Since September 1, 1991, many bills affecting food safety, quality, nutrition, and assistance have been introduced in the House and the Senate. Some are described below.

Food Safety and Health

H.R. 3544—Rep. Jamie L. Whitten (MS)

The Emergency Job Creation Appropriations Act of 1992 would appropriate funds to create jobs that improve rural health for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1992. Along with appropriations for rural development and resource conservation, the bill would provide assistance to alleviate health hazards.

The legislation would create jobs and programs to promote new and improved rural water and waste-disposal systems that meet safe drinking water and clean water standards. The bill would also make appropriations for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's emergency food and shelter program.

H.R. 3545—Rep. John Bryant (TX)

The Improved Bottled Water Act of 1991 would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require more timely adoption of appropriate quality standards for bottled water. The standards must be as stringent as the health-based standards set under the Safe Drinking Water Act for public water supplies.


The Clean Water Act Research Amendments of 1991 would amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act regarding research and development activities.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies and public or private institutions, organizations, or individuals, shall conduct and promote a comprehensive program of research, investigations, experiments, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, sources, effects, extent, prevention, detection, and correction of water pollution.

The bill would establish a Water Quality Monitoring Council to en-
sure the effective coordination of Federal and State surface- and groundwater quality monitoring programs.

The bill also would expand the mandate for comprehensive research and investigation programs in the areas of nonpoint source pollution, research and control measures, contaminated sediments, groundwater quality, ecosystems and water quality, and pollution prevention.


The Food, Drug, Cosmetic, and Device Enforcement Amendments of 1991 would amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to enhance the enforcement authority of the Food and Drug Administration.

Any district court of the United States may order any appropriate person (including the manufacturer, importer, distributor, or retailer) to recall a food, drug, device, or cosmetic if the court finds reasonable probability that the product would cause serious health risks or death. (“Recall” means the retrieval, repair, or replacement of a product.)

Any product found to violate this act would be subject to seizure or embargo.

The Commissioner of Food and Drugs may subpoena witnesses and documentary evidence in connection with any hearing, investigation, or other proceeding relating to a violation of this act.

The act would also provide for money penalties for any person who violates or obstructs any requirement of this act.

H.R. 3742—Charlie Rose (NC)

The Pesticide Safety Improvement Act of 1991 would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) by revising pesticide registration provisions and establishing requirements for pesticide holders and applicators. For example, the act would:

- Authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to cancel pesticide registrations after 5 years unless the registrant requests a continuance. However, the act would permit the continued sale and use of pesticides with suspended registrations, if the pesticides will not have unreasonable adverse environmental effects.

- Authorize the Administrator to issue a final order to ensure that: (1) a pesticide or other materials required to be submitted to the Administrator comply with FIFRA requirements; and (2) the pesticide will not generally cause unreasonable adverse environmental effects.

- Permit the final order to: (1) cancel the registration of a pesticide (or the registrations of a group of pesticides containing a common active or inert ingredient) and prohibit the future registration of such pesticide; (2) prescribe composition, packaging, labeling, and registration requirements for pesticides and provide for the cancellation or modifications of pesticides not meeting requirements; and (3) classify a pesticide for restricted use or change the classification of a pesticide.

- Authorize the Administrator to initiate a proceeding to cancel or modify a pesticide registration, if there are concerns that the pesticide may cause unreasonable adverse effects on people or the environment.

- Establish certification and training requirements for pesticide holders and applicators. A person would be violating the FIFRA if he/she uses a pesticide as a commercial applicator without being certified, even if done under the supervision of a certified applicator. The Administrator would be required to establish minimum standards for trainers and training programs.

- Increase and expand the scope of civil and criminal penalties for FIFRA violations. Penalties would be prescribed for violations involving knowing endangerment.

- Direct the Administrator of the EPA, at any time the Administrator has sufficient information on the dietary risk of an ingredient, to: (1) reassess associated tolerances and exemptions from tolerances issued under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA); (2) determine whether the tolerances or exemptions still meet the requirements of the FDCA, and whether additional tolerances or exemptions should be used; and (3) take specified administrative actions.

- Amend the FDCA by establishing requirements concerning tolerance or exemptions for pesticide residues in food. Under these provisions, food safety standards in the Poultry Inspection Act, Federal Meat Inspection Act, and Egg Inspection Act would conform to the
FDCA's definition of adulterated food. Commodities or processed foods containing residues that are unsafe under FDCA standards would be deemed to be adulterated.

S. 1956—George J. Mitchell (ME)

The Toxic Exposure Evaluation and Monitoring Act of 1991 would establish within the EPA a program to monitor and assess human exposure to toxic substances. Results of the monitoring would be reported periodically to the scientific community and the Congress. A board of highly qualified and experienced scientists and representatives of appropriate Federal agencies would oversee the monitoring program. The act would ensure sufficient long-term funding for the program.

Food and Nutrition Assistance


The Support for Emerging Democracies Act of 1991 would enhance the ability of the United States to support emerging democracies in their transition to agricultural economies based upon free enterprise.

The act would continue the Food for Progress Act of 1985, which authorized the President to furnish commodities to developing countries, either through financed sales or by grants. Countries would be eligible if they show they are committed to policies that promote economic freedom, private domestic production of food, and efficient domestic markets. The 1991 act would require that both the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and the recipients be accountable for the funds and commodities.

The act also would modify the export credit guarantee program authorized by the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978. The CCC is not authorized to guarantee credit to countries that are determined to be unable to service the debt. The act would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive the debt service requirement of the Soviet Union in fiscal year 1992.

H.R. 3556—Rep. E (Kika) de la Garza (TX)

The Food for Emerging Democracies Act of 1991 would amend the Food for Progress Act of 1985 to include the individual republics of the Soviet Union as eligible recipient countries; expand the list of eligible commodities to include bulk and high-value commodities, fish, edible and nonedible tallow, wood, and processed wood products; and continue the program through 1993.

The bill would also amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to include developing countries and countries that are emerging democracies as those eligible for direct credit sales. The list of eligible commodities would be expanded to include bulk and high-value commodities, fish, edible and nonedible tallow, wood, and processed wood products.

The bill would also amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to establish a program to develop agricultural markets in emerging democracies and to promote cooperation and exchange of information between educational institutions in the United States and in the Soviet Union.

H.R. 3687—Rep. David Dreier (CA)

The Wheat for Weapons Act of 1991 would limit the provision of food assistance to the Soviet Union under P.L. 480.

Assistance would be provided only to the extent that such assistance is compensated through a turnover of military equipment roughly equivalent in value. The President would be authorized to accept military equipment from the Soviet Union in return for food assistance.

H.R. 3711—Dale E. Kildee (MI)

The WIC Supplemental Benefits Act of 1991 would authorize grants to State programs that provide fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods (such as fruit and vegetables) from farmers' markets to people at nutritional risk.

H.R. 3819—Robert J. Mrazek (NY)

The Head Start Entitlement Act of 1992 would amend the Head Start Act to extend program benefits to all eligible children at least 3 years of age.

H.R. 3944—Beryl F. Anthony, Jr. (AR)

The Crop Sharing Hunger Relief Act would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 by encouraging parity in order to increase prices received by farmers while helping to feed starving people around the world.

The act would expand section 170(e) of the code (relates to certain contributions of ordinary income and capital gain property) by allowing deductions for qualified com-
modity contributions. The amount of the deduction allowed would be equal to the lesser of either the parity price of the commodity or 200 percent of the taxpayer’s basis in the property. Qualified commodity contributions would be exempt from alternative minimum taxes.

S. 1742—Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (VT)

The Farmers’ Market Nutrition Act of 1991 amends the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to provide assistance recipients with coupons that may be exchanged for fresh food at farmers’ markets.

This bill would authorize grants to State programs designed to: (1) provide fresh, nutritious unprepared food (such as fruit and vegetables) obtained from farmers’ markets to persons who are nutritionally at risk; and (2) expand the awareness and use of farmers’ markets, thereby increasing sales at the markets.

S. 1804—Sen. Kent Conrad (ND)

The Humanitarian Assistance to the People of the USSR Act would authorize the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to guarantee credit for purchases of U.S. exports to the constituent republics of the former Soviet Union, including Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

Purchases would be made under the export credit programs established under subsections (a) and (b) of section 202 of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978. Under these programs, the CCC provides financing to exporters of agricultural commodities who provide deferred payment terms.

This authorization would be subject to the appropriate authorities of the Government of the Union of Sovereign States and the Government of the Russian Republic making a commitment to negotiate further joint reductions in nuclear forces. In addition, the Government of the Union of Sovereign States would be required to commit and adhere to a schedule for the withdrawal of armed forces from eastern Europe and Cuba.

S. 1858—Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan (NY)

The Welfare Dependency Act of 1991 would provide the public with generally acceptable measures of welfare dependency in order to track dependency over time. These measures would help determine whether dependency is being reduced and whether welfare benefits are adequate.

The act would direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report to Congress on welfare dependency each year. The report would identify predictors and trends in welfare dependency.

The data would cover families and individuals receiving needs-tested benefit programs, including Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamps, Medical Assistance, and General Assistance Programs administered by State and local governments.

S. 1883—Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (SC)

This bill would provide for a joint report by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Agriculture to assist in decisions to reduce administrative duplication, promote coordination of eligibility services, and remove eligibility barriers that restrict access of families, pregnant women, and children to benefits under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 and under Titles IV and XIX of the Social Security Act.

The report would cover the program rules that provide the eligibil-
proaches to transnational threats, including environmental degradation, narcotics trafficking, and terrorism.

The United States would promote international respect for the right to food and medical care, including the protection of such rights of civilians and noncombatants during times of armed conflict. The United States would work through the United Nations to strengthen such rights in international law by ensuring that all people have access to adequate food supplies. The Secretary of State would propose to the United Nations General Assembly that a Declaration and a Convention concerning the right to food be adopted and submitted to all countries for ratification.

The following were introduced before the breakup of the Soviet Union. The name “Soviet Union” is still used, as we do not know how the breakup will affect these bills.

S. 2046—Joseph I. Lieberman (CT)

The Economic Development and Security Act of 1991 would authorize humanitarian, technical, and enterprise fund assistance for the Baltic states and the Soviet republics. The President would be authorized to immediately begin the process of sending food assistance and medicine to the Soviet Union through the Agency for International Development and international and national organizations such as the Red Cross, Project Hope, and Americares.

S. 2081—James M. Jeffords (VT)

The Food for Enterprise Act would amend the Agricultural Trade and Development and Assistance Act of 1954 by adding Title VII—Sale of Agricultural Commodities to Soviet Union to Promote Local Food Distribution and Production. Title VII would authorize the President to establish a program for credit sales of surplus agricultural commodities owned or controlled by USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation to the Soviet Union for emergency food needs.

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