

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4688

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to make land grants-mercedes eligible for assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2017

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to make land grants-mercedes eligible for assistance, 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 “Land Grants-Mercedes
5 Conservation Program Eligibility Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1201(a) of the Food Se-
8 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801(a)) is amended by
9 redesignating paragraphs (17) through (27) as para-

1 graphs (18) through (28), respectively, and inserting after
2 paragraph (16) the following:

3 “(17) LAND GRANT-MERCED.—The term ‘land
4 grant-merced’ means a community, town, colony, or
5 pueblo—

6 “(A) the land of which was granted by the
7 government of Spain or by the government of
8 Mexico to—

9 “(i) the community, town, colony, or
10 pueblo; or

11 “(ii) a person for the purpose of
12 founding or establishing a community,
13 town, colony, or pueblo; or

14 “(B) that asserted title pursuant to the
15 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, through—

16 “(i) the Office of the Surveyor Gen-
17 eral for New Mexico established pursuant
18 to the Act of July 22, 1854 (Chapter 103;
19 10 Stat. 308); or

20 “(ii) the United States Court of Pri-
21 vate Land Claims established by the Act of
22 March 3, 1891 (Chapter 539; 26 Stat.
23 854) (commonly known as the Court of
24 Private Land Claims Act).”.

1 (b) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR
2 LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES.—Section 1244 of the Food
3 Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following:

5 “(m) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR
6 LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES.—

7 “(1) ALTERNATIVE FUNDING ARRANGE-
8 MENTS.—Notwithstanding section 1001(f)(6), the
9 Secretary may enter into an alternative funding ar-
10 rangement under any conservation program adminis-
11 tered by the Secretary with a land grant-merced if
12 the Secretary determines that—

13 “(A) the goals and objectives of the appli-
14 cable program will be met by the arrangement;
15 and

16 “(B) statutory limitations regarding con-
17 tracts with individual producers will not be ex-
18 ceeded by any member of the land grant-
19 merced.

20 “(2) TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSIST-
21 ANCE.—The Secretary may provide technical and
22 administrative assistance, as mutually agreed by the
23 parties, under an alternative funding arrangement
24 entered into under paragraph (1).”.

25 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1201(a)(18)(B) of
2 the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C.
3 3801(a)(18)(B)) is amended by inserting “land
4 grant-merced,” after “Indian tribe,”.

5 (2) CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.—
6 Section 1238G(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985
7 (16 U.S.C. 3838g(f)) is amended by inserting “or
8 land grants-mercedes” after “Indian tribes”.

9 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CON-
10 SERVATION PROGRAMS.—Section 1244(a) of the
11 Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3844(a)) is
12 amended—

13 (A) in the subsection header, by inserting
14 “AND LAND GRANTS-MERCEDES” after “IN-
15 DIAN TRIBES”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end of paragraph (2)
17 the following:

18 “(G) Land grants-mercedes.”.

19 (4) AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT
20 PROGRAM.—Subtitle H of title XII of the Food Se-
21 curity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3865 et seq.) is
22 amended—

23 (A) in section 1265A(2)(A), by striking
24 “or an Indian tribe” and inserting “, or an In-
25 dian tribe or land grant-merced,”;

1 (B) in section 1265C—

2 (i) in subsection (b)(1)(D), by insert-
3 ing “and land grants-mercedes” after “In-
4 dian tribes”;

5 (ii) in subsection (d)(2), by striking
6 “or Indian tribe” and inserting “Indian
7 tribe, or land grant-merced”; and

8 (iii) in subsection (e), by striking “or
9 Indian tribe” and inserting “Indian tribe,
10 or land grant-merced”; and

11 (C) in section 1265D(a)(2), by adding “,
12 other than land of a land grant-merced” before
13 the semicolon.

14 (5) REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
15 PROGRAM.—Section 1271A(4) of the Food Security
16 Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3871a(4)) is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

18 “(I) A land grant-merced.”.

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