

A BILL

To abolish the National Agricultural Statistics Service, repeal the provisions of law establishing the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Agricultural Statistics Service Abolition Act of 2026”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), a component of the Department of Agriculture, conducts surveys and the Census of Agriculture to collect data on farms, crops, livestock, and farm finances.

(2) By compelling farmers to report data on their private operations and finances, the NASS expends money drawn from the Treasury on objects that are not among the enumerated powers of Congress, exceeding the “general Welfare” clause of Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, which James Madison explained in Federalist No. 41 is limited by the specific powers enumerated after it and confers no separate power to spend for any object Congress may choose.

(3) The functions of the NASS are not “necessary and proper for carrying into Execution” any power vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States and therefore find no support in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, which Madison in Federalist No. 44 described as a means of executing powers already granted rather than a source of new ones, as the Anti-Federalist writer Brutus warned in his first essay of 1787 it would otherwise become.

(4) By compelling farmers, under threat of penalty, to disclose details of their private operations and finances, the NASS infringes the Fourth Amendment’s protection of “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures,” and its requirement that no warrants shall issue “but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

(5) By subjecting farmers to penalties for declining to report on their private affairs, the NASS violates the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, which provides that no person shall “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law”.

(6) In carrying out its functions, the NASS disregards the Ninth Amendment, which provides that “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people,” including the right of the people to order their own

lives, property, and affairs free of federal direction in matters the Constitution does not commit to the Federal Government.

(7) The Constitution delegates to the United States no power over the collection of data on private farms. By compelling farmers to report data on their private operations and finances, the NASS exercises powers that the Tenth Amendment reserves “to the States respectively, or to the people,” contrary to Federalist No. 45, in which Madison described the powers delegated to the Federal Government as “few and defined” and those remaining in the States as “numerous and indefinite.”

(8) The Declaration of Independence affirms that governments are instituted to secure the unalienable rights of the people and derive “their just powers from the consent of the governed,” and it charged the Crown with having “erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.” The NASS perpetuates the centralized administration the Declaration condemned.

(9) Abolishing the National Agricultural Statistics Service and repealing the provisions of law establishing it will reduce the size and cost of the Federal Government, return to the States and to the people the powers the Constitution reserves to them, and restore the constitutional principles of limited government and enumerated powers.

SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE.

(a) In General.—The National Agricultural Statistics Service, a component of the Department of Agriculture, is hereby abolished effective immediately following the enactment of this Act.

(b) Wind-Down Operations.—Immediately following the enactment of this Act, the President shall designate an appropriate official to expeditiously wind down the operations of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, ceasing all functions, none of which shall be transferred to any other department or agency of the Federal Government.

(c) Transfer of Assets and Liabilities.—All assets, liabilities, contracts, property, and records of the National Agricultural Statistics Service shall be transferred to the designated official under subsection (b) for appropriate disposition.

(d) Employee Transition.—Employees of the National Agricultural Statistics Service shall be offered opportunities for reassignment within the federal government or provided with severance and retraining assistance as prescribed by existing federal law.

SECTION 4. REPEAL OF PROVISIONS OF LAW ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE.

(a) In General.—The provisions of law establishing the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and any provision of law vesting functions in the National Agricultural Statistics Service, are hereby repealed.

(b) Conforming Amendments.—The United States Code and all other relevant Federal laws are amended by—

(1) striking all references to the National Agricultural Statistics Service and to any office, officer, or function established in or vested in the National Agricultural Statistics Service;

(2) terminating every function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, no part of which shall be reassigned to any other department or agency of the Federal Government; and

(3) making such other conforming changes as necessary to reflect the repeal and the permanent abolition of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

(c) Effective Date.—The repeal under this section shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 5. TRANSITION PROVISIONS.

(a) No Restoration of Prior Structures.—No element of the National Agricultural Statistics Service shall revert to its organizational structure as it existed prior to the establishment of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, and no function of the National Agricultural Statistics Service shall be restored to any predecessor department, agency, or office.

(b) Permanent Abolition.—No department, agency, office, or other entity shall be established to carry out the functions of the National Agricultural Statistics Service abolished by this Act.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.