

Info Alert

National Conference of State Legislatures Office of State-Federal Relations

Jan. 27, 2014

Farm Bill Conference Announces Agreement⁰House to Vote on Wednesday⁰

On Jan⁰27, House and Senate Agriculture leaders Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), Thad Cochran (R-Miss.), Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) and Colin Peterson (D-Minn.), [announced that they had reached a deal](#) to reauthorize the [Agricultural Act of 2014](#), known as the Farm Bill, for five years. The bill is scheduled for a vote on the House floor on Wednesday, Jan. 29 with the Senate likely to take action shortly thereafter. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-Ohio) and House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) have all released statements of support for the final conference report.

According to congressional aides, the bill reduces overall spending by \$23 billion. This overall total is the result of \$33 billion in reductions to certain programs combined with \$10 billion in funding increases in other areas. Of the \$33 billion in cuts, \$19 billion come from reductions in farm programs, including ending direct payments, \$6 billion from conservation programs and \$8 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The \$10 billion in increased funding is targeted towards crop insurance, research, export promotion, specialty crop support, rural development, and other areas. A formal Congressional Budget Office score has not yet been released.

The final agreement does not include the “King Amendment,” which would have significantly pre-empted states’ ability to protect the safety and well being of their farmland, waterways, forests and most importantly, the health and welfare of their constituents. See [NCSL’s King Amendment letter](#) for additional information on NCSL’s position.

The bill also includes one year of funding for the [Payments in Lieu of Taxes \(PILT\)](#) program. PILT provides federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries.

Please be on the lookout for a complete analysis from NCSL later this week. As always, if you have any questions on the Farm Bill please do not hesitate to contact NCSL. For questions on the agriculture provisions, please contact [Ben Husch](#) (202-624-7779) and for questions on the nutrition provisions, please contact [Joy Wilson](#) (202-624-8689).

Important Links:

- [Agricultural Act of 2014 — Conference Report](#)
- [Detailed Summary on Title I through Title XII](#)
- [House-Senate Negotiators Announce Bipartisan Agreement on Final Farm Bill](#)