

**AMENDMENT TO DIVISION B OF RULES**

**COMMITTEE PRINT**

**116-59**

**OFFERED BY MR. PANETTA OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

1 **SEC. 785. SECURING DISASTER FUNDING TO COVER THE**  
2 **COSTS OF COVID-19 RESPONSE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture  
5 shall establish a program under which the Secretary  
6 will, for purposes of providing temporary assistance  
7 to eligible entities to address and respond to the  
8 COVID-19 emergency within the food supply chain,  
9 make reimbursements to eligible entities for personal  
10 protective equipment purchased by such eligible enti-  
11 ties for their employees and other costs incurred by  
12 such entities to respond to the COVID-19 emer-  
13 gency.

14 (2) PURPOSE AND USES OF ASSISTANCE.—An  
15 eligible entity that receives a payment under this  
16 section shall use the amounts received for the sole  
17 purpose of reimbursing such entity for the following

1 costs with respect to preventing the spread of  
2 COVID–19 among the employees of such entity:

3 (A) Purchasing and decontaminating per-  
4 sonal protective equipment.

5 (B) Purchasing test kits or equipment to  
6 screen the body temperature of employees for  
7 the presence of COVID–19, disinfectant, sanita-  
8 tion systems, or hand washing stations.

9 (C) Developing and disseminating edu-  
10 cational materials relating to COVID–19 pro-  
11 tective measures that are based upon guidance  
12 issued by Federal or State public health depart-  
13 ments.

14 (D) Providing other measures to protect  
15 workers against, or aid in preventing the spread  
16 of, COVID–19, as determined by the Secretary.

17 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring to  
19 receive a reimbursement under this subsection shall  
20 submit to the Secretary an application in accordance  
21 with an application process established by the Sec-  
22 retary.

23 (2) SIMPLIFIED APPLICATION PROCESS.—In es-  
24 tablishing the application process under paragraph  
25 (1), the Secretary shall establish a simplified, sepa-

1 rate application process for eligible entities request-  
2 ing less than \$15,000.

3 (3) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall pro-  
4 vide grants under this subsection in the order in  
5 which the Secretary receives applications submitted  
6 under paragraph (1).

7 (4) PRIORITY.—In providing grants under this  
8 subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize applications  
9 from agricultural producers and processors.

10 (5) LIABILITY.—If an eligible entity sells any  
11 personal protective equipment for which reimburse-  
12 ment is received under this section, the eligible enti-  
13 ty shall pay to the Secretary an amount that is not  
14 less than \$10,000.

15 (6) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The total amount of  
16 reimbursement to a single eligible entity under this  
17 subsection shall not exceed \$250,000.

18 (7) RESERVATION.—Of the amount made avail-  
19 able for grants under this section, 10 percent shall  
20 be reserved for grants provided to beginning, vet-  
21 eran, or socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers, or  
22 businesses.

23 (c) FUNDING.—Of the funds of the Commodity Cred-  
24 it Corporation, the Secretary shall use \$500,000,000 to  
25 carry out this section.

1 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) COVID-19 EMERGENCY.—The term  
3 “COVID-19 emergency” means the public health  
4 emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and  
5 Human Services under section 319 of the Public  
6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January  
7 31, 2020, with respect to COVID-19.

8 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Ad-  
10 ministrator of the Farm Service Agency of the De-  
11 partment of Agriculture.

12 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
13 ty” means—

14 (A) a small or midsized food processor or  
15 distributor (including a manufacturer, food hub,  
16 custom establishment, business cooperative, and  
17 food service provider) with fewer than 1,500  
18 employees;

19 (B) a sole proprietor food business;

20 (C) a producer, an agricultural producer  
21 group, a producer cooperative, partnership, or a  
22 majority-controlled producer-based business  
23 venture (as defined in section 210A(a) of the  
24 Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C.  
25 1627c(a)));

- 1 (D) a farmers market;
- 2 (E) a farm labor contractor or farm work-
- 3 er organization; and
- 4 (F) such other similar entities, as deter-
- 5 mined by the Secretary.

