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**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON H.R. 2419**

**Title VI – Rural Development**

**Section-by-Section Comparison of House Bill,  
Senate Amendment, and Current Law**

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Item		CURRENT LAW	HOUSE BILL (H.R. 2419)	SENATE AMENDMENT	CONF. AGREEMENT
T6-1	<p><b><u>Definition of rural</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6001 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6001.</b>  The Secretary is required to prepare and submit a report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees that: a) assesses the varying definitions of rural used by USDA; b) describes what effect the varying definitions have on USDA programs; and c) makes recommendations on ways to better target the funds provided through rural development programs.</p>	<p><b>SEE T6-1A</b> No comparable provision</p>	
T6-1A	<p><b><u>Definitions</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6020 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act defines “rural” and “rural area”</p> <p>(A) except as otherwise provided the terms “rural” and “rural area” mean any area other than:</p> <p>(i)a city or that has a population of</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6020.</b>  Amends sec. 343(a)(13) of the Con Act to amended by striking paragraph (13) and replacing it. The new paragraph (13) Provides a standard definition for “rural” and “rural area to <u>exclude</u>:</p> <p>1.) cities of 50,000 or more;</p>	

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		<p>greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and</p> <p>(ii)The urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town.</p> <p>Note: For the Business and Industry program it excludes the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to those cities</p> <p>Sec. 343(13)(B) for the purposes of the water and waste disposal loans and grants the terms “rural” and “rural area” mean a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of no more than 10,000 inhabitants.</p> <p>Sec 343(a)(13)(C) of the Con Act defines the terms “rural” and “rural area” for the purposes of Community Facilities loans and grants mean a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population</p>		<p>2.) any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city of 50,000 or more except for narrow strips of urbanized areas; and</p> <p>3.) any collection of contiguous census blocks with a housing density of 200 housing units per square mile that is adjacent to a city of 50,000 or adjacent to an urbanized area except for narrow strips of such territory.</p> <p>There is a modification for Oahu and Puerto Rico where cities and counties are coterminous. The Secretary may make estimation in regard to the 3<sup>rd</sup> factor. But, an applicant can appeal on the facts if the estimation is in error.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Sec. 343(a)(13)(C) provides for purposes of eligibility for Community Facility loans, a “rural area” is any area that meets the criteria outlined in subparagraph (A)and is less than 20,000 in population.</p>	

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		<p>of not more than 20,000 people.</p> <p>Sec.343(a)(13)(D) of the Con Act defines the term “rural area” for the purposes of Multijurisdictional regional planning organizations; national rural development partnerships to mean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) all the territory of a State that is not within the boundary of any standard metropolitan statistical area” and</li> <li>(ii) all territory within any standard metropolitan statistical area within a census tract having a population density of less than 20 persons per square mile. As determined by the Secretary according to the most recent census.</li> </ul> <p>Sec. 343(a)(13)(E) of the Con Act defines the term “rural area” for the purposes of the Rural Business Investment Program to mean an area that is located outside a standard metropolitan statistical area or within a community that has a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less.</p>		<p>Sec. 343(a)(13)(D) provides that the Undersecretary for Rural Development may designate a place to be of rural character.</p> <p>Sec. 343(a)(13)(E) provides that the Secretary shall exclude any cluster of census blocks that would otherwise be considered not in a rural area only because the cluster is adjacent to not more that 2 census blocks that are otherwise considered not in a rural area.</p> <p>Further not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act A report is required once every two years on the various definitions of “rural” and “rural area” that are used with respect to USDA</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec. 343(c) for the Con Act provides a definitions for “farmer” and “farming”</p>		<p>programs, the effects of those definitions have on the programs, and recommendations on how to better target funds provided through rural development programs.</p> <p>“Sustainable Agriculture” is defined to mean a system of plant and animal production that will satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality and the natural resource, make efficient use of nonrenewable resources and integrate biological cycles and controls, sustain the viability of the farming operation, and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society.</p> <p>“Technical Assistance” is defined to include managerial, financial, operational, and scientific analysis and consultation.</p> <p><b>(NOTE: The provision below will be discussed as part of the credit title.)</b></p> <p>The definition of “farmer” and “farming” is amended to include commercial fishermen. The term should also include a commercial fishing enterprise in which the owner or operator is unable to obtain commercial credit from a bank or other lender.</p>	
T6-2	<b><u>Water, waste disposal and</u></b>	Sec.306(a)(2)(A) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Con	<b>SEC. 6002.</b> Same as current law	<b>SEC. 6001.</b> SAME AS HOUSE	

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	<p><b><u>wastewater facility grants</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6002 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6001 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Act) authorizes the Secretary to make grants available to finance projects for the development, storage, treatment, purification, or distribution of water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec.306(a)(2)(B)(vii) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p>	<p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>		
T6-3	<p><b><u>Rural business opportunity grants</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6003 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6002 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.306(a)(11)(a) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants available for business development or labor training in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec.306(a)(11)(d) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$15 million for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2007.</p>	<p><b>SEC.6003.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6002.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p>	
T6-4	<p><b><u>Rural water and wastewater circuit rider program</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6004 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6004 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.306(a)(22)(a) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to establish a national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program to provide technical assistance to help bring small public water systems into compliance with state and national environmental regulations. The program is modeled on the rural water circuit rider program of the National Rural Water Association.</p> <p>Sec.306(a)(22)(C) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$15 million for fiscal years 2003 and each fiscal year thereafter.</p>	<p><b>SEC.6004.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec. 306(a)(22)(C) of the Con Act by authorizing an appropriation of <u>\$25 million</u> for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6004.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends sec. 306(a)(22)(C) of the Con Act by authorizing an appropriation of <u>\$20 million</u> for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	
T6-5	<p><b><u>Tribal college and university</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.306(a)(25)(a) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to provide cost-</p>	<p><b>SEC.6005.</b> Same as current law</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6007.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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	<p align="center"><b><u>essential community facilities</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6005 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6007 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>share grants to tribal colleges and universities (as defined in Sec. 316 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059(c)) for developing essential community facilities in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec.306(a)(25)(B) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to establish, by regulation, the maximum percentage of the cost of the facility that may be covered by a grant. The amount of a grant is prohibited from exceeding 75 percent of the cost of developing the facility. The Secretary is authorized to establish a graduated scale of the percentages of the cost covered by a grant, whereby those communities that have lower community populations and income levels are provided with higher percentages.</p> <p>Sec.306(a)(25)(C) authorizes an appropriation of \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2007.</p>	<p>Amends sec. 306(a)(25)(B) of the Con Act by limiting the Secretary, with respect to the federal share of the grants, from requiring non-Federal financial support in an amount that is greater than 5 percent of the total cost of developing essential community facilities.</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p>Amends sec. 306(a)(25)(B) of the Con Act by increasing the maximum Federal grant tribal colleges and universities receive for the cost of developing essential community facilities in rural areas to 95 percent.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	
T6-6	<p align="center"><b><u>Child day care facility grants, loans, and loan guarantees</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6003 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 306(a) of the Con Act provides that child day care facility grants are given a priority under the community facility program.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6003.</b> Amends Sec. 306(a)(19) - the community facilities program - of the Con Act by providing mandatory funding of \$40,000,000 available till expended starting in 2008 allowing the Secretary to make grants, loans and loan guarantees to pay the Federal share of the cost of developing and constructing day care facilities for children in rural areas and towns of under 20,000.</p> <p>Provides that such funding shall be in addition to any other funds and authorities</p>	

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				relating to development and construction of rural day care facilities.	
T6-7	<p><b><u>Community facility loans and grants for freely associated States and outlying areas.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6008 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 306 (a) (19) of the Con Act authorizes the Community Facility Grants Program. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$10 million for any fiscal year to local governments, nonprofit corporations and Indian tribes to provide the federal share of the cost of developing specific essential community facilities.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6008.</b> Reserves 0.5% of community facility loans and grants for freely associated States and outlying areas. If after 180 days within a fiscal year, an insufficient number of applications have been received to account for 0.5% then the unused funds shall be reallocated to make loans and grants to otherwise eligible entities located in the States.</p>	
T6-8	<p><b><u>Priority for community facility loan and grant projects with high non-Federal share</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6009 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 306 (a) (19) (B) of the Con Act specifies that the maximum amount of a community facility grant shall not exceed 75% of the costs for developing essential community facilities. The Section further provides for a graduated scale for the amount of the federal share, with higher federal shares to go to communities with lower populations and income levels.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6009.</b> Provides that priority will be given to community facility projects with non-Federal funding that is substantially greater than the minimum requirement (as determined by the Secretary).</p>	
T6-9	<p><b><u>Emergency and Imminent Community Water Assistance Grant Program</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6006 of H.R.</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.306A of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to provide grants to assist residents in rural areas and small communities comply with the Water Pollution Control Act or the Safe Drinking Water Act.</p> <p>Sec.306A(i)(2) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$35 million for each</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6006.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6011.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	



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	<b><u>2419, Sec. 6011 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	of the fiscal years 2003 though 2007.	fiscal years 2008 through 2012.		
T6-10	<b><u>Water systems for rural and native villages in Alaska</u></b>  <b><u>Sec. 6007 of H.R. 2419, Sec.6012 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	Sec.306D(d)(1)(a) of the Con Act the Secretary to make grants to Alaska for the benefit of rural and native villages in that state to provide for the development and construction of water and waste water systems to improve the health and sanitation conditions in those villages.  Sec.306D(d)(1) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2007.	<b>SEC. 6007.</b> Same as current law  Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.	<b>SEC. 6012.</b> Amends sec. 306D to provide that the Denali Commission may be eligible for grants to improve solid waste disposal sites that are contaminating or threatening to contaminate rural drinking water in the State of Alaska.  Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2013.	
T6-11	<b><u>Grants to finance water well systems in rural areas</u></b>  <b><u>Sec. 6008 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6013 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	Sec.306E of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to private nonprofit organizations for loans to eligible low-income individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individual household water well systems in rural areas.  Sec.306E(c) authorizes the Secretary to give priority in awarding grants to applicants that have substantial expertise and experience in promoting the safe and productive use of individually-owned household water well systems and ground water.  Sec.306E(d) of the Con Act authorizes an	<b>SEC. 6008.</b> Same as current law  Amends sec. 306E(c) of the Con Act by ensuring that the level of matching funds is not to be taken into account when determining any priority in awarding grants. The payment by a grant recipient of audit fees, business insurance, salary, wages, employee benefits, printing costs, and legal fees associated with the purpose of the grant program is to be considered as the providing of matching funds by the grant recipient.  Authorization is the same as current law;	<b>SEC. 6013.</b> SAME AS HOUSE  No comparable provision  SAME AS HOUSE	

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		appropriation of \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2007.	authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.		
T6-11 A	<p><b><u>Grants to Develop Wells in Isolated Areas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6013 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>Sec.6013</b></p> <p>Amends sec. 306F of the Con Act to create a new section that allows the Secretary to make grants to nonprofit organizations to develop and construct household, shared, and community wells in isolated areas when a traditional water system is not practical due to distance, geography and limited number of households present.</p> <p>Priority is given to applicants that have experience in developing similar types of wells in rural areas.</p> <p>As a condition of receipt of a grant the water from the well shall be tested annually for quality and the results made available to well users and the appropriate state agency. The grant amount is limited to an amount not to exceed the lesser of \$50,000 and the amount that is 75% of the costs of a single well and associated system.</p> <p>Prohibits grants in areas where the majority of users' household incomes exceed the nonmetropolitan median household income.</p> <p>Authorizes \$10,000,000 for each fiscal</p>	

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T6-12	<p align="center"><b><u>Rural Cooperative Development Grants</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6009 of H.R. 2419, Sec 6015 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.310B(e) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to award competitive grants for establishing and operating centers for rural cooperative development.</p> <p>Sec.310B(e)(5) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary, in awarding grants, to give preference to grant applications that—</p> <p>(A) demonstrate a proven track record in administering a nationally coordinated, regionally or State-wide operated project;</p> <p>(B) demonstrate previous expertise in providing technical assistance in rural areas;</p> <p>(C) demonstrate the ability to assist in the retention of businesses, facilitate the establishment of cooperative and new cooperative approaches, and generate employment opportunities that will improve the economic conditions in rural areas;</p> <p>(D) demonstrate the ability to create horizontal linkages among businesses within and among various sectors in rural areas of the U. S. and vertical linkages to domestic and international markets;</p>	<p><b>SEC.6009.</b> No comparable provision</p> <p>Amends sec. 310B(e)(5)of the Con Act, by authorizing the Secretary to give preference to grant applications that—</p> <p>(A) demonstrate a proven track record in administering activities to promote and assist in the development of cooperatively and mutually owned businesses;</p> <p>(B) demonstrate previous expertise in providing technical assistance in rural areas to promote and assist in the development of cooperatively and mutually owned businesses;</p> <p>(C) Same as current law</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>year 2008 through 2012.</p> <p><b>SEC. 6015.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		<p>(E) commit to providing technical assistance and other services to underserved and economically distressed areas in rural areas of the U.S.; and</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>(F) commit to provide <i>greater than</i> a 25 percent matching contribution with private funds and in-kind contributions, except that the Secretary is prohibited from requiring non-Federal financial support in an amount that is greater than 5 percent in the case of a 1994 institution.</p> <p>Sec.310B(e)(6) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants for a 1-year period and evaluate any program receiving grant funding. If the Secretary determines it to be in best interest of the</p>	<p>(D) Same as current law</p> <p>(E) demonstrate a commitment to—  (i) networking with and sharing the results of its efforts with other cooperative development centers and other organizations involved in rural economic development efforts; and  (ii) developing multi-organization and multi-State approaches to address the cooperative and economic development needs of rural areas; and</p> <p>(F) commit to provide a 25 percent matching contribution with private funds and in-kind contributions, except that the Secretary is prohibited from requiring non-Federal financial support in an amount that is greater than 5 percent in the case of a 1994 institution.</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to award one-year grants to centers that have not received prior funding and evaluate programs that receive grant funding. The Secretary is given the discretion to award</p>	<p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Same as House except requires the Secretary to award multi-year grants to programs that the Secretary determines to meet the parameters of the program.</p>	

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		<p>program, the Secretary is given the discretion to award an additional grant to a program for the immediately succeeding year without a grant application.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec.310B(e)(9) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to appropriate \$50 million for each of the fiscal years 1996 through</p>	<p>grants for a period of more than 1 year, but not more than 3 years, to programs that the Secretary determines are meeting the criteria of the program. The Secretary is also given the discretion to extend for only one additional 12-month period, the period in which a grantee may use a grant made under this section.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to enter into a cooperative research agreement with one or more qualified academic institutions for the purpose of conducting research on the national economic effects of all types of cooperatives.</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to reserve 20 percent of appropriated funds for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives serving socially disadvantaged communities when the appropriated funds for a fiscal year exceed \$7.5 million. If the Secretary determines the number of applications received from socially disadvantaged groups is insufficient, the provision authorizes the Secretary to use the funds for the purposes outlined in this subsection.</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p>Provides a definition for the term socially disadvantaged.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		2007.			
T6-12 A	<p><b><u>Criteria to be applied in providing loans and loan guarantees under the business and industry loan program</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6010 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6017 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.310B(g) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to guarantee business and industry loans to:</p> <p>(1) individual farmers and ranchers for the purpose of purchasing capital stock of a farmer or rancher cooperative for the purpose of producing an agricultural commodity; or</p> <p>(2) cooperative organizations.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6010.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec. 310B(g) of the Con Act by authorizing the Secretary, in providing loans and loan guarantees under the Business and Industry Loan Program, to consider applications more favorably—when compared to other applications—when the project described in the application supports community development and farm and ranch income by marketing, distributing, storing, aggregating, or processing locally or regionally produced agricultural product.</p> <p>A “locally or regionally produced product” is defined to mean an agricultural product:</p> <p>(1) which is produced and distributed in the locality or region where the finished product is marketed;</p> <p>(2) which has been shipped a total of distance of 400 or fewer miles, as determined by the Secretary; and</p> <p>(3) about which the distributor has conveyed to the end-use consumers information regarding the origin of the</p>	<p><b>Sec.6017</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends sec. 310B(g) of the Con Act by authorizing the Secretary to make loans and loan guarantees to individuals, cooperatives, businesses, and other entities to establish and facilitate enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, store, and market locally-produced agricultural food products.</p> <p>Provides that the term “locally-produced agricultural food product,” is to mean an agricultural product that is raised, produced, and distributed within the locality or region that is transported less than 300 miles from the origin of the agricultural product or the State in which the agricultural product is produced.</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>product or production practices, or other valuable information.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Provides that the term “underseved community” is to mean an urban, rural, or Indian tribal community that has, as determined by the Secretary: (i) limited access to affordable, healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, in grocery retail stores or farmer-to-consumer direct markets or a high incidence of diet-related disease as compared to the national average, including obesity; and (ii) a high rate of food insecurity or a high poverty rate.</p> <p>Priorities for awarding loans and loan guarantees under this program are for projects that support community development and farm and ranch income by marketing, distributing, storing, aggregating, or processing a locally produced agricultural product or to projects that have components benefiting underserved communities as defined in this section.</p> <p>Recipients of loans and loan guarantees may use up to \$250,000 in loan or loan guarantees funds per retail or institutional facility to modify and update facilities to accommodate locally-produced agricultural food products and to provide outreach to consumers about the sale of locally-produced agricultural food products.</p>	

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		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	The Secretary is required to submit an annual report to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees that describes the projects carried out using loans and loan guarantees under this program. The report shall include the characteristics of the communities served and benefits of the projects.	
T6-13	<p align="center"><b><u>Cooperative equity security guarantee</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6014 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6014.</b> Amends sec. 310B of the Con Act to allow Business and Industry guarantees for loan made for the purchase of preferred stock or similar equity issued by a cooperative organization or a fund that invests primarily in cooperative organizations</p>	
T6-14	<p align="center"><b><u>Appropriate technology transfer for rural areas</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6011 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6018 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision.	<p><b>SEC.6011.</b> Amends sec. 310B of the Con Act by authorizing the Secretary to establish the “national technology transfer for rural areas program,” to assist agricultural producers that are seeking information to help them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) reduce their input costs;</li> <li>(2) conserve energy costs;</li> <li>(3) diversify operations through new energy crops and energy generation facilities; and</li> <li>(4) expand markets for their agricultural commodities through the use of sustainable farming practices.</li> </ul> <p>The term “national nonprofit agricultural assistance institution” is defined to mean an organization that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) is described in sec. 501(c)(3) of the</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEC. 6018.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>The term “national nonprofit agricultural assistance institution” is defined to mean an organization that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) is described in sec. 501(c)(3) of the</li> </ul>	



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			<p>Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from taxation under sec. 501(a) of that code;</p> <p>(2) has staff offices in multiple regions;</p> <p>(3) operates national sustainable agriculture technical assistance programs; and</p> <p>(4) provides the technical assistance through toll-free hotlines, a website, publications, and workshops.</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to carry out the program by making a grant or entering into a cooperative agreement with a national non-profit agricultural assistance organization; and provides that the grant or cooperative agreement entered into will provide 100 percent of the cost of providing information.</p> <p>An appropriation of <u>\$5 million</u> is authorized to carry out the program.</p>	<p>Internal Revenue Code and is exempt from taxation under sec. 501(a) of that code;</p> <p>(2) has staff offices in multiple regions;</p> <p>(3) has experience and expertise in operating national sustainable agriculture technical assistance programs; and</p> <p>(4) provides the technical assistance through toll-free hotlines, 1 or more websites, publications, and workshops.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Authorizes <u>\$5,000,000</u> for each fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	
T6-15	<p><b><u>Grants to improve technical infrastructure and improve quality of rural health care facilities</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6012 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6012.</b></p> <p>Amends subtitle D of the Con Act by authorizing the Secretary to award grants to rural health facilities for the purpose of assisting the facilities in: purchasing health information technology to improve quality health care and patient safety; or, improving health care quality and patient safety, including the development of: a) quality improvement support structures to assist rural health systems and professionals; and b) innovative approaches to financing and delivery of health services to achieve rural health</p>	No comparable provision	

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			<p>quality goals.</p> <p>“Rural areas,” for the purposes of the subsection, are defined to mean any area of the United States that is not: Included within the boundaries of any city, town, borough, or village, whether incorporated or unincorporated, with a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants; or, the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town.</p> <p>Eligible entities receiving grants under this section are required to provide the Secretary with information that will allow the Secretary to: evaluate the project for which the grant is made; and, ensure that the funds are being used for the purposes for which the grant is made.</p>		
T6-15 A	<p><b><u>Rural Hospital loans and loan guarantees</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6006 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>Sec. 6006.</b></p> <p>Amends sec. 306(a)(24) of the Con Act by adding a new provision providing \$50,000,000 in mandatory funding in FY 2008 to remain available until expended for loans and loan guarantees for rehabilitating and improving hospitals with not more than 100 acute beds in rural areas. Not less than \$25,000,000 shall be allocated to hospitals with fewer than 50 beds.</p> <p>Priority is given to hospitals for the provision of facilities to improve and install patient care, health quality outcomes, health information technology and equipment that improves</p>	

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				<p>interoperability.</p> <p>Priority is also given to hospitals for the acquisition of equipment and software purchased collectively in a cost effective manner to address technology needs.</p>	
T6-16	<p><b><u>Rural Entrepreneur and Microloan Assistance Program</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6013 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6022 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6013.</b> Amends subtitle D of the Con Act by authorizing the Secretary to establish rural entrepreneurship and microenterprise grant and loan programs.</p> <p>Subsection (a) provides definitions for the terms: “economically disadvantaged,” “microentrepreneur,”; “Indian tribe,” “intermediary,” “low-income individual,” “microcredit,” “microenterprise,” “microenterprise development organization,” “microenterprise development program,” “program,” “qualified organization,” “rural area,” “rural capacity-building service,” and, “tribal government.”</p> <p>Subsection (b)(1) authorizes the Secretary to establish the <u>rural entrepreneurship and microenterprise program</u>.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(2) mandates that the purpose of this program is to provide low- and moderate-income individuals with: the skills necessary to establish new small businesses in rural areas; and, continuing</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6022.</b> Amends Subtitle D of the Con Act [7 U.S.C. 2006f] by authorizing the Secretary to establish a Rural Microenterprise Program.</p> <p>Subsection (a) provides definitions for “Indian tribe,” “low-or-moderate income individual,” “microcredit,” “microenterprise development organization,” “rural capacity building service,” “rural microenterprise,” and “Secretary”.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(1) establishes a rural microenterprise program.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(2) establishes the purpose of the rural microenterprise program to provide low-or-moderate income individuals with the skills necessary to establish a new rural microenterprise and</p>	

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			<p>technical and financial assistance to individuals and business starting or operating small businesses.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(3) authorizes the Secretary to make grants to qualified organization to: (i) provide training, operations support, or rural capacity-building services to qualified organizations to assist them in developing microenterprise training, technical assistance, market development assistance, and other related services – the program is primarily for businesses with 10 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees; (ii) to assist in researching an developing best practices in delivering training, technical assistance, and microcredit to rural entrepreneurs; and (iii) carry out other projects that the Secretary deems to be consistent with the purposes of the program.</p> <p>Subsection(b)(3)(B) requires the Secretary, in making grants, ensures, to the maximum extent practicable, that grant recipients include qualified organizations of varying sizes; and that serve racially and ethnically diverse populations.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(3)(C) mandates that, as a condition of receiving a grant, the qualified organization is required to match not less than 25 percent of the total amount of the grant. In addition to cash from non-Federal sources, the matching share may include indirect costs or in-kind</p>	<p>to continue technical and financial assistance to rural microenterprises.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(3) authorizes the Secretary to make grants to microenterprise development organizations to provide training, operational support, business planning assistance, market development assistance, and other related services to low or moderate-income individuals with rural microenterprises; to assist in researching and developing the best practices to delivering this support; and to carry out such other projects as the Secretary determines to be consistent with the purposes of this section.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(3)(B) requires the Secretary to ensure that grant recipients include microenterprise development organizations of varying sizes and that serve racially and ethnically diverse populations.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(3)(C) requires the Federal cost share for a project to be 75 percent. The non-Federal share of the cost of a project may be provided in cash or as an in-kind contribution.</p>	

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			<p>contributions funded under non-Federal programs.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(A) authorizes the Secretary to carry out the <u>rural microloan program</u>.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(B) mandates that the purpose of the program is to provide technical and financial assistance to qualified organizations, sole proprietorships, and small businesses located in rural areas with a particular focus on business with 10 or fewer full-time-equivalent employees.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(C) the Secretary is authorized to: (i) make loans to qualified organizations for the purpose of making short-term, fixed interest rate microloans to startup, newly established, and growing rural microbusiness concerns; and (ii), in conjunction with the loans provide grants for the purpose of providing intensive marketing, management, and technical assistance to small businesses.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(D)(i) mandates that the term of a loan is to be 20 years.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(D)(ii) mandates that the loan is to bear an annual interest rate of at least 1 percent</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(D)(iii) confers the Secretary with the discretion to defer</p>	<p>Subsection (b)(4) authorizes the Secretary to establish a rural microloan program.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(B) provides that the purpose of the program will be to provide technical and financial assistance to rural microenterprises that are composed of low-or-moderate income individuals or are in areas that have lost population.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(C) authorizes the Secretary to make direct loans to microenterprise development organizations for the purpose of making fixed interest rate microloans to startup, newly established, and growing rural microenterprises. The Secretary may also provide technical assistance grants to microenterprise development organizations that receive a direct loan.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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			<p>payments, both principal and interest, for 2 years beginning on the date the loan is made</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(i) provides that organizations that qualify for loans under this subsection are also eligible to receive grants for marketing, management, and technical assistance.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(ii) provides that the amount of a grant given to the organization is not to be more than 25 percent of the total outstanding balance of the loan the organization received.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(iii)(I) mandates, as a condition of receiving a grant, the qualified organization is required to match not less than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant.</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(iii)(II) provides that, in addition to cash from non-Federal sources, the matching share may include indirect costs or in-kind contributions funded under non-Federal programs.</p> <p>Subsection (c) mandates that no more than 10 percent of the assistance received by a qualified organization is to be used to pay administrative expenses.</p> <p>Subsection (d) requires that an</p>	<p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(i) provides that each microenterprise development organization that receives a direct loan under this subsection are also eligible to receive a technical assistance grant to provide marketing, management, and technical assistance to rural microenterprises.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Subsection (b)(4)(E)(iii)(I) mandates, as a condition of receiving a grant, the microenterprise development organization is required to match not less than 15 percent of the total amount of the grant.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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			<p>organization that receives either a rural entrepreneurship and microenterprise grant or a rural microloan has to provide the Secretary, by Dec. 1, any information that the Secretary requires to ensure that the grant or loan is being used for its intended purposes.</p> <p>Subsection (e) authorizes an appropriation of not more than \$20 million for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p>Subsection (d) authorizes \$40,000,000 in mandatory funding available till expended starting in fiscal year 2008. Not less than \$25,000,000 shall be used to carry out grants for the Rural Microenterprise Program. Not less than \$15,000,000 shall be used to carry out subsection Rural Microloan Program, of which not more than \$7,000,000 shall be used to support direct loans. There is also an authorization of such sums as necessary to carry out this program for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012.</p>	
T6-17	<p><b><u>Criteria to be applied in considering applications for rural development projects</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6014 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6014.</b> Amends subtitle D of the Con Act, by authorizing the Secretary to review the income demographics, population density, and seasonal population increases, and other factors as determined by the Secretary, for eligible communities that submit applications for rural development programs authorized or modified by title VI of the 2007 Farm Bill, or section 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, 310(c), 310(e), 310B(b), 310B(c), 310B(e), or 370B, or subtitles F, G, H, or I, of the Con Act.</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to issue regulations to establish the limitation that</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	

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			a rural area cannot exceed in order to remain eligible for rural development funds.		
T6-18	<p><b><u>National sheep industry improvement center</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6015 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 10303 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 375 of the Con Act authorizes the establishment, in the Treasury Department, of National Sheep Industry revolving fund; monies in the fund are made available to the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center to carry out the center's authorized programs and activities.</p> <p>The center has a number of purposes, including: promoting strategic development activities and collaborative efforts by private and State entities to maximize the impact of Federal assistance to strengthen and enhance the production and marketing of sheep or goat products in the U.S.; optimizing the use of available human capital and resources within the sheep and goat industries; and adopting flexible and innovate approaches to solving the long-term needs of the U.S. sheep or goat industry.</p> <p>The center is authorized to use the amounts in the fund to make direct loans, loan guarantees, cooperative agreements, equity interests, investments, repayable grants, and grants to eligible entities, either directly or through an intermediary.</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6015.</b> National Sheep Industry revolving fund is continued.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>From Livestock Title of Senate Bill SEC. 10303. NATIONAL SHEEP AND GOAT INDUSTRY IMPROVEMENT CENTER. Renames the program as the National Sheep and Goat Industry Improvement Center.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	



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		<p>Sec.375(j) of the Con Act mandates that privatization of the revolving fund is to occur on the earlier of: (A) Sept. 20, 2006; or (B) the date as of which \$30 million has been appropriated to the center.</p> <p>Once the privatization of the revolving fund occurs, the center's Board of Directors is to submit to the Secretary, for approval, a privatization proposal that: (A) delineates a private sector entity to the center; and (B) establishes a transition plan.</p> <p>Once the private sector entity is created, all funds held by the Treasury Department are to be transferred to the entity.</p> <p>Sec.375(e)(6) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to provide to the center mandatory funding, not to exceed \$28 million. In addition to mandatory funding, \$30 million is authorized to be appropriated for the center.</p>	<p>Amends sec. 375 of the Con Act by eliminating the requirement that the National Sheep Industry Improvement Center be required to privatize its revolving fund.</p> <p>An authorization of appropriations of \$10 million is authorized for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Provides for new mandatory funding of \$1,000,000 for FY2008, to be available until expended, and authorizes \$10,000,000 for each FY2008-2012 for infrastructure development, business planning, production, resource development and market and environmental research.</p>	
T6-19	<p><b><u>National Rural Development Partnership</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6016 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6024 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 378 of the Con Act establishes the National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP). The NRDP is composed of the National Rural Development Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>Included among the partnership's purposes are the following: the enhancement of state and local rural development capacities; and, the engagement of federal, state, local, tribal,</p>	<p><b>SEC.6016.</b> Same as current law</p>	<p><b>Sec 6024.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		<p>private and nonprofit sectors in such efforts.</p> <p>Sec.378(g)(1) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2007.</p> <p>Sec.378(h) establishes the termination of this authority on a sate that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section.</p>	<p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends subsection (h) by establishing the termination date for this authority as September 30, 2012.</p>	
T6-20	<p><b><u>Historic Barn Preservation</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6017 of H.R. 2419, Sec.6025 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 379A(c) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants or enter into contracts with State departments of agriculture, or certain nonprofit organizations, for projects—</p> <p>(A) to rehabilitate or repair historic barns;</p> <p>(B) to preserve historic barns through—</p> <p>(i) the installation of fire protection systems, including fireproofing or fire detection systems and sprinklers; and</p> <p>(ii) the installation of a system to prevent vandalism; and</p> <p>(C) to identify, document, and conduct research on historic barns to develop and evaluate appropriate techniques or best practices for protecting historic barns.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6017.</b></p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec. 379A(c) of the Con Act by mandating that the Secretary, in making grants, is to give the highest priority to funding projects that identify, document, and conduct research on historic barns and develop and evaluate appropriate techniques or best practices for protecting historic barns.</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6025.</b></p> <p>Establishes a grant may be made to an eligible applicant for “eligible projects” that rehabilitate or repair historic barns; preserve historic barns; and identify, document, survey, and conduct research on historic barns or farm structures and evaluate techniques or best practices for protecting these structures.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		An appropriation of such sums as necessary is authorized for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007.	Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.	SAME AS HOUSE	
T6-21	<p><b><u>NOAA weather transmitters</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6018 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6026 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 379B of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to public and nonprofit entities, and to borrowers of loans made by the Rural Utilities Service, for the federal share of the cost of acquiring radio transmitters to increase rural coverage by the all hazards weather radio broadcast system of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).</p> <p>Sec.379B(d) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of such sums as necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p>	<p><b>SEC.6018.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	<p><b>Sec 6026.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	
T6-22	<p><b><u>Delta Regional Authority</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6019 of H.R. 2419, Sec.6029 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 382B of the Con Act establishes the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), which provides Federal and State funding for 240 distressed counties across eight states in the Mississippi Delta.</p> <p>Sec.382M(a) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2007.</p> <p>Sec.382N of the Con Act mandates that DRA is to expire on Oct. 1, 2007.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6019.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Authorization is the same as current law; authorization is extended to each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>The DRA is extended to Oct. 1, 2012.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6029.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Provides that the Secretary may award grants to the Delta Health Alliance for the development of health care services, health educational programs, health care job training, and for public health</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec. 379D(a) of the Con Act provides that the Secretary may make grants to assist in the development of state-of-the-art technology in animal nutrition and value added manufacturing to promote an economic platform for the Delta region to relieve sever economic conditions.</p> <p>Sec 379D(b) authorizes an appropriation of \$7,000,000 for each fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>facilities. The Delta Health Alliance must solicit input from local governments, public health care providers and other entities in the Mississippi Delta region.</p> <p>With respect to the use of grant funds provided for a project involving the construction or major alteration of property the Federal interest in the property shall terminate on the earlier of the date that is one year from the date of completion of the project or the date the Federal Government is compensated for proportionate interest of the Federal Government Property.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends Sec 379D(b) of the Con Act by extending the authorization through 2012.</p>	
T6-23	<p><b><u>Northern Great Plains Regional Authority</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6020 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6030 of</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 383B of the Con Act establishes the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority (NGPRA), which provides funding for programs and projects designed to serve the needs of distressed counties and isolated areas of distress in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota</p>	<p><b>SEC.6020.</b> Same as current law</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6030.</b> A new paragraph (4) is added to Sec. 383B(a). This paragraph allows the NGPRA to organize and operate without a Federal member if that member has not been confirmed by the Senate 180 days after enactment of this sec.. If a</p>	

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	<p><b><u>the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>and South Dakota.</p> <p>Sec. 383B(d) of the Con Act confers upon the NGPRA the authority to:</p> <p>(1) develop comprehensive and coordinated plans and programs to establish priorities and approve grants for the economic development of the Northern Great plains region;</p> <p>(2) establish priorities in a development plan for the region;</p> <p>(3) assess the needs and assets of the region based on available research, demonstrations, investigations, assessments, and evaluations;</p> <p>(4) formulate and recommend to the Governors and legislatures of states that participate in the NGPRA form of interstate cooperation;</p> <p>(5) work with State, tribal and local agencies in developing appropriate model</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>chairperson of an Indian tribe has not been confirmed by the Senate within 180 days of enactment; the leaders of the Indian tribes in the region may select a member.</p> <p>Sec. 383B(d)(1) is amended to authorize that one of the duties of the Authority shall be to develop comprehensive and coordinated plans and programs for multistate cooperation to advance the economic and social well-being of the region and approve grants for the economic development of the Northern Great plains region;</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>In sec. 383B(d)(3) the assessment of needs and assets of the region should include available research, demonstrations, investigations, assessments, and evaluations from the regional boards established under the Rural Collaborative Investment Program.</p> <p>Paragraph (4) is amended to specifically list issues the Authority should formulate recommendations on.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		<p>legislation;</p> <p>(6)(A) enhance the capacity of, and provide support for, local development districts in the region;            (B) if no local development district exists, foster their creation;</p> <p>(7) encourage private investment in industrial commercial, and other economic development projects in the region; and</p> <p>(8) cooperate with and assist State governments with economic development programs of participating States.</p> <p>Sec. 383B(f) requires Federal agencies to: (1) cooperate with the NGPRA and; (2) provide, on request of the Federal cochairperson, appropriate assistance to the NGPRA.</p> <p>Sec.383B(g)(1) of the Con Act mandates that the Federal share of the expenses for the NGPRA are to be:            (A) 100 percent for fiscal year 2002;            (B) 75 percent for fiscal year 2003; and            (C) 50 percent for fiscal year 2004 and each fiscal year thereafter.</p>	<p>Amends section 383B(d)(6)(A) of the Con Act by broadening the Authority’s support for resource conservation districts.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec. 383B(g)(1) of the Con Act by continuing the formula for the federal share of the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority’s administrative expenses—the formula is:            for fiscal year (FY) 2007 100 percent;            for FY2008 75 percent; and            for FY2009 50 percent.</p>	<p>Paragraph (6) is struck and replaced. The new paragraph states the Authority should enhance the capacity of, and provide support for, multistate development and research organizations, local development organizations and districts, and resource conservation districts in the region.</p> <p>Paragraph (7) is amended to include that the Authority shall encourage private investments in renewable energy.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Sec. 383B(f)(2) is amended to require Federal agencies to provide assistance in carrying out the NGPRA regardless of whether or not the cochairperson is Federal.</p> <p>Amends subsection 383B(g)(1) by providing 100 percent federal cost share for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, 75 percent federal cost share for fiscal year 2010, and 50 percent federal cost share for fiscal year 2011 and beyond.</p> <p><b>Note: The Senate Amendment</b></p>	

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		<p>Sec.383C(a)(1)authorizes the Authority to make grants to States, Indian tribes, local governments, and public and nonprofit organizations to develop the transportation and telecommunications infrastructure of the region for the purpose of facilitating economic development.</p> <p>Sec.383C(b)(2) of the Con Act authorizes the Federal funds made available under the NGPRA to be focused on activities in the following order of priority:</p> <p>(A) basic public infrastructure in distressed counties and isolated areas of distress.</p> <p>(B) transportation and telecommunication infrastructure for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region.</p> <p>(C) business development, with emphasis on entrepreneurship.</p> <p>(D) job training or employment-related education, with emphasis on use of existing public educational institutions located in the region.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec.383C(b)(2) of the Con Act by eliminating the order of priority, with respect to funding for economic and community development projects.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>redesignates, sections 383C through 383N as sections 383D through 383O.</b></p> <p>383D(a)(1) (as redesignated) is amended to allow the Authority to make grants to eligible entities to develop the transportation, renewable energy, and telecommunications infrastructure in the region.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>A new section 383C of the Con Act requires the Authority to provide assistance to States in developing plans to address multistate economic issues. This includes plans to: develop a regional transmission system for the movement of renewable energy; assist in the harmonization of transportation policies</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec383D of the Con Act finds that certain State and local communities of the region, including local development districts, may be unable to take maximum advantage of Federal grant programs for which the state and communities are eligible because the lack economic resources to provide the required matching share and there are insufficient funds available.</p> <p>Sec. 383E section heading is currently “Local Development Districts and Organizations and Northern Great Plains Inc.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>and regulations that impact interstate movement of goods and individuals; encourage and support interstate collaboration on federally-funded research of national interest and establish regional working groups on agriculture development and transportations</p> <p>Multistate economic issues referenced in subsection (a) include: renewable energy development and transmission; transportations planning and economic development; information technology; movement of freight and persons in the region; conservation land management; and federally funded research.</p> <p>*Note: A series of conforming amendments are made due to the re-designation of sec.s 383C through 383N.</p> <p>Amends Sec.383E of the Con Act (as redesignated by the Senate bill) to strike local development districts from the findings.</p> <p>Amends section 383F (as redesignated by the Senate bill) to strike the sec. heading and replaces it with “Multistate and Local Development Districts and Organizations and Northern Great Plains Inc.”</p>	



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		<p>Sec.383E(a) provides a definition for local development district.</p> <p>Sec.383E(b) of the Con Act provides that the Authority may make grants to local development districts for administrative expenses. Grants may not exceed 80 percent of the administrative expenses of the local development district and no grant may exceed three years in duration. The contribution of the grantee may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, and included equipment, space and services.</p> <p>Sec. 383E(c) outlines the duties of the Local Development Districts.</p> <p>Sec.383F(a) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary, in accordance with such criteria as the NGPRA establishes, to designate:</p> <p>(1) distressed counties— counties that are the most severely and persistently distressed and underdeveloped and have high rates of poverty, unemployment, or outmigration;</p> <p>(2) nondistressed counties—counties that are not the most severely and persistently distressed and underdeveloped and do not have high rates of poverty, unemployment, and outmigration; and</p> <p>(3) isolated areas of distress— areas located in nondistressed counties that have</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Amends sec. 383F(a)(3) of the Con Act by eliminating the “isolated area of</p>	<p>Amends section 383F(a) to strike the definition for local development district and replace with a definition for “Multistate and Local Development District or Organization”.</p> <p>Amends section 383F(b) to allow grants to be awarded to multistate, local or regional development district organizations for administrative expenses. Grants may not exceed 80 percent of the administrative expenses of the local development district and no grant may exceed three years in duration. The contribution of the grantee may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, and included equipment, space and services.</p> <p>Subsection (c) is amended by striking duties and replacing it with authorities. The authorities are made discretionary.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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		<p>high rates of poverty, unemployment or outmigration.</p> <p>Sec. 383F(b)(1) of the Con Act mandates that the NGPRA to allocate at least 75 percent of its appropriated funds for projects designed to serve the needs of distressed and isolated areas of distress in the region; prohibits the funding limitations, with respect to federal grant program funding, from applying to projects that provide transportation or telecommunication or basic public services to residents of 1 or more distressed counties or isolated areas of distress.</p> <p>Sec.383F(c) of the Con Act prohibits funds from being provided for projects located in nondistressed counties</p> <p>Sec.383F(d) of the Con Act authorizes the NGPRA to allocate at least 50 percent of any appropriated funds for transportation, telecommunication, and basic public infrastructure projects.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec.383G of the Con Act requires each</p>	<p>distress” designation.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 383F(b)(1) of the Con Act by reducing to 50 percent the minimum amount of funds that the authority is to allocate to “distressed counties”; funding limitation prohibition only applies to “distressed counties” (as isolated areas of distress designation is eliminated).</p> <p>Amends Sec.383F(c) of the Con Act by eliminating the prohibition on providing funds for projects located in “nondistressed counties.”</p> <p>Amends Sec. 383F(d) of the Con Act by reducing to 25 percent, the minimum amount of funds that the authority is to allocate to transportation, telecommunication, and public infrastructure projects is reduced.</p> <p>Further amends Sec.38F(d) by including “renewable energy projects” among the projects that are eligible to receive funds.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 383G (as redesignated) to change from 75% to 50% the required allocation to distressed counties and isolated areas.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends Sec. 383H (as redesignated) by</p>	

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		<p>State that participates in the Authority to submit a development plan for the state or region represented by that member. The plan shall reflect the goals, objectives and priorities outlined in the regional development plan. The States shall consult with interested parties when developing these plans. Public participation shall be encouraged.</p> <p>Sec.383H of the Con Act provides criteria that shall be used when considering programs and projects that receive assistance.</p> <p>Sec.383M(a) of the Con Act authorizes an appropriation of \$30 million for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p> <p>Sec.383N of the Con Act mandates that the authority provided to the NGPRA is to terminate on Oct. 1, 2007.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>The amount of the authorization is the same; extends the authorization for each fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>The NGPRA is extended to Oct. 1, 2012.</p>	<p>extending development planning process to include multistate, regional, and local development districts and organizations.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 383I (as redesignated) by extending program to multistate development districts.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	
T6-24	<p><b><u>Rural Strategic Investment Initiative</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6021 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6032 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.385A of the Con Act establishes a rural strategic investment program (RSIP), which is to: (1) provide rural communities with flexible resources to develop comprehensive, collaborative, and locally-based strategic planning; and (2) implement innovative community and economic development strategies that optimize regional and competitive advantages.</p>	<p><b>SEC.6021.</b> Same as current law</p>	<p><b>SEE T6-24A</b></p>	

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		<p>Sec.385E(a) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary, should the Secretary approve a national strategic investment plan submitted by the National Board, to transfer to the National Board \$10 million for planning grants and innovation grants to certified Regional Investment Boards.</p> <p>Sec.385E(b) of the Con Act authorizes the National Board to use, of the amount transferred to it by the Secretary:</p> <p>(1) \$8 million for regional strategic investment planning grants;</p> <p>(2) \$87 million for innovation grants; and</p> <p>(3) the remainder to carry out the national conference on rural America and administer the RSIP program – other than the national conference.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Amends sec. 385E of the Con Act to appropriate \$25 million for fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the rural strategic investment program.</p> <p>The term “rural heritage” is defined to mean “historic sites, structures, and districts which may include rural downtown areas, and main streets, neighborhoods, farmsteads, scenic and historic trails, and heritage areas, and historic landscapes.”</p> <p>The preservation and promotion of rural heritage are added to the criteria for regional plans, for the purpose of making</p>		

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		No comparable provision	<p>regional strategic planning grants—which are competitive grants awarded to Regional Boards for the purpose of developing, maintaining, evaluating regional plans.</p> <p>In awarding innovation grants, the National Board is to give priority to Regional Boards that, among other criteria, demonstrate a plan to protect and promote rural heritage.</p> <p>Rural Strategic Investment Initiative</p>		
T6-24 A	<p><b><u>Rural Collaborative Investment Program</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6032 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6032. Rural Collaborative Investment Program.</b></p> <p><b>Sec. 385A Purpose</b> This sec. establishes a Regional Rural Collaborative Investment Program to provide rural regions with a flexible investment vehicle to develop and implement locally prioritized, comprehensive strategies for achieving regional competitiveness, innovation and prosperity.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385B Definitions</b> This section adds definitions to the following terms: “benchmark”, “Indian Tribe,” “National Board”, “National Institute”, “Regional Board”, “Regional Innovation Grant”, and “Regional Investment Strategy.”</p> <p><b>Sec. 385C Establishment and Administration of Rural Collaborative Investment Program</b> The Secretary of Agriculture appoints a National Rural Investment Board and</p>	

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				<p>establishes a National Institute on Regional Rural Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship, which work with the Secretary to create a National Rural Investment Plan and a Rural Philanthropic Initiative; certifies Regional Rural Investment Boards and makes Regional Innovation Grants to Regional Boards to implement approved regional strategies.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385D Regional Rural Investment Boards</b> Regional Boards are multijurisdictional, multisectoral, regional entities which are broadly representative of the long-term economic, community and cultural interests of a region, and are comprised of public, private and not-for-profit organizations and residents of the region. A region must include a population of at least 25,000 individuals, or, in regions with a population density of less than two persons per square mile, a population of at least 10,000 individuals. The Regional Board designs a Regional Investment Strategy and competes for Regional Innovation Grants.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385E Regional Investment Strategy Grants</b> The Secretary shall provide, on a competitive basis, grants of not more than \$150,000 to certified Regional Boards, to develop, implement and maintain Regional Investment Strategies, developed through a collaborative and inclusive public process. These shall</p>	

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				<p>provide an assessment of the region's competitive advantage, an analysis of regional economic and community development challenges, opportunities, and resources, a plan of action to implement the goals of the strategies identified, and performance measures by which to evaluate implementation.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385F Regional Innovation Grants Program</b>  The Secretary shall provide, on a competitive basis, Regional Innovation Grants to certified Regional Boards, to implement projects and programs identified in funded Regional Investment Strategy Grants. The Secretary shall give priority to strategies that demonstrate significant leverage of capital, quality job creation, and asset based development. A Regional Board may not receive more than \$6,000,000 in Regional Innovation Grants during any 5-year period.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385G Rural Endowment Loans Program</b>  The Secretary may provide long-term loans to eligible community foundations, to assist in the implementation of funded Regional Investment Strategies. The eligible community foundation must be located in the covered region, provide a 25percent match, and use the funds to implement priorities within the Regional Investment Strategy.</p> <p><b>Sec. 385H Funding</b></p>	

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				Provides \$135,000,000 in mandatory funding to remain available until expended. Of the amounts made available, the Secretary shall use: \$15,000,000 for Regional Investment Strategy Grants; \$110,000,000 for Regional Innovation Grants; \$5,000,000 to administer the National Board; and \$5,000,000 to administer the National Institute.	
T6-25	<p><b><u>Northern Border Economic Development Commission</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6034 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6034.</b></p> <p>Adds a new subtitle J to the Con Act. Sec. 386B(a) establishes the Northern Border Economic Development Commission made up of a Federal member appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor of each participating State shall compose the State representation on Commission. A Federal and State cochairperson shall head the Commission. The State cochairperson shall be elected to a term of not less than one year from the State members.</p> <p>Subsection (b) establishes states may have alternate members of the commission. The alternate members may be appointed by the Governor of the state from among the Governor's cabinet or personal staff. The member shall vote in the absence of the member for whom the individual is an alternate. The President may appoint and alternate Federal cochairperson.</p> <p>The Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum of the Commission and the Federal cochairperson must be</p>	



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				<p>present to reach a quorum while alternates shall not be counted toward the quorum.</p> <p>Subsection (c) establishes the process for how the Commission will make decisions.</p> <p>Subsection (d) establishes the duties of the Commission</p> <p>Subsection (e) establishes the administrative actions of the Commission.</p> <p>Subsection (f) requires Federal agencies to cooperate with and appropriate assistance to the Commission.</p> <p>Subsection (g) establishes the administrative expenses of the Commission shall be paid in an amount equal to 50 percent of the administrative expense for both Federal government and states of the region.</p> <p>Subsection (h) establishes the compensation for the members of the Commission.</p> <p>Subsection (i) provides that no member, employee, or officer of the commission shall participate in matters of the Commission if the persons have a financial interest in the matter unless they have fully disclosed the interest. Violations of this subsection shall result in fines and imprisonment. Contracts, loans and grants may also be voided.</p>	

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				<p>Sec. 386C allows the Commission to approve grants to improve economic development or the region. Grants may be provided from Federal appropriations, other Federal and State grant funds, or any other sources.</p> <p>Sec. 386D establishes that the Federal cochairperson may use funds available to this program to fund any portion of the basic Federal contribution to a project of activity under a Federal grant program in the region in amount not to exceed 80 percent of the project cost.</p> <p>Sec 386E allows the Commission to make grants to local development districts, as defined in this sec., for administrative expenses as long as the grant does not exceed 80 percent of the administrative expense of the local development district receiving the grant.</p> <p>Sec. 386F requires States to submit a development plan for the area of the region represented by the State member. In developing this plan the State shall consult with the appropriate organizations. The Commission shall encourage public participation in developing these plans.</p> <p>Sec. 386G establishes program development criteria the Commission shall follow when considering programs and projects that are provided assistance for.</p>	

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				<p>Sec. 386H establishes that any State or regional development plan or any multistate subregional plan that is proposed for development must be reviewed by the Commission.</p> <p>Sec. 386I establishes that nothing in this subtitle requires any State to engage in or accept any programs without consent of the State.</p> <p>Sec. 386J requires the Commission to maintain accurate and complete records of all transactions and activities.</p> <p>Sec. 386K requires the Commission to submit an annual report to the President and Congress.</p> <p>Sec. 386L authorizes an appropriation of \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. Not more than 5 percent of the appropriated amount shall be used for administrative expense.</p> <p>Sec. 386M establishes October 1, 2012 as the termination date of this Commission.</p> <p>Sec. 386N outlines the regions that are eligible to participate in the Commission.</p>	
T6-26	<b><u>Multijurisdictional regional planning organizations</u></b>	Sec.306(a) authorizes grants to multijurisdictional regional planning and development organizations to pay for assisting local governments to improve their infrastructure, services and business development capabilities.	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6005.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Reauthorizes Sec. 306(a)(23)(E) of the Con Act through fiscal year 2012.</p>	

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	<b><u>Sec. 6005 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>				
T6-27	<b><u>Rural Economic area partnership zones.</u></b>  <b><u>Sec. 6019 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6019.</b> Amends section 310B of the Con Act to require the Secretary to continue to carry out the existing rural economic area partnerships in NY, ND, and VT in accordance with terms and conditions contained in the memorandums of agreement entered into by the Secretary through 2012.	
T6-28	<b><u>SEARCH grants</u></b>  <b><u>Sec. 6010 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6010.</b> Amends section 306(a) of the Con Act by adding a new paragraph (28) that authorizes the Secretary to make grants to eligible communities for feasibility study, design, and technical assistance under the water and waste disposal and wastewater facilities grant program.  An eligible community is defined as a community that has a population of 2500 or fewer inhabitants and is financially distressed.  The grants shall fund up to 100 percent of the eligible project cost and shall be subject to the least documentation requirements practicable.  Not more than 4% of funds available for water, waste disposal and essential community facilities shall be used to carry out this program.	

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T6-29	<p align="center"><b><u>Grants to Broadcasting Systems</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6016 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>SEC. 310B(f) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to statewide private nonprofit public television systems, whose coverage area is predominantly rural, for the purpose of demonstrating the effectiveness of such systems in providing information on agriculture and other issues of importance to farmers and other rural residents.</p> <p>Sec. 310B(f)(3) authorizes and appropriations of \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6016.</b> Reauthorizes current law through FY 2012.</p>	
T6-30	<p align="center"><b><u>Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6021 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6021.</b> Amends the Con Act by adding a new section "345." This section authorizes that the Secretary may provide geographically disadvantaged farmers and ranchers direct reimbursement payments to transport agricultural commodity, or inputs used to produce an agricultural commodity</p> <p>To be eligible for direct reimbursement payments the farmer or rancher shall provide the Secretary proof that transportation or agricultural commodity or inputs occurred over the distance of more than 30 miles.</p> <p>The total amount of direct reimbursement payments provided by the Secretary shall not exceed \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year.</p> <p>An authorization of such sums as necessary to carry out this sec. is</p>	

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T6-31	<u>Artisanal Cheese Centers</u>  <u>Sec. 6023 of the Senate Amendment</u>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p>provided.</p> <p><b>SEC. 6023.</b> Amends Subtitle D of the Con Act to require the Secretary to establish artisanal cheese centers for education and technical assistance for the manufacturing and marketing of artisanal cheese by small and medium-sized producers and businesses.</p> <p>Authorizes an appropriation of such sums as necessary for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	
T6-32	<u>Grants to train farmworkers in new technologies and to train farm workers in specialized skills necessary for higher value crops.</u>  <u>Sec. 6027 of the Senate Amendment</u>	<p>Sec. 379 (C) of the Con Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and other community-based organizations to train farm workers to use new technologies for agricultural development.</p> <p>Sec.379C(c) authorizes an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2007</p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6027.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Reauthorizes Sec. 379C(c) of the Con Act through fiscal year 2012.</p>	
T6-33	<u>Grants for Expansion of employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in rural areas.</u>  <u>Sec. 6028 of the</u>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6028.</b> The Con Act is amended by adding a new sec. 379E. This sec. authorizes the Secretary to make grants to nonprofit organizations to expand employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities in rural areas.</p> <p>To be eligible to receive a grant the eligible entity shall have focus on serving</p>	

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	<b><u>Senate Amendment</u></b>			<p>needs of individuals with disabilities; knowledge and expertise in employment of and advising on accessibility issues for individuals with disabilities; expertise in removing barriers to employment for individuals with disabilities; existing relationships with national organizations focused on needs of rural areas; affiliates in a majority of the States; and a working relationship with USDA.</p> <p>Grants will be used to expand or enhance employment opportunities or self-employment and entrepreneurship of people with disabilities.</p> <p>Authorizes \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	
T6-34	<b><u>Rural Business Investment Program</u></b>  <b><u>Sec. 6031 of the Senate Amendment</u></b>	<p>Sec. 384A (Subtitle H) of the Con Act authorizes the Rural Business Investment Program.</p> <p>Sec. 384F authorizes the Secretary to issue and guarantee trust certificates.</p> <p>Sec. 384F (b) (3) addresses prepayment or default of a guaranteed debenture.</p> <p>Sec. 384G authorizes the Secretary to charge such fees as appropriate with respect to any guarantee or grant.</p>	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6031.</b> The Rural Business Investment Program authorization is extended through 2012 with the following modifications: debentures may be prepaid at any time, distributions may be made to cover tax liability, USDA fees are limited to an application fee of \$500 and USDA will not be required to operate the program with other federal agencies.	
T6-35	<b><u>Funding of pending rural development loan and grant</u></b>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6033.</b> This provision provides \$135 million in mandatory funds to fund applications that are pending for water systems, waste disposal systems and emergency	

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	<p><u>applications</u></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6033 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>			community water assistance grants.	
T6-36	<p><b><u>Expansion of 911 access</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6022 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6107 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.315(a) of the Rural Electrification Act (REA) authorizes Secretary to make telephone loans to state or local governments, Indian tribes, or other public entities for the expansion of rural 911 access and integrated emergency communication in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec. 315(b) of the REA authorizes an appropriation of such sums as necessary for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6022.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>The amount of the authorization is the same; extends the authorization for each fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6107.</b> Amends Sec. 315 of the REA [7 U.S.C. 940e] by, in subsection (a) expanding eligibility to emergency communications providers, State or local governments, Indian tribes, or other public entities for facilities and equipment to expand or improve 911 access, interoperable emergency communications, homeland security communications, transportation safety communication and location technologies used outside urbanized areas.</p> <p>Subsection (d) authorizes the Secretary to use funds made available for telephone or broadband loans each fiscal year 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>Subsection (b) allows for Government-imposed fees to emergency communications providers as security for a loan under this sec..</p> <p>Subsection (c) provides that the Secretary must promulgate regulations within 90 days of enactment and adopt final rules within 90 days of publication of regulations.</p>	
T6-37	<p><b><u>Access to broadband</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.601 of the REA authorizes the Secretary to provide loans and loan</p>	<p><b>SEC.6023.</b> Same as current law</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6110.</b> Amends sec. 601 of the REA by</p>	



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	<p><b><u>telecommunications services in rural areas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6023 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6110 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>guarantees for the costs of construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment for broadband service in eligible rural communities.</p> <p>Sec.601(b)(1) of the REA defines the term “broadband service” to mean any technology identified by the Secretary as having the capacity to transmit data to enable the subscriber to the service to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video.</p> <p>Sec.601(b)(2) of the REA defines the term “eligible rural community” to mean any area of the U.S. that is not contained in an incorporated city or town with a population in excess of 20,000 inhabitants.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(b)(2) of the REA by changing the definition of an “eligible rural community” to include any area in the United States that is not: included within the boundaries of any city, town, borough, or village, whether incorporated or unincorporated, with a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants; and, the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such a city or town.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Further amends Sec. 601(b) by adding a new paragraph (3). This paragraph</p>	<p>authorizing the Secretary to provide loans and loan guarantees for the same purposes as current law, but providing that they should be provided to “<u>rural areas</u>.”</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p><b>NOTE: Senate Provision 6105 establishes which areas are eligible for assistance under the REA Act. This includes eligibility criteria of the broadband program.</b></p> <p>Amends Sec.601(b)(2) of the REA by providing a definition for “mobile broadband,” which is defined as meaning any “broadband service” (described in paragraph (1)) that is provided over a licensed spectrum through the use of a mobile station or receiver communicating with a land station or other mobile stations communicating among themselves.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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		<p>Sec.601(c) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to:</p> <p>(1) make or guarantee loans to eligible entities to provide funds for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of rural broadband service in eligible rural communities.</p> <p>(2) the Secretary is mandated, in making or guaranteeing loans, to give priority to eligible rural communities in which broadband service is not available.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>provides a definition for the term “incumbent service provider,” which for the purpose of the subsec., is defined to mean an entity that is providing broadband service to at least 5 percent of the service area proposed in the application.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Further amends Sec. 601(c) by adding a paragraph (3) which requires the Secretary, when making loans or loan guarantees under this sec., to give priority to eligible rural communities based on the number of incumbent service providers located in those communities in the following order:  1) no incumbent service provider;  2) 1 incumbent service provider; or</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 601(c)(1) of the REA, by changing the reference to “eligible rural communities” to “rural areas”.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(c)(2) of the REA by requiring the Secretary, when making or guaranteeing loans to give highest priority to applicants that offer to provide broadband service to the greatest proportion of households currently without broadband service.</p> <p>Further amends Sec. 601(c) by adding a paragraph (3) which provides that a provider is to be considered to offer broadband service in a rural area if the provider makes the service available to households in the rural area at not more than average prices as compared to the prices at which similar services are made available in the nearest urban area, as determined by the Secretary.</p>	

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		No comparable provision	<p>3) 2 incumbent service providers who, together, serve not more than 25 percent of the households in the service area proposed in the application.</p> <p>The Secretary is prohibited from: making a loan to any community where there are more than 3 incumbent service providers, unless: the loan is to an incumbent service provider of the community; the other providers in that community are notified of the application before approval by the Secretary, and have sufficient time to comment on the application; and the application includes substantially increasing — the quality of broadband service in the community; and the provision of broadband service to unserved households inside and outside the community; or — making a make a loan for new construction – i.e. the construction or acquisition of broadband facilities and equipment by a new entrant into the community – in any community in which more than 75 percent of the households may obtain affordable broadband service, on request, from at least 1 incumbent service provider.</p> <p>Further amends Sec. 601(c) by adding a paragraph (4) which authorizes the Secretary to take steps to reduce the costs and paperwork associated with applying for a loan or loan guarantee under this sec. by first-time applicants, particularly those who are smaller and start-up Internet</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 601(d)(1)(B) of the REA by prohibiting the Secretary from making or guaranteeing loans for projects in areas where 3 or more existing providers already offer to provide comparable service.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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		<p>Sec.601(d)(1) of the REA provides that, to be eligible to obtain a broadband loan or broadband loan guarantee an eligible entity must:</p> <p>(A) have the ability to furnish, improve, or extend a broadband service to an eligible rural community; and</p> <p>(B) submit a proposal to the Secretary.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec.601(d)(2) provides that State and local governments are only eligible to</p>	<p>providers.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same a current law</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 601(d)(1)(A) of the REA by changing the reference to “rural community” to “rural area”.</p> <p>Further amends Sec. 601(d)(1)(A) of the REA by requiring eligible entities to submit a proposal to the Secretary that meets the sec.’s requirements for a project to offer to provide service to a rural area; offer to provide service to at least 25 percent of households in a specified rural area that do not currently have broadband service offered to them; and agree to complete buildout of the broadband service within 3 years.</p> <p>Provides a new paragraph (C) which gives the Secretary the discretion to require an entity to provide a cost share in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of the amount of the loan or loan guarantee, or require an entity, that proposes to have a subscriber projection of more than 20 percent of the market of the broadband service market in a rural area, to submit a market survey (the Secretary is prohibited from requiring a market survey from an entity that projects to have less than 20 percent of the broadband market).</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601 (d)(2) of the REA by providing that State, local governments,</p>	

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		<p>receive loans or loan guarantees if, not later than 90 days after the Administrator has promulgated regulations to carry out the sec., no other eligible entity is already offering, or has committed to offer, broadband services to the eligible rural community.</p> <p>Sec.601(d)(3) of the REA prohibits entities that serve more than 2 percent of the telephone subscriber lines installed in the aggregate of the U.S. from obtaining broadband loans or loan guarantees.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 601(d)(3) of the REA by increasing to 10 percent the percentage of subscriber lines that an eligible entity is allowed to serve.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (4) which mandates that not more than 25 percent of loans are to be made available, in a single fiscal year, to entities that serve more than 2 percent of the telephone subscriber lines in the United States.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>and Indian tribes are eligible to receive loans or loan guarantees available under this section.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (4) which provides that no entity may acquire more than 20 percent of the resources of the program outlined under this section in a fiscal year.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (5) which requires the Secretary to include a notice of applications under this sec. on the Secretary's website for 90 days.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (6) which requires the Secretary to post information relating to the broadband proposal on the Secretary's website.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (7) which requires the Secretary to establish a timeline on the</p>	

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		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Secretary's website to track applications.	
		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA by adding a paragraph (8) which provides that the Secretary is to establish, by regulation, procedures for processing of loan and loan guarantee applications (including requests for additional information).	
		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA Act by adding a paragraph (9) which provides that no later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary approves an application the documents necessary for closing the loan or loan guaranteed shall be provided to the applicant.	
		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA Act by adding a paragraph (10) requiring that no later than 10 business days after the date of receipt of a valid documentation requesting disbursement of the approved, closed loan, the disbursement of the loan funds shall occur.	
		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA Act by adding a paragraph (11) that provides that the Secretary shall establish an optional preapplication process under which an applicant may apply to the RUS for a binding determination of area eligibility prior to preparing a full loan application.	
		No comparable provision	No comparable provision	Amends Sec. 601(d) of the REA Act by adding a paragraph (12) which provides that an application for a loan or a loan	

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		<p>Sec.601(e) of the REA provides, from time to time as advances in technology warrant, review and recommend modifications of rate-of-data transmission criteria for purpose of the identification of broadband service.</p> <p>Sec.601(f) of the REA requires the Secretary to be technologically neutral when setting criteria.</p> <p>Sec.601(g)(1) of the REA mandates that broadband loans or loan guarantees are: to bear an annual rate of interest as determined by the Secretary: (A) in the case of a direct loan, (i) the cost of borrowing to the Treasury Department for comparable obligations; or (ii) 4 percent; and (B) in the case of a guaranteed loan, the current applicable market rate for a comparable loan; and</p> <p>(2) have a term not to exceed the useful life of the assets, constructed, improved, or acquired with the proceeds of the loan or extension of credit.</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(g)(2) by providing that the period of a loan or loan guarantee cannot exceed 35 years, as the borrower may request, so long as the Secretary determines that the loan is adequately secured; the Secretary is to consider</p>	<p>guarantee under this sec. or a petition for reconsideration of a decision on such an application shall be considered under eligibility and feasibility criteria that are no less favorable to the applicant than the criteria in effect on the original date of submission of the application.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(e) of the Con Act by prohibiting the Secretary from establishing requirements on for bandwidth or speed that have the effect of precluding the use of evolving technologies in rural areas.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(g) of the REA by indicating that in the instance of a direct loan, the annual rate of interest will be the lower of i) the cost of borrowing to the Treasury Department for comparable obligations; or (ii) 4 percent.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601(g)(2) to create an exception that the loan or loan guarantee may not exceed 30 years.</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec. 601(h) of the REA allows that the proceeds of any loan made or guaranteed may be used by the recipient for the purpose of refinancing an outstanding obligation on another telecommunications loan made under the REA if the use of the proceeds will further the construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment for the provision of broadband service in eligible rural communities.</p> <p>Sec 601(i) of the REA requires that one year after enactment and biennially thereafter, the Administrator submit to Congress a report that 1) describes how the Administrator determines that a service enables a subscriber to originate and receive high-quality voice, data,</p>	<p>whether the recipient is or would be serving an area that is not receiving broadband services.</p> <p>The Secretary is required to ensure that the type, amount, and method of security used to secure a loan or loan guarantee is commensurate to the risk involved with the loan or loan guarantee, particularly when the loan or loan guarantee is issued to a financially healthy, strong, and stable entity. The Secretary is also required, in determining the amount and method of security, to consider reducing the security in areas that do not have broadband service.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>The Secretary must annually report to Congress by December 1 every fiscal year on the rural broadband loan and loan guarantee program to include the loans made, communities served, speed of broadband service offered, types of services offered by the applicants and</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 601(d)(3) of the REA by requiring the Secretary to ensure that the type, amount, and method of security used to secure a loan or loan guarantee is commensurate to the risk involved with the loan or loan guarantee, particularly when the loan or loan guarantee is issued to a financially healthy, strong, and stable entity.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	



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		<p>graphics, and video and 2) provides a detailed list of services that have been granted assistance.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec. 601(j)(1) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to provide mandatory funding of \$20 million for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2005; and \$10 million for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2007.</p>	<p>recipients, length of time to approve applications submitted, and outreach efforts undertaken by USDA.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 601 to add new subsec. (i) to establish a “National Center for Rural Telecommunications Assessment”. The Center’s duties are to include: assessing the effectiveness of rural broad band loan and loan guarantee programs, increasing broadband penetration and purchase in rural areas; and, developing assessments of broadband availability in rural areas.</p> <p>The Center is to report annually to the Secretary on its activities and the results of its research.</p> <p>An appropriation of \$1 million is authorized for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012 for the National Center for Rural Telecommunications Assessment.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Amends Title VI of the REA [7 U.S.C. 950bb et seq.] by adding at the end a new sec., Sec 602, to provide for a National Center for Rural Telecommunications Assessment and criteria for the center. The Center is to focus on rural telecommunications research and assessment.</p> <p>Sec. 602(d) requires the Center is to submit an annual report that describes the activities of the Center, the results of research carried out by the Center, and any additional information that the Secretary may request</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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		<p>Sec. 601(j)(2)(A) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to use funds made available through the Launching Our Communities' Access to Local Television Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 1109(a)(2)(B)) to provide rural broadband loans and loan guarantees;</p> <p>Sec.601(j)(2)(B) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to use any of the funds received under the "Launching Our Communities' Act" in equal amounts for each remaining fiscal years – including the fiscal year of receipt – through fiscal year 2007.</p> <p>Sec.601(j)(3) of the REA authorizes an appropriation of such sums as necessary for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2007.</p> <p>Sec.601(j)(4)(A) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to establish a national reserve for loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities in States; and allocate amounts in the reserve to each State for each fiscal year for loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities in States.</p> <p>Sec.601(j)(4)(B) mandates that the amount of an allocation made to a State for a fiscal year is to bear the same ratio to the amount of allocations made for all States for the fiscal year as the number of communities with a population of 2,500</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends sec. 601(j)(2)(B) of the REA by extending the authorization through fiscal year 2012.</p> <p>Amends Sec.601(j)(3) by extending the authorization of appropriations through each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>Subsection (h) allows the Secretary to provide the proceeds of any loan made or guaranteed under this act for the purpose of refinancing another telecommunications-related loan made under this Act.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Subsection (j) authorizes the program at \$25 million to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	

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		<p>inhabitants or less in the State bears to the number of communities with a population of 2,500 in all States, as determined by the latest available census.</p> <p>Sec.601(j)(4)(C) provides that any unobligated funds in the reserve, that are not obligated by April 1 of the fiscal year, are to be made available the Secretary to make loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities in any State, as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec. 601(k) of the REA terminates the authority to make loans or loan guarantees on Sept. 30, 2007.</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec.601(j)(4) by mandating that, in carrying out the rural broadband loan and loan guarantee program the Secretary is required to set aside 10 percent of the appropriated funds for eligible tribal communities.</p> <p>Further amends Sec.601(j)(4) of the REA by permitting the Secretary to make loans and loan guarantees to eligible entities from unobligated amounts contained in the reserve for tribal communities by June 30 of a fiscal year.</p> <p>The authority to issue loans is extended to 2012.</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Subsection (k) terminates this authority after September 30, 2012.</p>	
T6-38	<b><u>Study of Federal Assistance for Broadband Infrastructure</u></b>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6113.</b> Instructs the Comptroller General of the US to conduct a study and review of the Rural Utilities Service administration of	

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	<p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6113 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>			Federal broadband programs with recommendations for changes.	
T6-39	<p><b><u>Comprehensive rural broadband strategy</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6031 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6111 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6031.</b> The Secretary is required to submit to the President and the Congress a report describing a comprehensive rural broadband strategy that includes</p> <p>(1) recommendations to:</p> <p>(A) promote interagency coordination of Federal agencies and improve and streamline the policies, programs, and services;</p> <p>(B) coordinate among Federal agencies regarding existing broadband or rural initiatives that could be of value to rural broadband development;</p> <p>(C) address both short- and long-term solutions and needs for a rapid build-out of rural broadband solutions and applications for Federal, State regional, and local government policy makers;</p> <p>(D) identify how specific Federal agency programs and resources can best respond and overcome obstacles that currently</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6111.</b> Requires the Secretary and the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to submit a report to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture of the House and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry of the Senate describing a comprehensive rural broadband strategy with recommendations for improvement.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		<p>Sec. 306(a)(20)(E) Rural Broadband – Notwithstanding subparagraph (C), the Secretary may make grants to state agencies for use by regulatory commissions in state with rural communities without local dial-up Internet access or broadband service to establish a competitively, technologically neutral grant program to telecommunications carrier or cable operator that establish common carrier facilities and services which, in the commission’s determination, will result in the long-term availability to such communities of affordable broadband services which are used for the provision of high speed Internet access.</p>	<p>impede rural broadband deployment; and</p> <p>(E) promote successful model deployments and appropriate technologies being used in rural areas so that State, regional, and local governments can benefit from the success of other State, regional, and local governments; and</p> <p>(2) a description of goals and timeframes to achieve the strategic plans and visions identified in the report.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>NO COMPARABLE PROVISION</p> <p>(a)(1)(B) SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>The Chairman of the FCC, in coordination with the Secretary shall update and evaluate the report on an annual basis.</p> <p>Sec. 306(a)(20)(E) is amended by striking the reference to dial-up Internet access</p>	

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T6-40	<p align="center"><b><u>Community Connect Grant Program</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6024 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC.6024.</b> Amends Title VI of the REA by authorizing the Secretary to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants to provide broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services.</p> <p>The Secretary is authorized to prioritize grants that will enhance community access to telemedicine and distance learning. Grant applicants are required to provide a matching contribution of at least 15 percent of the grant amount requested.</p> <p>An appropriation of \$25 million is authorized for fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p> <p>*Note: program has been funded in annual appropriations legislation.</p>	No comparable provision	
T6-41	<p align="center"><b><u>Connect the Nation</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b><u>Sec. 6201 and 6202 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6201.</b> Short title that provides that the subtitle is to be cited as the “Connect the Nation Act.”</p> <p><b>SEC. 6202.</b> Creates a competitive, matching grant program (80 federal/20 state) called the Connect the Nation Act of 2007 to be housed at Department of Commerce for eligible statewide public-private partnerships to benchmark current access and use, build detailed GIS maps of service, and create demand through grassroots teams.</p>	

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				<p>Eligible entities would be limited to 4 years of participation. Grant applications would be reviewed through a peer review process. Collaboration is required between state agencies, service providers, and the relevant labor organizations, and community organizations to be considered eligible.</p> <p>A total of \$40 million per year for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012 is authorized to be appropriated.</p>	
T6-41 A	<p><b><u>Assistance for rural public television stations</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Telemedicine, library connectivity, public television, and distance learning services in rural areas.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6028 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6302 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 2333(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act (FACT Act) authorizes the Secretary to provide financial assistance for the purpose of financing the construction of facilities and systems to provide telemedicine services and distance learning services in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec.2333 (b) of the FACT Act provides that financial assistance is to consist of grants or loans, or both.</p> <p>Sec.2333(c)(1) of the FACT Act authorizes the Secretary to provide financial assistance to: (A) entities that use telemedicine services or distance</p>	<p><b>SEC.6028.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6302.</b> Amends sec.2333 (a) of the FACT Act to add library connectivity and public television station digital conversion as allowable purposes for financial assistance.</p> <p>Sec. 2333(b)(2) is amended by striking and replacing paragraph (2). The new paragraph (2) requires the Secretary to establish by notice the amount of financial assistance available to applicants in the form of grants, costs of money loans, combinations of grants and loans, or other financial assistance.</p> <p>Sec. 2333(c)(1) is amended to specify the financial assistance is in the form of grants for entities. Subparagraph (B) adds entities that propose to or provide library</p>	

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		<p>learning services; and (B) entities that provide or propose to provide telemedicine or distance learning services.</p> <p>Sec.2333(c)(2) of the FACT Act authorizes the Secretary to provide loans to borrowers of electric or telecommunications loans under the REA. The borrower of such a loan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) make the funds available to eligible entities for qualified projects;</li> <li>(ii) use the funds to acquire, install, improve or extend systems that provide telemedicine or distance learning services;</li> <li>or</li> <li>(iii) use the funds to install, improve, or extend facilities that provide telemedicine or distance learning services.</li> </ul> <p>Sec.2333(c)(4) of the FACT Act authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to provide or improve services regardless of the location of the facility if the Secretary determines that the assistance is necessary to provide or improve telemedicine services or distance learning services of a rural area.</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>connectivity services, and public television station digital conversion. Libraries or library support organizations, public television stations and parent organizations of public television stations, and schools, libraries, and other facilities operated by the BIA or Indian Health Service are added as eligible for assistance.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends sec. 2333(c)(4) to include library connectivity and public television station digital conversion.</p>	



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		<p>Sec.2333(d) of the FACT Act requires the Secretary to establish procedures to prioritize the financial assistance offered by taking into account a number of factors, including: (1) the need for the assistance in the rural area; (2) the financial need of the applicant; and (3) the population sparsity of the affected rural area.</p> <p>Sec.2333(e) of the FACT Act allows the Secretary to establish the maximum amount of financial assistance to be made available to an individual recipient for each fiscal year.</p> <p>Sec.2333(f) of the FACT Act mandates that funds are to be used for:  (1) the development and acquisition of instructional programming;  (2) the development and acquisition, through lease or purchase, of computer hardware and software, audio and visual equipment, computer network components, telecommunications terminal equipment, telecommunications transmission facilities, data terminal equipment, or interactive video equipment, or other facilities that would further telemedicine or distance learning services;  (3) providing technical assistance and instruction for the development or use of the programming, equipment, or  (4) facilities; or  (5) any other uses that are consistent with</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	<p>Sec. 2333(d) of the FACT Act is amended to require the Secretary to consider one or more of the criteria when establishing prioritization for financial assistance. In prioritizing financial assistance the Secretary may also consider the cost and availability of high-speed network access.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Amends sec.2333 (f) by striking and replacing this section with a new subsection (f) that requires financial assistance to be used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the development, acquisition, and digital distribution of instructional programming to rural users;</li> <li>(2) the development and acquisition of computer hardware and software, audio and visual equipment, computer network components, telecommunications transmission facilities, data terminal equipment, or interactive video equipment, teleconferencing equipment, or other facilities that would further telemedicine services, library connectivity, or distance learning services;</li> <li>(3) the provision of technical</li> </ul>	

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		<p>the intent of the chapter, as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>Sec.2333(g) of the FACT Act provides that the financial assistance offered under</p>	<p>Same as current law</p>	<p>assistance and instruction for the development or use of the programming, equipment, or facilities referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) ;</p> <p>(4) the acquisition of high-speed network transmission equipment or services that would not otherwise be available or affordable to the applicant;</p> <p>(5) costs relating to the coordination and collaboration among and between libraries on connectivity and universal service initiatives, or the development of multi-library connectivity plans that benefit rural users;</p> <p>(6) competitive grants, for public television stations or a consortium of public television stations, to provide education, outreach, and assistance, in cooperation with community groups, to rural communities and vulnerable populations with respect to the digital television transition, and particularly the acquisition, delivery, and installation of the digital-to-analog converter boxes; or</p> <p>(7) other uses as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	

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		<p>this chapter is not to be used for salaries or administrative expenses.</p> <p>Sec.2333(h) allows the Secretary to establish procedures to ensure that expedited consideration and determination is given to loans and advances submitted by local exchange carriers to enable them to provide advanced telecommunications services in rural areas in conjunction with any other projects carried out under this chapter.</p> <p>Sec.2333(i) requires an applicant for a grant for a telemedicine or distance learning project to notify the appropriate local telephone exchange carrier regarding their grant application.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec.2333 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act by authorizing the Secretary to provide grants to noncommercial education television broadcast stations that serve rural areas for the purposes of developing</p>	<p>SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Sec. 2333(i)(1) is amended to add library connectivity and public television station digital conversion into the notification. Paragraph (2)(A) is amended to require the Secretary to include grants for library connectivity in the Secretary's published notice. Subparagraph (B) specifies that nonproprietary information contained applications is made available for inspections.</p> <p>Reauthorizes appropriations through 2012 and amends sec. 1(b) of Public Law 102-551 by reauthorizing through 2012.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	

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			digital facilities, equipment, and infrastructure to enhance digital services to rural areas.		
T6-42	<p><b><u>Telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6029 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6302 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	Sec.2335A of the FACT Act authorizes an appropriation of \$100 million for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2007.	<p><b>SEC.6029.</b> Amends Sec. 2335A of the FACT Act by extending the authorization of appropriations to fiscal year 2012.</p>	See sec. 6302 of Senate Amendment (above)	
T6-43	<p><b><u>Agricultural innovation center demonstration grants</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6025 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities for assistance to agricultural producers in order to establish and enhance businesses to produce value-added agricultural commodities or products. The grants are also to be used to provide technical assistance and planning to assist producers in establishing value-added businesses.</p> <p>Sec.6402(i) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act mandates that of the amount made available under the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000: \$3 million for fiscal year 2002; and \$6 million for each of the fiscal years 2003 and 2004.</p>	<p><b>SEC.6025.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec. 6402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act by authorizing an appropriation of \$6 million for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	No comparable provision	
T6-44	<p><b><u>Rural firefighters and emergency services assistance program</u></b></p>	Sec.6405(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act authorizes the Secretary to make grants available to units of general local government, Indian tribes, to pay the cost of training firefighters and	<p><b>SEC.6026.</b> No comparable provision</p>	No comparable provision	

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	<p><b><u>Sec. 6026 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	<p>emergency medical personnel in firefighting, emergency medical practices, and responding to hazardous materials and bioagents in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec.6405(b)(1)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act mandates that not less than 60 percent of the amounts made available for competitively-awarded grants are to be used to provide grants for partial scholarships to train individuals at training centers approved by the Secretary.</p> <p>Sec.6405(b)(1)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act mandates that the Secretary is to give priority, in awarding grants, to applicants who will provide training within the region (or locality) of the applicant.</p> <p>Sec.6405(b)(2)(A) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act mandates that grants can be used to provide financial assistance to State and regional centers that provide training for firefighters and emergency medical personnel for improvements to the training facility, equipment, curricula, and personnel.</p> <p>Sec.6405(b)(2)(B) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act prohibits grant funding for any single training center from exceeding \$750,000 for any fiscal year.</p> <p>Sec.6405(c) of the Farm Security and</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>		



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		No comparable provision	<p>areas to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) hire, recruit or train EMS personnel;</li> <li>(2) recruit or retrain emergency EMS personnel;</li> <li>(3) fund training to meet State or Federal certification requirements;</li> <li>(4) provide training for firefighters and emergency medical personnel for improvements to the training facility, equipment, and personnel;</li> <li>(5) develop new ways to educate emergency health care providers through the use of technology-enhanced educational methods;</li> <li>(6) acquire EMS vehicles and equipment</li> <li>(7) acquire personal protective equipments for EMS personnel as required by OSHA;</li> <li>(8) educate the public concerning CPR, first aid, injury prevention, safety awareness, illness prevention, and other emergency preparedness topics.</li> </ul> <p>Subsection (d) provides that the Secretary, in awarding grants, is to give preference to applications: (i) that reflect a collaborative effort by two or more eligible entities; and (ii) are submitted by eligible entities who intend to use grant funds to: hire, recruit, or train EMS personnel; recruit or retrain volunteer EMS personnel; fund training to meet State or Federal certification requirements; or develop new ways to educate emergency health care providers through the use of technology-enhanced educational methods.</p>		

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>Subsection (e) prohibits the Secretary from making a grant to an entity unless the entity agrees that it will provide a non-Federal contribution in an amount equal to 5 percent of the amount received under the grant.</p> <p>Subsection (f) defines the term “emergency medical services.”</p> <p>Subsection (g) provides for an appropriation of not more than \$30 million to be authorized for each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012; no more than 10 percent of the amount appropriated in a fiscal year is to be used for administrative expenses.</p>		
T6-45	<p><b><u>Value-added agricultural product market development grants</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6027 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6401 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec.231 of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA) authorizes the Secretary to award competitive grants to eligible independent producers, agricultural producers groups, farm or rancher cooperatives, or majority-controlled producer-based business ventures in: (i) developing business plans for viable marketing opportunities in emerging markets for value-added agricultural products; or (ii) developing strategies that are intended to create marketing opportunities in emerging markets for value-added agricultural products.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6027.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Amends Sec. 231(a) of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA) by providing a definition for “mid-tier value-chains,”</p>	<p><b>Sec. 6401.</b> SAME AS HOUSE</p> <p>Sec. 231(a) is amended by providing updated definitions of “assisting organization,” “technical assistance,” and</p>	



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		<p>Sec. 231(b)(2)(A) In General – The total amount provided under this subsection to a grant recipient shall not exceed \$500,000.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Sec.231(b)(4) of ARPA authorizes mandatory funding in the amount of \$40 million to be made available from Oct. 1, 2002 to Oct. 1, 2006.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>which are defined as local and regional supply networks that link independent producers with business and cooperatives that market value-added agricultural products.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>Amends Sec.231(b)(4) of ARPA by providing that mandatory funding in the amount of \$30 million is to be made available from Oct. 1, 2008 through Oct. 1, 2012.</p> <p>Further amends Sec.231(b)(4) by requiring the Secretary is required to set aside 10 percent of the funds for value-added agricultural market development grants for projects benefiting beginning</p>	<p>“value-added agricultural product”.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 231(b)(2)(A)of the ARPA by limiting the amount a grant recipient can receive to no more than \$300,000 in the case of grants including working capital or \$100,000 in the case of all other grants.</p> <p>Adds a new section, “231(b)(2)(C),” which provides that the amount of grant funds provided to an assisting organization for research, training, technical assistance, and outreach for a fiscal year may not exceed 10 percent of the total funds that are used to make grants.</p> <p>Amends Sec. 231(b)(4) of ARPA by providing that grants made under this section are limited to a term not to exceed 3 years.</p> <p>Further amends section 231b)(4) by requiring the Secretary to offer simplified application forms and process for project proposals requesting less than \$50,000.</p>	

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		<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>farmers and ranchers or socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.</p> <p>Sec.231(b)(4) is also amended by requiring the Secretary to set aside 10 percent of the funds for value-added agricultural market development grants for applications that propose to develop mid-tier value chains.</p> <p>Further amends Sec.231(b)(4) by mandating that the Secretary is to use amounts in the reserve that are not obligated to qualified beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, or mid-tier value chains by June 30, to make grants to eligible entities as determined by the Secretary.</p> <p>Sec.231(b)(4) is further amended by requiring the Secretary, in awarding grants under this section to consider applications more favorably, when compared to other applications, to the extent that the proposed project contributes to increasing opportunities for operators of small and medium-sized farms and ranchers structured as “family farms” – as defined in the regulations prescribed under Sec.302 of the Con Act.</p>	<p>Further amends Sec.231(b)(4) by adding a priority for projects that contribute to increasing opportunities for beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and operators of small and medium-sized farms and ranchers that are not larger than family farms and support new ventures that do not have well-established markets or product development staffs and budgets, including the development of local food systems and development of infrastructure to support local food systems. Additionally, requires the Secretary, to the maximum extent practicable, to provide grants projects that provide training and outreach activities in areas that have received relatively fewer grants.</p> <p>Sec.231(b)(4) is further amended by authorizing an appropriation of such sums as necessary for each fiscal years 2008 through 2012.</p>	
T6-46	<b><u>Guarantees for bonds and notes</u></b>	Sec.313A of the REA authorizes the Secretary to guarantee payments issued by	<b>SEC. 6030.</b> Same as current law	<b>SEC. 6106.</b> Amends Sec. 313A(b) of the REA [7	

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	<p><b><u>issued for electrification or telephone purpose</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6030 of H.R. 2419, Sec. 6106 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>cooperatives or other lenders organized on a non-for-profit basis if the proceeds of the bonds or notes are used to make loans for any electrification or telephone purpose eligible for assistance under the REA.</p> <p>Sec.313A(f) of the REA mandates that the Secretary's authority to guarantee payments expires on Sept. 30, 2007.</p>	<p>The Secretary's authority to guarantee payments is extended to Sept. 30, 2012.</p>	<p>U.S.C. 904c-1] by extending eligibility for guarantees for telephone installation purposes; expanding the funds available for guarantees to \$1,000,000,000; requiring the annual fee paid for the guarantee of a bond or note to be equal to 30 basis points of the amount of unpaid principal; and requiring the lender to pay fees required on a semiannual basis on a schedule structured by the Secretary.</p> <p>SAME AS HOUSE</p>	
T6-47	<p><b><u>Study of railroad issues</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6032 of H.R. 2419</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC.6032.</b> The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Secretary of Transportation, is authorized to conduct a study, and submit a report to Congress on the results of the study within 9 months of the date of enactment of the Farm Bill, on railroad issues, with respect to the movement of agricultural products, domestically produced renewable fuels, and domestically produced resources for the production of electricity in rural America.</p> <p>The study is to include an examination of the importance of freight railroads to: the deliver of equipment, seed, fertilizer, and other products important to the development of agricultural commodities and products; the movement of agricultural commodities and products to market; the delivery of ethanol and other</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	

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			renewable fuels; the delivery of domestically produced resources for use in the generation of electricity in rural America; the location of grain elevators, ethanol plants, and other facilities; the development of manufacturing facilities; the vitality and economic development of rural communities; the sufficiency in rural America of railroad capacity, the sufficiency of rail competition, the reliability of rail service, and the reasonableness of rail prices; and the accessibility to rail customers in rural America of Federal processes for the resolution of rail customer grievances with the railroad.		
T6-48	<u><b>Energy Efficiency Programs</b></u>  <u><b>Sec. 6101 of the Senate Amendment</b></u>	Sec. 2 (a) of the REA authorizes the Secretary to make loans for rural electrification and for furnishing and improving electrical and telephone service in rural areas.	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6101.</b> Amends Sec.s 2(a) and 4 in the Rural Electrification Act (REA) [7 U.S.C. 902(a), 904] by authorizing the Secretary to extend loans to energy efficiency programs.	
T6-49	<u><b>Loans and grants for electric generation and transmission</b></u>  <u><b>Sec. 6102 of the Senate Amendment</b></u>	Sec. 4 of REA authorizes the Secretary to use sums appropriated (Sec. 3) for loans to support rural electrification.	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6102.</b> Amends Sec. 4 of the REA [7 U.S.C. 904] by requiring the Secretary to make loans and grants for the purpose of financing the construction and operation of generating plants, electric transmission and distribution lines or systems for the furnishing and improving of electric services to persons in rural areas if there is an appropriation.	
T6-50	<u><b>Fees for electrification baseload generation loan</b></u>	No comparable provision  (Sec. 5 of REA was repealed by P. L. 104-	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6103.</b> Amends the REA [7 U.S.C. 904] by adding Sec. 5, which allows the Secretary to charge an upfront fee to cover the cost	

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	<p><b><u>guarantees</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6103 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>127)</p>		<p>of loan guarantees.</p> <p>Subsection (a) establishes a provision by which the Secretary, at the request of the borrower, can charge an upfront fee to cover the costs of the loan guarantee.</p> <p>Subsection (b) determines that the fee shall be at least equal to the costs of the loan guarantee and provides authority to the Secretary to establish a separate fee for each loan.</p> <p>Subsection (c) provides eligibility criteria for loan guarantees under this sec..</p> <p>Subsection (d) denies funds received from a borrower to pay for fees from being considered a loan or other debt obligation that is made or guaranteed by the Federal Government.</p>	
T6-51	<p><b><u>Deferment of payments to allow loans for improved energy efficiency and demand reduction</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6104 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 12 of REA authorizes the Secretary to extend the time of payment of interest or principal on any insured or direct loan of any loan made pursuant to REA.</p> <p>Sec. 12 (b) (1) of REA authorizes the Secretary to permit any borrower to defer the payment of the principal or interest. The Secretary may not grant a deferment on the basis of financial hardship of the borrower.</p> <p>Sec. 12 of REA further describes how much payment may be deferred, specifies that borrowers who defer must make a payment to a cushion of credit account (as</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6104.</b> Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p> <p>Same as current law</p>	

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		<p>described in Sec. 313 of REA), and sets other conditions on the terms of payment deferment.</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>		<p>Amends Sec. 12 of the REA [7 U.S.C. 912] by requiring the Secretary to allow borrowers to defer payment of principal and interest on any direct loan to enable the borrower to make loans to residential, commercial, and industrial consumers to install energy efficient measures or devices that reduce the demand on electric systems for 60 months.</p>	
T6-52	<p><b><u>Rural electrification assistance</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6105 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 13 of REA defines a “rural area” as a geographical area that exists outside the boundaries of a Bureau of the Census-defined Urban Area. A “territory” is defined as any insular territory of the United States.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6105.</b> Amends sec. 13 of the REA [7 U.S.C. 902(a), 904] to provide a definition for the term Indian tribe to be used throughout the REA Act.</p> <p>The definition of “rural area” is amended to mean an area that <u>excludes</u>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) cities of 50,000 or more;</li> <li>2.) any urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city of 50,000 or more except for narrow strips of urbanized areas; and</li> <li>3.) any collection of contiguous census blocks with a housing density of 200 housing units per square mile that is adjacent to a city of 50,000 or adjacent to an urbanized area except for narrow strips of such territory. Also any area within a service area of a borrower for which a borrower has an outstanding loan made under titles I through V of this Act.</li> </ol>	

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				For the purpose of loans and loan guarantees made under the rural broadband program the term rural area shall also exclude a city, town, or unincorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000 inhabitants. definitions to be used throughout the act for Farm, Indian Tribe, Rural Area, Territory, and Secretary.	
T6-53	<p><b><u>Electric loans to rural electric cooperatives</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6108 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6108.</b> Amends Title III of the REA [7 U.S.C. 940] by adding Sec. 317, which allows the Secretary to make loans to rural electric cooperatives.</p> <p>Subsection (a) provides a definition for Renewable Energy Source.</p> <p>Subsection (b) allows the Secretary to make loans available for the electric generation of renewable energy resources to rural and nonrural residents and for the transmission of energy from renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Subsection (c) provides that the loan rate under this sec. shall be equal to the average tax-exempt municipal bond rate of similar maturities.</p>	
T6-54	<p><b><u>Agency Procedures</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6109 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6109.</b> Amends Title III of the REA [7 U.S.C. 940] by adding Sec. 318, which provides Agency procedures for loans or grants under this Act.</p> <p>Subsection (a) requires that loan</p>	

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				<p>applicants are contacted at least once each month by the Rural Utilities Service regarding the status of any pending loan applications.</p> <p>Subsection (b) requires the Secretary to ensure that applicants for any Rural Utilities Service grants have the opportunity to present a case for financial need and that these special economic circumstances are considered in determining the grant status of the applicant.</p> <p>Subsection (c) allows the Secretary to adjust population limitations related to digital mobile wireless service.</p> <p>Subsection (d) requires the Secretary review bonding requirements for all programs administered by the Rural Utilities Service.</p>	
T6-55	<p><b><u>Substantially underserved trust areas</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6112 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6112.</b> Provides that Native American trust lands where more than 20 percent of the population does not have electric, telecommunications, broadband or water service are considered substantially underserved trust areas. The Secretary may make the programs of the Rural Utility Service that these areas are eligible for available to them at lower loan rates and may waive nonduplication requirements</p>	
T6-56	<p><b><u>Rural electronic commerce extension</u></b></p>	Sec. 1670 of the FA C T Act [7 U.S.C. 5923(e)] authorizes the Secretary establish a rural electronic commerce extension	No comparable provision	<p><b>SEC. 6301.</b> Reauthorizes sec. 1670(e) of the F AC T Act [7 U.S.C. 5923(e)] through 2012.</p>	



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	<p><b><u>program.</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6301 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>program to expand and enhance electronic commerce practices and technology to be used by small business and microenterprises in rural areas.</p> <p>Sec. 1670(e) authorizes an appropriation of \$60 million for each of the fiscal years 2002 through 2007, of which 1/3 of the appropriated amount is to be used for development center grants.</p>			
T6-57	<p><b><u>Insurance of loans for housing and related facilities for domestic farm labor</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6402 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>Sec. 514 (f) (3) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484 (f)(3)) defines the term “domestic farm labor” as any person (and the family of such person) who receives a substantial portion of his or her income from primary production of agricultural or aquaculture commodities or the handling of such commodities in the unprocessed stage.</p>	No comparable provision	<p><b>Sec. 6402.</b></p> <p>Amends sec. 514 (f) (3) of the Housing Act of 1949, by extending the definition of “domestic farm labor” to include any person who receives a substantial portion of their income from the processing of agricultural or aquaculture commodities.</p>	
T6-58	<p><b><u>Housing Assistance Council Title</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sec. 6501 and 6502 of the Senate Amendment</u></b></p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p> <p>No comparable provision</p>	<p><b>SEC. 6501.</b></p> <p>Short Title “ Housing Assistance Council Authorization Act of 2007”</p> <p><b>SEC 6502.</b></p> <p>Authorizes the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide financial assistance to the Housing Assistance Council for the purpose of supporting community-based housing development organizations’ community development and affordable housing projects and programs in rural areas.</p>	

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				Authorization \$10,000,000 in FY2008 and \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 and 2010.	
T6-59	<u><b>Audits and reports</b></u>  <u><b>Sec. 6503 of the Senate Amendment</b></u>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6503.</b> Requires the Comptroller General to audit any institution receiving funds from the Housing Assistance Council and a GAO report on the use of any funds appropriated to the Housing Assistance Counsel over the past 10 years.	
T6-60	<u><b>Persons not lawfully present in the United States</b></u>  <u><b>Sec. 6504 of the Senate Amendment</b></u>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6504.</b> Prohibits funds from this title from providing housing assistance to persons not lawfully present in the United States.	
T6-61	<u><b>Limitation on use of authorized funds</b></u>  <u><b>Sec. 6505 of the Senate Amendment</b></u>	No comparable provision	No comparable provision	<b>SEC. 6505.</b> Prohibits funds from being used to lobby or retain a lobbyist.	
T6-62	<u><b>NOTE Sect 12602 INTEREST RATES FOR WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL</b></u>	Sec. 307(a)(3) requires that interest rates for loans to public bodies or nonprofit associations for water and waste disposal facilities and essential community facilities be set by the Secretary at rates not to exceed the current market yield rate and additionally shall not exceed 5% in	No comparable provision	NOTE: <b>SEC. 12602.</b> Amends sec. 307(a)(3) of the Con Act to ensure that interest rates for intermediate and poverty rate loans are tied to the current market rate. The poverty rate is set at 60% of the market rate and the intermediate rate is set at 80% of the	

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	<p><b><u>FACILITIES</u></b> <b><u>LOANS</u></b></p>	<p>areas where the median family income is below the poverty line (“POVERTY RATE”) and 7% in areas where the median household income does not exceed 100% of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income (“INTERMEDIATE RATE”).</p>		<p>market rate.</p>	