



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 4/23/2018

Agenda Placement: 5A

Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee
FROM: Mary Booher for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112
SUBJECT: H.R. 2- The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer seeks discussion and possible action on H.R. 2 The Agriculture and Nutrition Act, a five year reauthorization bill that includes various agriculture, nutrition and rural development programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2018 Farm Bill was introduced on April 12, 2018, as H.R. 2, The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. The bill is a five-year reauthorization bill that includes various agriculture, nutrition, and rural development programs. The Farm Bill was last passed in 2014 and current programs are authorized through September 30, 2018. Napa County included the Farm Bill in its 2018 Federal Legislative and Regulatory Platform, specifically as it relates to the protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for approximately 7,000 county residents receiving SNAP.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The 2018 Farm Bill was introduced on April 12, 2018, as H.R. 2, The Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. The bill is a five-year reauthorization bill that includes various agriculture, nutrition, and rural development programs. The Farm Bill was last passed in 2014 and current programs are authorized through September 30, 2018.

Napa County included the Farm Bill in its 2018 Federal Legislative and Regulatory Platform, specifically as it relates to the protecting the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for approximately 7,000 county residents receiving SNAP. SNAP, also known as the food stamp program, is a focus of the Congressional leadership.

The Farm Bill proposal includes many proposed changes to the SNAP program, the largest of which would require all able-bodied adults between ages 18 and 59, including parents of children over 6 years of age, to work or be in an approved training program at least 20 hours a week. Under current law, able-bodied adults without dependents are required to work or be in job training, but they can still be unemployed for as many as three months out of every three years or longer if states receive waivers from USDA. The new provision would likely increase the number of SNAP recipients subject to the work rules from 3.5 million or roughly 6 million. The direct impact to Napa County recipients is unknown at this time.

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, the House Agriculture Committee passed the Farm Bill by a party-line committee vote of 26-20. Attached is a summary from the County's Federal Advocates, Van Scoyoc Associates.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . HR 2-Text

B . Van Scoyoc Memo-Farm Bill

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan