



1 of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2661–2669) is amended by adding at  
2 the end the following:

3 **“SEC. 509. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR HEIRS PROP-**  
4 **ERTY RESOLUTION THROUGH DIRECT PUB-**  
5 **LIC INTEREST LEGAL SERVICES.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into  
7 cooperative agreements with eligible entities to provide  
8 legal or accounting services to underserved heirs, at no  
9 cost to the underserved heirs, to assist in resolving undi-  
10 vided ownership interests on farmland or forest land, or  
11 land transitioning to farmland or forest land, that has  
12 multiple owners. Such a cooperative agreement must be  
13 for any of the following purposes:

14 “(1) To assist with transitioning land to agri-  
15 cultural production.

16 “(2) To maintain land in agricultural produc-  
17 tion.

18 “(3) To increase access to programs adminis-  
19 tered by the Secretary through the resolution of real  
20 property claims in order to allow real property own-  
21 ers to meet land ownership eligibility requirements  
22 for participation in a program administered by the  
23 Secretary.

24 “(b) ADMINISTRATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREE-  
25 MENTS.—

1 “(1) DURATION.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A cooperative agree-  
3 ment under subsection (a) shall be in effect for  
4 not more than 4 years, subject to subparagraph  
5 (B).

6 “(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Secretary may  
7 extend a cooperative agreement or re-enter into  
8 a cooperative agreement with the same or a dif-  
9 ferent eligible entity to provide continued serv-  
10 ices for heirs if—

11 “(i) property ownership is not resolved  
12 within the initial term of the original coop-  
13 erative agreement; and

14 “(ii) the entity certifies that the entity  
15 understands that the cooperative agree-  
16 ment is not guaranteed to be funded for  
17 more than 4 years after the commence-  
18 ment of the original cooperative agreement.

19 “(2) MANAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCE.—

20 “(A) ANNUAL REPORTS.—An eligible enti-  
21 ty must provide annual reports to the Secretary  
22 summarizing the progress made during each fis-  
23 cal year towards achieving the goals of the co-  
24 operative agreement for the heirs for whom

1 services are provided under the cooperative  
2 agreement.

3 “(B) INFORMATION AND DATA.—The Sec-  
4 retary may require an eligible entity to provide  
5 the Secretary with such information or data as  
6 the Secretary deems necessary to determine  
7 that the eligible entity is making acceptable  
8 progress. The data may not include personally  
9 identifiable information.

10 “(C) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO DEM-  
11 ONSTRATE SUCCESS.—If an eligible entity pro-  
12 viding services under such a cooperative agree-  
13 ment does not demonstrate success, as deter-  
14 mined by the Secretary, in resolving or reason-  
15 ably attempting to resolve the property claims  
16 of an heir, the Secretary may terminate the  
17 agreement.

18 “(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may  
19 utilize requests for public input or the formal rule-  
20 making process to effectuate this section. At a min-  
21 imum, the Secretary shall make publicly available  
22 the criteria for selecting an eligible entity to enter  
23 into an agreement to provide services, the adminis-  
24 trative and performance requirements for coopera-

1       tive agreements under this section, as well as codify  
2       within its internal policy its implementation process.

3           “(4) HEIRS PROPERTY NOT IN FARMING.—On  
4       a limited basis, and when determined by the Sec-  
5       retary to meet the purposes of a program adminis-  
6       tered by the Secretary and to expand access to such  
7       a program, the Secretary may allow an eligible enti-  
8       ty to provide services at no cost to an heir who is  
9       not an underserved heir if—

10           “(A) the land with respect to which the  
11       services are to be provided is not farmland or  
12       in agricultural production, but could be viably  
13       productive for agricultural, conservation, or for-  
14       estry purposes;

15           “(B) the heir satisfies all other require-  
16       ments of the definition of ‘underserved heir’;

17           “(C) the heir can provide proof to substan-  
18       tiate that the heir is in control of the real prop-  
19       erty; and

20           “(D) the heir certifies to the Secretary  
21       that the heir intends to apply for, and make a  
22       good faith effort to enroll the land in, a pro-  
23       gram administered by the Secretary once prop-  
24       erty claims to the land are resolved through

1 services provided under a cooperative agreement  
2 entered into under this section.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
5 tity’ means a nonprofit organization that—

6 “(A) provides legal or accounting services  
7 to an underserved heir at no cost to the under-  
8 served heir to resolve property ownership issues;  
9 and

10 “(B) has demonstrated experience in re-  
11 solving issues related to ownership and succes-  
12 sion on farmland or forest land that has mul-  
13 tiple owners.

14 “(2) LIMITED RESOURCE HEIR.—An heir shall  
15 be considered a limited resource heir for purposes of  
16 this section if—

17 “(A) the total household income of the heir  
18 is at or below the national poverty level for a  
19 family of 4, or less than 50 percent of the coun-  
20 ty median household income for the 2 imme-  
21 diately preceding calendar years, as determined  
22 annually using data of the Department of Com-  
23 merce; or

24 “(B) the property of the heir for which  
25 legal services are provided pursuant to a coop-

1           erative agreement entered into under this sec-  
2           tion is in a persistent poverty community, as  
3           determined annually on the basis of data from  
4           the Department of Commerce, or a socially vul-  
5           nerable area, as designated by the Centers on  
6           Disease Control and Prevention.

7           “(3) UNDERSERVED HEIR.—The term ‘under-  
8           served heir’ means an heir with an undivided owner-  
9           ship interest in farmland or forest land that has  
10          multiple owners, who is—

11                   “(A) a limited resource heir;

12                   “(B) a member of a socially disadvantaged  
13           group (as defined in section 2501(a) of the  
14           Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act  
15           of 1990); or

16                   “(C) a veteran (as defined in section  
17           101(2) of title 38, United States Code).

18          “(d) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Within 1  
19   year after the date of the enactment of this section, and  
20   annually thereafter, the Secretary shall prepare, make  
21   public, and submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
22   House of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-  
23   culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a written  
24   report on the activities carried out under this section in  
25   the year covered by the report.

1       “(e) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-  
2 PRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized  
3 to be appropriated to the Secretary \$60,000,000 for each  
4 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

Page 267, beginning on line 24, strike “310I(g) of such Act, as so redesignated by subsection (b) of this section,” and insert “310I(f) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1936c(f))”.

Page 653, line 10, strike “**9014**” and insert “**9015**”.

Page 658, line 11, strike “**9015**” and insert “**9016**”.

Page 676, line 6, strike “and” at the end.

On page 676, after line 20, insert the following:

5                   (IV) in clause (viii), as redesign-  
6                   nated by clause (i) of this subpara-  
7                   graph, by striking “clauses (i)  
8                   through (vi)” and inserting “clauses  
9                   (i) through (vii)”; and

Page 758, line 14, strike “Section” and insert the following:

10       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section

Page 761, after line 11, insert the following:

1           (b) PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO CERTAIN IN-  
2 QUIRIES.—Section 506(r)(1) of the Federal Crop Insur-  
3 ance Act (7 U.S.C. 1506(r)(1)) is amended by inserting  
4 “binding” before “final agency determination”.

