

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1714

To reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GOODLATTE, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. DOLD, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. FOXX, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HANNA, Mr. STEWART, Mr. LATTI, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. WOMACK, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DENT, Mr. BARLETTA, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To reform the Federal sugar 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 “Sugar Reform Act of
5 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUGAR PROGRAM.**

2 (a) SUGARCANE.—Section 156(a) of the Federal Ag-
3 riculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C.
4 7272(a)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” after
6 the semicolon at the end;

7 (2) in paragraph (4)—

8 (A) by striking “2018” and insert “2014”;
9 and

10 (B) by striking the period at the end and
11 inserting “; and”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(6) 18 cents per pound for raw cane sugar for
14 each of the 2015 through 2018 crop years.”.

15 (b) SUGAR BEETS.—Section 156(b)(2) of the Federal
16 Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7
17 U.S.C. 7272(b)(2)) is amended by striking “2009” and
18 inserting “2015”.

19 (c) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Section 156(i) of the Fed-
20 eral Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7
21 U.S.C. 7272(i)) is amended by striking “2008” and in-
22 serting “2015”.

23 **SEC. 3. FLEXIBLE MARKETING ALLOTMENTS FOR SUGAR.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 359b of the Agricultural
25 Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359bb) is amended—

26 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

1 (A) in the matter before subparagraph (A),
2 by striking “2008” and inserting “2017”; and

3 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “at
4 reasonable prices” after “stocks”; and
5 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

6 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “but”
7 after the semicolon at the end and inserting
8 “and”; and

9 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
10 sserting the following:

11 “(B) appropriate to maintain adequate do-
12 mestic supplies at reasonable prices, taking into
13 account all sources of domestic supply, includ-
14 ing imports.”.

15 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FLEXIBLE MARKETING AL-
16 LOTMENTS.—Section 359c of the Agricultural Adjustment
17 Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359cc) is amended—

18 (1) in subsection (b)—

19 (A) in paragraph (1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “but” after the semicolon at the end and
22 inserting “and”; and

23 (ii) by striking subparagraph (B) and
24 inserting the following:

1 “(B) appropriate to maintain adequate
2 supplies at reasonable prices, taking into ac-
3 count all sources of domestic supply, including
4 imports.”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “at
6 reasonable prices” after “market”; and
7 (2) in subsection (g)(1)—

8 (A) by striking “ADJUSTMENTS.—” and
9 all that follows through “Subject to subpara-
10 graph (B), the” and inserting “ADJUST-
11 MENTS.—The”; and

12 (B) by striking subparagraph (B).

13 (c) SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF PROVI-
14 SIONS.—Section 359j of the Agricultural Adjustment Act
15 of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359jj) is amended by adding at the
16 end the following:

17 “(c) SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF PROVI-
18 SIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this part,
19 the Secretary may suspend or modify, in whole or in part,
20 the application of any provision of this part if the Sec-
21 retary determines that the action is appropriate, taking
22 into account—

23 “(1) the interests of consumers, workers in the
24 food industry, businesses (including small busi-
25 nesses), and agricultural producers; and

1 “(2) the relative competitiveness of domestically
2 produced and imported foods containing sugar.”.

3 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF TARIFF RATE QUOTAS.—
4 Section 359k of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938
5 (7 U.S.C. 1359kk) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 359k. ADMINISTRATION OF TARIFF RATE QUOTAS.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Notwithstanding any other
8 provision of law, at the beginning of the quota year, the
9 Secretary shall establish the tariff-rate quotas for raw
10 cane sugar and refined sugar at no less than the minimum
11 level necessary to comply with obligations under inter-
12 national trade agreements that have been approved by
13 Congress.

14 “(b) ADJUSTMENT.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (a),
16 the Secretary shall adjust the tariff-rate quotas for
17 raw cane sugar and refined sugar to provide ade-
18 quate supplies of sugar at reasonable prices in the
19 domestic market.

20 “(2) ENDING STOCKS.—Subject to paragraphs
21 (1) and (3), the Secretary shall establish and adjust
22 tariff-rate quotas in such a manner that the ratio of
23 sugar stocks to total sugar use at the end of the
24 quota year will be approximately 15.5 percent.

1 “(3) MAINTENANCE OF REASONABLE PRICES
2 AND AVOIDANCE OF FORFEITURES.—

3 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may es-
4 tablish a different target for the ratio of ending
5 stocks to total use if, in the judgment of the
6 Secretary, the different target is necessary to
7 prevent—

8 “(i) unreasonably high prices; or

9 “(ii) forfeitures of sugar pledged as
10 collateral for a loan under section 156 of
11 the Federal Agriculture Improvement and
12 Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7272).

13 “(B) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The Secretary
14 shall publicly announce any establishment of a
15 target under this paragraph.

16 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing tariff-
17 rate quotas under subsection (a) and making adjust-
18 ments under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
19 sider the impact of the quotas on consumers, work-
20 ers, businesses (including small businesses), and ag-
21 ricultural producers.

22 “(c) TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF QUOTAS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To promote full use of the
24 tariff-rate quotas for raw cane sugar and refined
25 sugar, notwithstanding any other provision of law,

1 the Secretary shall promulgate regulations that pro-
2 vide that any country that has been allocated a
3 share of the quotas may temporarily transfer all or
4 part of the share to any other country that has also
5 been allocated a share of the quotas.

6 “(2) TRANSFERS VOLUNTARY.—Any transfer
7 under this subsection shall be valid only on vol-
8 untary agreement between the transferor and the
9 transferee, consistent with procedures established by
10 the Secretary.

11 “(3) TRANSFERS TEMPORARY.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Any transfer under
13 this subsection shall be valid only for the dura-
14 tion of the quota year during which the transfer
15 is made.

16 “(B) FOLLOWING QUOTA YEAR.—No
17 transfer under this subsection shall affect the
18 share of the quota allocated to the transferor or
19 transferee for the following quota year.”

20 (e) EFFECTIVE PERIOD.—Section 359l(a) of the Ag-
21 ricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359ll(a))
22 is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2015”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPEAL OF FEEDSTOCK FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM**
2 **FOR BIOENERGY PRODUCERS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 9010 of the Farm Secu-
4 rity and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8110)
5 is repealed.

6 (b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

7 (1) Section 359a(3)(B) of the Agricultural Ad-
8 justment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359aa(3)(B)) is
9 amended—

10 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “and” after
11 the semicolon at the end;

12 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” at
13 the end and inserting a period; and

14 (C) by striking clause (iii).

15 (2) Section 359b(c)(2)(C) of the Agricultural
16 Adjustment Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1359bb(c)(2)(C))
17 is amended by striking “, except for” and all that
18 follows through “of 2002”.

○