

The Seeds for the Future Act of 2018
S. 2964 / H.R. 5208
Section-by-Section Outline

National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) – *Amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act* to improve the ability of NIFA programs to support and advance public cultivar development.

Key Definitions – In order to clarify what types of projects qualify for funding, the bill establishes definitions for key terms, such as “conventional breeding,” “cultivar,” and “public cultivar.”

Public Cultivar Competitive Grants – Ensure that at least \$50 million per year is going toward NIFA competitive grant public cultivar development projects, and specifically prioritize projects that release public cultivars. Grants for these projects should be no less than five years in length to ensure that researchers can create enough progress on farmer-ready cultivars to most effectively use public funds.

Report – Require an annual report on all USDA seed breeding efforts across agencies. This report would include a list of developed cultivars that are available in the public domain, areas of high-priority research, gaps in current research, and an assessment of the commercialization of developed cultivars.

Public Cultivar Research Coordination – *Amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994* to create a new “Public Cultivar Research Activities Coordinator” position. The new Coordinator would ensure that national cultivar goals are being met, track and analyze federally-funded plant breeding projects, develop a strategic plan for future cultivar development, and facilitate collaboration and coordination across USDA and with external stakeholders.