

## [H.R. 2051, Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015](#)

### FLOOR SITUATION

On Tuesday, June 9, 2015, the House will consider [H.R. 2051](#), *the Mandatory Price Reporting Act of 2015*, under a suspension of the rules. H.R. 2051 was introduced on April 28, 2015, by Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX) and was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, which ordered the bill reported, as amended, by voice vote on April 30, 2015.

### SUMMARY

H.R. 2051 reauthorizes Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, extending authority for certain livestock mandatory price reporting programs, which are set to expire on September 30, 2015, until September 30, 2020. It further requires the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to continue to receive and publish required daily reporting information during a government shutdown.

H.R. 2051 also requires the Secretary to begin daily reporting of certain negotiated purchases of swine and makes certain changes to lamb reporting requirements under the Act. The bill requires the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) within the USDA, in consultation with specified experts and stakeholders, to submit to Congress a report on the implementation of livestock mandatory price reporting.

### BACKGROUND

The Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 was passed as an amendment to the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, establishing a program to collect and publish information regarding the marketing of cattle, swine, lambs, and the products of such livestock. The purpose of the program was to provide information that could be readily understood by producers, improve the price and supply reporting services of USDA, and encourage competition in the marketplace for livestock and livestock products. The livestock mandatory reporting provisions of the Act are currently set to expire on September 30, 2015.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [House Report 114-132](#) at 3.

During the FY 2014 government shutdown, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Market News reports, including livestock mandatory reporting data, was not available. According to the Committee, the inability to deliver the mandatory price information for livestock, meat, and certain dairy products caused a significant disruption to the orderly marketing of these products and generated extensive media coverage. Several stakeholders have requested these reports be considered an "excepted activity," so that reporting would continue in the event of another government shutdown.<sup>2</sup>

According to the bill sponsor, "livestock reporting provides transparency in the market to make sure producers get a fair price. This system allows producers and packers to access timely and accurate information regarding the price of the products they buy and sell."<sup>3</sup> H.R. 2051 reauthorizes the expiring reporting system and requires that the USDA continue publishing these livestock reports in the event of a government shutdown.

### **COST**

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing this bill would cost \$36 million over the 2016 to 2020 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

For questions or further information please contact [John Huston](#) with the House Republican Policy Committee by email or at 6-5539.

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<sup>2</sup> Id. at 4.

<sup>3</sup> See [Agriculture Committee Press Release](#), April 30, 2015.