

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide for a consistent definition for plant biostimulants.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

---

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

---



---

**A BILL**

To amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide for a consistent definition for plant biostimulants.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Plant Biostimulant  
5 Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINING PLANT BIOSTIMULANTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2 of the Federal Insecti-  
8 cide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136) is  
9 amended—

1           (1) by striking subsection (v) and inserting the  
2 following:

3           “(v) PLANT REGULATOR.—

4           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘plant regulator’  
5 means any substance or mixture of substances in-  
6 tended, through physiological action, for accelerating  
7 or retarding the rate of growth or rate of matura-  
8 tion, or for otherwise altering the behavior, of plants  
9 or the produce thereof.

10           “(2) EXCLUSIONS.—The term ‘plant regulator’  
11 does not include—

12           “(A) substances to the extent that they are  
13 intended as plant nutrients, trace elements, nu-  
14 tritional chemicals, plant inoculants, soil  
15 amendments, or vitamin hormone products; or

16           “(B) plant biostimulants that—

17           “(i) are of biological origin; or

18           “(ii) include chemical compounds that  
19 are synthetically derived, but are struc-  
20 turally similar and functionally identical to  
21 substances of biological origin.”;

22           (2) in subsection (hh)—

23           (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “or” at  
24 the end;

25           (B) in paragraph (3)—

## 3

1 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-  
2 graph (A), by striking “substances.” and  
3 inserting “substances”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (I) by inserting “, or” after “vol-  
6 atilization”; and

7 (II) by striking the period at the  
8 end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (C) by inserting before the undesignated  
10 matter following paragraph (3) the following:

11 “(4) a plant biostimulant; or

12 “(5) a nutritional chemical.”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(pp) PLANT BIOSTIMULANT.—The term ‘plant bio-  
15 stimulant’ means a substance, microorganism, or mixture  
16 thereof, that, when applied to seeds, plants, the  
17 rhizosphere, soil, or other growth media, acts to support  
18 a plant’s natural processes independently of the nutrient  
19 content of that substance, microorganism, or mixture  
20 thereof, and that thereby improves—

21 “(1) nutrient availability, uptake, or use effi-  
22 ciency;

23 “(2) tolerance to abiotic stress; and

24 “(3) consequent growth, development, quality,  
25 or yield.

1           “(qq) NUTRITIONAL CHEMICAL.—The term ‘nutri-  
2 tional chemical’—

3           “(1) means any substance or mixture of sub-  
4 stances that interacts with plant nutrients in a man-  
5 ner that improves nutrient availability or aids the  
6 plant in acquiring or utilizing plant nutrients; and

7           “(2) includes some plant biostimulants.

8           “(rr) VITAMIN HORMONE PRODUCT.—The term ‘vi-  
9 tamin hormone product’ means a product consisting of a  
10 mixture of plant hormones, plant nutrients, inoculants, or  
11 soil amendments.”.

12           (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 120 days after  
13 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of  
14 Environmental Protection Agency shall revise the regula-  
15 tions under subchapter E of chapter I of title 40, Code  
16 of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enact-  
17 ment of this Act), to carry out the amendments made by  
18 subsection (a).

19 **SEC. 3. SOIL HEALTH STUDY.**

20           (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Agriculture (referred  
21 to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a study  
22 to assess the types of, and practices using, plant biostimu-  
23 lants (as defined in section 2 of the Federal Insecticide,  
24 Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136)) that best  
25 achieve the following:

1 (1) Increasing organic matter content.

2 (2) Reducing atmospheric volatilization.

3 (3) Promotion of nutrient management prac-  
4 tices.

5 (4) Limiting or eliminating runoff or leaching  
6 of soil or nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitro-  
7 gen, into groundwater or other water sources.

8 (5) Restoring beneficial bioactivity or healthy  
9 nutrients to the soil.

10 (6) Aiding in carbon sequestration, nutrient use  
11 efficiency, and other climate-related benefits.

12 (7) Supporting innovative approaches to im-  
13 proving agricultural sustainability, including the  
14 adoption of performance-based outcome standards  
15 and criteria.

16 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
17 on which funds are first made available to conduct the  
18 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall make pub-  
19 licly available, and submit to the Committee on Agri-  
20 culture of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
21 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Sen-  
22 ate, a report that describes the results of the study.