss and Waste Reduction Liaison of the Department of  
25 Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Liaison”)

1 shall establish a grant program under which the Liaison  
2 shall make grants to eligible entities, on a competitive  
3 basis, to establish contracts or cooperative agreements de-  
4 scribed in subsection (c) of section 224 of the Department  
5 of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C.  
6 6924(c)) with such eligible entities to carry out the duties  
7 described in subsection (b) of such section.

8 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
9 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
10 Liaison an application at such time and in such manner  
11 as the Liaison may require.

12 (c) CRITERIA.—In making grants under this section,  
13 the Liaison shall consider, with respect to each applicant,  
14 the following:

15 (1) The alignment of food loss and recovery  
16 programs and resources developed by such applicant  
17 with the Environmental Protection Agency Food Re-  
18 covery Hierarchy.

19 (2) The ability of the facilities and resources of  
20 such applicant to develop and deliver food loss re-  
21 duction and recovery programs.

22 (3) The experience of such applicant in devel-  
23 oping high-impact food loss reduction and recovery  
24 programs and resources at the State, Tribal, re-  
25 gional, or national scale.

1           (4) Previous collaboration of such applicant  
2           with other food loss reduction and recovery focused  
3           organizations in the private, nonprofit, and govern-  
4           ment sectors.

5           (5) Any other information that the Liaison  
6           shall require.

7           (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
8           a grant under this section shall use such grant to carry  
9           out the activities described in subsection (c) of section 224  
10          of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of  
11          1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(c)) to accomplish the duties de-  
12          scribed in subsection (b) of such section.

13          (e) DURATION.—Each grant under this section shall  
14          be for a period of 3 years.

15          (f) GRANT RENEWAL.—The Liaison may renew a  
16          grant under this section for an additional period of 3  
17          years.

18          (g) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of a grant  
19          under this section shall not exceed 70 percent of the costs  
20          of the activities carried out under this section.

21          (h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
22          after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
23          thereafter, the Liaison shall submit to Congress a report  
24          describing the activities conducted under this section and

1 the effects of such activities on food loss and waste reduc-  
2 tion nationally.

3 (i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—The term “eligible  
4 entity” means a research center or nonprofit organization  
5 described in section 224(c) of the Department of Agri-  
6 culture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924(c)).

7 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

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