

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1594

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a conservation program under which the Secretary shall make payments to assist owners and operators of muck land to conserve and improve the soil, water, and wildlife resources of the land.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

Mrs. GILLIBRAND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out a conservation program under which the Secretary shall make payments to assist owners and operators of muck land to conserve and improve the soil, water, and wildlife resources of the land.

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. MUCK SOILS CONSERVATION.**

4 Chapter 5 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Secu-
5 rity Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb et seq.) is amended
6 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 1240S. MUCK SOILS CONSERVATION.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall carry
3 out a conservation program (referred to in this section as
4 the ‘program’) under which the Secretary shall make pay-
5 ments to assist owners and operators of eligible land speci-
6 fied in subsection (b) to conserve and improve the soil,
7 water, and wildlife resources of the land.

8 “(b) ELIGIBLE LAND.—To be eligible for inclusion
9 in the program, the land shall—

10 “(1) be comprised of soil that qualifies as
11 muck, as determined by the Secretary;

12 “(2) be used for production of an agricultural
13 crop;

14 “(3) have a spring cover crop planted in con-
15 junction with the primary agricultural crop referred
16 to in paragraph (2);

17 “(4) have a winter crop planted; and

18 “(5) have ditch banks seeded with grass that is
19 maintained on a year-round basis.

20 “(c) PAYMENT AMOUNTS.—The Secretary may pro-
21 vide payments of not less than \$300, but not more than
22 \$500, per acre per year under the program.

23 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry

1 out the program \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012
2 and 2013.”.

