

Public Law 98-284  
98th Congress

An Act

To extend and improve the existing program of research, development, and demonstration in the production and manufacture of guayule rubber, and to broaden such program to include other critical agricultural materials.

May 16, 1984  
[H.R. 2733]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the first section of the Native Latex Commercialization and Economic Development Act of 1978 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") is amended to read as follows: "That this Act may be cited as the 'Critical Agricultural Materials Act'."

7 USC 178 note.

SEC. 2. Section 2 of the Act is amended—

7 USC 178.

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "SEC. 2. (a)";

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (e) as paragraphs (2) through (5); and

(3) by striking out paragraph (5) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(5) Congress further recognizes that ongoing research into the development and commercialization of native latex has been conducted by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the National Science Foundation, and other public as well as private and industrial research groups, and that these research efforts should be continued and expanded."; and

(4) by striking out subsection (f) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(b) In addition, Congress recognizes that the development of a domestic industry or industries for the production and manufacture from native agricultural crops of products other than rubber which are of strategic and industrial importance but for which the Nation is now dependent upon foreign sources, would benefit the economy, the defense, and the general well-being of the Nation, and that additional research efforts in this area should be undertaken or continued and expanded.

"(c) It is therefore the policy of the United States to provide for the development and demonstration of economically feasible means of culturing and manufacturing Parthenium and other hydrocarbon-containing plants, along with other native agricultural crops, for the production of critical agricultural materials to benefit the Nation and promote economic development."

Hydrocarbon-containing plants.

SEC. 3. (a) Section 3(d) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

7 USC 178a.

"(d) The term 'native' means hydrocarbon-containing plants and other agricultural crops of strategic and industrial importance which may be cultured in North America, especially plants which are members of the genus Parthenium known as Guayule."; and

(b) Section 3 of the Act is further amended by striking out subsection (e).

SEC. 4. (a) Section 4(a) of the Act is amended by striking out "Guayule Research and Commercialization" and inserting in lieu thereof "Research and Development of Critical Agricultural Materials".

7 USC 178b.

7 USC 178b.

(b) Section 4(b) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

“(b) The Joint Commission shall consist of the following members: Three individuals designated by the Secretary of Agriculture from among the staff of the Department of Agriculture; three individuals designated by the Secretary of Commerce from among the staff of the Department of Commerce; a representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior; a representative of the National Science Foundation; a representative of the Department of State; a representative of the Department of Defense; and a representative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Each of the members of the Joint Commission shall be an individual who, on behalf of the Department or agency which such individual represents, is engaged in the support of research, development, demonstration, and commercialization activities involving native latex and the production of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops.”

(c) Section 4(c) of the Act is amended to read as follows:

“(c) The Joint Commission shall be headed by a Chairman who shall be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture from among the three individuals designated by the Secretary as members under subsection (b).”

(d) Section 4(h) of the Act is amended by striking out “rubber manufacturing and commerce” and inserting in lieu thereof “manufacturing and commerce involving rubber and other critical agricultural materials”.

7 USC 178c.

SEC. 5. Section 5 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking out the first sentence and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(a) The Department of Agriculture shall be the lead agency in carrying out this Act.

“(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct, sponsor, promote, and coordinate basic and applied research, technology development, and technology transfer leading to effective and economical methods for large-scale culturing of plantations and the extraction of latex from *Parthenium* or other hydrocarbon-containing plants, and for the development of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance.”;

(2) by redesignating clauses (a) through (h) in the second sentence as paragraphs (1) through (8), respectively;

(3) by striking out paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(3) accelerating present plant breeding, genetics, and selection programs for the purpose of improving and increasing latex yields, expanding insect and disease resistance, broadening the ranges of drought and cold resistance of the *Parthenium* plant, and providing a system of regional research trials for enhancing and increasing the supply of foundation seed for certified seed production.”;

(4) by striking out paragraph (4) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(4) establishing a system of large-scale experimental plantings (aggregating ten thousand acres or more) to provide shrub for feedstock to process in the developmental rubber processing facility described in paragraph (7);”;

(5) by striking out paragraph (7) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(7) accelerating the refinement of present extraction and processing technologies and future extraction technologies, including the development and construction of a developmental rubber processing facility for the extraction and production of test quantities of guayule natural rubber;"

(6) by striking out the period at the end of paragraph (8) (as so redesignated) and inserting in lieu thereof "; and";

(7) by adding after paragraph (8) (as so redesignated) the following new paragraph:

"(9) studying the economic feasibility of developing other native agricultural crops (in addition to Parthenium and other hydrocarbon-containing plants) that would supply critical agricultural materials for strategic and industrial purposes, and, to the extent appropriate, carrying out research activities with respect to such crops in the manner specified in paragraphs (1) through (8)."; and

(8) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(c) The Secretary of Agriculture shall establish within the Department of Agriculture an Office of Critical Agricultural Materials, as a central location where such Department can address research and development with respect to agricultural crops that have the potential of producing critical materials for strategic and industrial purposes."

Office of Critical  
Agricultural  
Materials,  
establishment,  
Research and  
development.

SEC. 6. Section 6 of the Act is amended—

7 USC 178d.

(1) by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: "or the manufacture and commercialization of other critical agricultural materials from native agricultural crops having strategic and industrial importance";

(2) by striking out "may be carried out through the Regional Commissions or otherwise and" in the second sentence;

(3) by striking out "and" at the end of clause (e);

(4) by striking out the period at the end of clause (f) and inserting in lieu thereof "; and"; and

(5) by adding after clause (f) the following new clause:

"(g) to the extent appropriate, carrying out research activities with respect to native agricultural crops (other than Parthenium and other hydrocarbon-containing plants) that would supply critical agricultural materials for strategic and industrial purposes, in the manner specified in clauses (a) through (f)."

SEC. 7. Section 7 of the Act is amended—

7 USC 178e.

(1) by inserting ", the Government of Australia, and the Government of Israel" after "Mexico"; and

(2) by striking out "latex extraction and processing" and inserting in lieu thereof "extraction and processing of latex and other critical agricultural materials produced in the United States".

SEC. 8. Section 8 of the Act is amended by inserting before the period at the end thereof the following: "or to other critical agricultural materials".

7 USC 178f.

SEC. 9. Section 9 of the Act is amended—

7 USC 178g.

(1) by inserting "or the culture of other native agricultural crops which could supply critical agricultural materials" before the semicolon in clause (h); and

(2) by inserting "or the technology of other native agricultural crops which could supply critical agricultural materials" before the semicolon in clause (i).

7 USC 178h.

**SEC. 10.** Section 10 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking out “the provisions of this section” and inserting in lieu thereof “the provisions of this Act”;

(2) by striking out “, acting through the Regional Commissions or otherwise,”;

(3) by inserting “having expertise in native agricultural crops which could supply critical agricultural materials” after “personnel” in clause (b); and

(4) by striking out “natural rubber manufacture” in clause (f) and inserting in lieu thereof “the activities authorized by this Act”.

7 USC 178i.

**SEC. 11.** Section 11 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking out “shall insure that their activities are closely coordinated with the activities of other Federal agencies” and inserting in lieu thereof “shall cooperate with each other in the conduct of their activities under this Act, and shall insure that their activities under this Act are closely coordinated with the activities of other Federal agencies”;

(2) by inserting “Department of State,” after “Department of Energy,”; and

(3) by striking out “Federal Preparedness Agency, and others” and inserting in lieu thereof “Federal Emergency Management Agency, and others,”.

7 USC 178k.

**SEC. 12.** Section 13 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking out “The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce” and inserting in lieu thereof “The Secretaries”;

(2) by inserting after “byproducts” the following: “, as well as products, other than rubber, developed from agricultural crops which are of strategic and industrial importance,”; and

(3) by inserting after the first sentence the following new sentence: “Dispositions under this section may include sales of the materials involved to other Federal departments and agencies for testing purposes.”.

7 USC 178l.

**SEC. 13.** Section 14 of the Act is amended by striking out “The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce” and inserting in lieu thereof “The Secretaries”.

7 USC 178m.

**SEC. 14.** Section 15 of the Act is amended—

(1) by striking out “The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce” and inserting in lieu thereof “The Secretaries”; and

(2) by striking out “1982” and inserting in lieu thereof “1987”.

Appropriation  
authorizations.  
7 USC 178n.

**SEC. 15.** (a) Section 16(a) of the Act is amended by striking out “and” where it appears after “1981,” and by inserting after “1983,” the following: “\$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984, \$5,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985, \$6,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, \$7,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and \$8,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988.”.

(b) Section 16(b) of the Act is amended by striking out “and” where it appears after “1981,” and by inserting after “1983,” the following: “\$2,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1984, \$3,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1985, \$3,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1986, \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and \$4,500,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988.”.

(c) Section 16 of the Act is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretaries and the Joint Commission shall limit their activities under this Act to critical agricultural materials other than native latex after the close of the fiscal year ending September 30, 1988.”.

Approved May 16, 1984.

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2733:**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 98-109, Pt. 1 (Comm. on Agriculture) and Pt. 2 (Comm. on Science and Technology).

SENATE REPORT No. 98-164 (Comm. on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 129 (1983): May 17, considered and passed House.

Vol. 130 (1984): May 1, considered and passed Senate.