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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, to provide for marijuana agricultural research program at 1890 institutions, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, to provide for marijuana agricultural research program at 1890 institutions, 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 “Establishing and De-  
5 veloping University Cannabis Agriculture Techniques and  
6 Excellence Act of 2025” or the “EDUCATE Act of  
7 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARIJUANA RESEARCH AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.**

2 The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and  
3 Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“Subtitle P—Marijuana Research**  
6 **at 1890 Institutions**

7 **“SEC. 1492. MARIJUANA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH PRO-**  
8 **GRAM AT 1890 INSTITUTIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
10 the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agri-  
11 culture (in this subtitle referred to as the ‘Secretary’),  
12 shall establish a program under which the Secretary will  
13 award, on a competitive basis grants to authorized institu-  
14 tions to conduct research on the cultivation (including ag-  
15 ronomic best practices) and processing of marijuana. Such  
16 research may include research on the following topics:

17 “(1) The optimization of cultivation and har-  
18 vesting practices for marijuana crops.

19 “(2) The examination of soil health, water con-  
20 servation, pest management, and sustainability im-  
21 pacts of marijuana agriculture.

22 “(3) The evaluation of economic development  
23 opportunities for minority and disadvantaged farm-  
24 ers in emerging marijuana markets.

25 “(4) Workforce development, training, and ex-  
26 tension activities related to marijuana agriculture.

1       “(b) APPLICATION.—An authorized institution seek-  
2 ing a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-  
3 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and  
4 containing such information as the Secretary may require,  
5 including documentation of the registration of the institu-  
6 tion as described in section 1492D(2).

7       “(c) SELECTION OF GRANTEES.—In selecting au-  
8 thorized institutions to receive a grant under this section,  
9 the Secretary shall—

10           “(1) give priority to institutions that have part-  
11 nerships with minority and small-scale farmers or  
12 community-based agricultural organizations; and

13           “(2) ensure an equitable distribution of grant  
14 funds among such institutions.

15       “(d) CONDITION.—An authorized institution receiv-  
16 ing a grant under this section shall agree, as a condition  
17 on receipt of such grant, to coordinate with the Secretary  
18 and other Federal agencies to ensure compliance with ap-  
19 plicable Federal laws relating to the possession, handling,  
20 study, or other research activity involving marijuana.

21       “(e) FUNDING.—

22           “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
23 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
24 this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
25 through 2030.

1           “(2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—Of the funds  
2           made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year,  
3           the Secretary shall reserve not less than 25 percent  
4           to award grants to authorized institutions that are  
5           Hispanic-serving institutions.

6   **“SEC. 1492A. MARIJUANA AGRICULTURE STUDIES SCHOL-**  
7                           **ARSHIP PROGRAM.**

8           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
9           program (to be known as the Marijuana Agriculture Stud-  
10          ies Scholarship Program) under which the Secretary will  
11          award grants to authorized institutions for purposes of  
12          awarding scholarships to individuals who—

13                   “(1)(A) have been accepted for admission at  
14                   such institution and will be enrolled full-time at such  
15                   institution in an undergraduate or graduate program  
16                   in the food and agricultural sciences not later than  
17                   one year after the date of such acceptance; or

18                   “(B) are enrolled full-time at such institution in  
19                   such an undergraduate or graduate program; and

20                   “(2) intend to pursue, or are pursuing a career  
21                   in marijuana or hemp agriculture, marijuana cultiva-  
22                   tion, plant science, agricultural technology, agricul-  
23                   tural science, or agricultural policy.

24           “(b) APPLICATION.—An authorized institution seek-  
25          ing a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-

1 retary an application at such time, in such manner, and  
2 containing such information as the Secretary may require,  
3 including documentation of the registration of the institu-  
4 tion as described in section 1492D(2).

5 “(c) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

6 “(1) SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT.—The amount of a  
7 scholarship awarded pursuant to this section shall  
8 not exceed \$10,000 per student, per academic year.

9 “(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—Of the funds made  
10 available under subsection (c), the Secretary may  
11 use not more than \$100,000 to award grants under  
12 this subsection for the academic year beginning on  
13 July 1, 2027, and each succeeding academic year for  
14 which such funds remain available.

15 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
16 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
17 \$100,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

18 **“SEC. 1492B. REPORTING.**

19 “Not later than one year after the date of the enact-  
20 ment of this subtitle, and annually thereafter, the Sec-  
21 retary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of  
22 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
23 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report  
24 describing—

1           “(1) grants awarded under the program estab-  
2           lished under section 1492;

3           “(2) the outcomes and findings of research con-  
4           ducted pursuant to such section; and

5           “(3) the participation in the scholarship pro-  
6           gram under section 1492A and outcomes of such  
7           program.

8   **“SEC. 1492C. NONDISCRIMINATION; SAFE HARBOR; RULE**  
9                                   **OF CONSTRUCTION.**

10          “(a) NO DENIAL OF FEDERAL BENEFIT.—Notwith-  
11          standing any other provision of law, an institution of high-  
12          er education, faculty member, researcher, employee, or  
13          student that receives funding under, conducts research  
14          pursuant to, or participates in a program or activity au-  
15          thorized by, this Act shall not be denied any Federal ben-  
16          efit, grant, or contract, solely because of the cultivation,  
17          possession, handling, study, or other research activity in-  
18          volving marijuana conducted in accordance with this Act.

19          “(b) NO FEDERAL PROSECUTION OR CIVIL PEN-  
20          ALTIES FOR ALLOWED CONDUCT.—An individual or enti-  
21          ty who receives funding under, conducts research pursuant  
22          to, or participates in a program or activity authorized by  
23          this Act shall not be subject to criminal prosecution or  
24          civil or administrative penalties under Federal law relating  
25          to that receipt of funding, research, or participation so

1 long as the individual or entity, in receiving such funds,  
2 conducting such research, or participating in such a pro-  
3 gram or activity is acting within the scope of the applica-  
4 ble registration under section 303 of the Controlled Sub-  
5 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) and such other requirements  
6 as may be imposed by the Secretary under this Act.

7 **“SEC. 1492D. DEFINITIONS.**

8 “In this Act:

9 “(1) The term ‘1890 Institution’ has the mean-  
10 ing given such term in section 2 of the Agricultural  
11 Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of  
12 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601).

13 “(2) The term ‘authorized institution’ means a  
14 covered institution that, as of the date on which the  
15 institution submits an application under section  
16 1492 or 1492A (as applicable), has a registration in  
17 effect under section 303 of the Controlled Sub-  
18 stances Act (21 U.S.C. 823) to conduct research  
19 with marijuana.

20 “(3) The term ‘marijuana’ has the meaning  
21 given such term in section 102 of the Controlled  
22 Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

23 “(4) The term ‘covered institution’ means—

24 “(A) an 1890 Institution;

1                   “(B) a Hispanic-serving institution (as de-  
2                   fined in section 502 of the Higher Education  
3                   Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a)); and

4                   “(C) a part B institution (as defined in  
5                   section 322 of the Higher Education Act of  
6                   1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061)) that—

7                               “(i) is not an 1890 Institution; and

8                               “(ii) has an accredited program offer-  
9                               ing education in the food and agricultural  
10                              sciences.”.