
EXTENDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90 DAYS THE PERIOD
DURING WHICH CERTAIN GRAINS, ETC., MAY BE
IMPORTED FREE OF DUTY FOR USE AS FEED

MARCH 22 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 7), 1944.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GEORGE, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 4410]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4410) to extend for an additional 90 days the period during which certain grains and other products to be used for livestock and poultry feed may be imported from foreign countries free of duty, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the bill as amended do pass.

The bill extends for 90 days the period within which certain grains and other products to be used for livestock and poultry feed may be imported free of duty under Public Law 211, Seventy-eighth Congress, approved December 22, 1943. In addition it adds flaxseed to the list of products specified as duty free under Public Law 211.

Under the amendment suggested by the committee, the exemption with respect to oats would be extended to oats intended to be used for purposes of human consumption. The amendment would not be applicable, however, to oats entered or withdrawn prior to the date of enactment of this bill. The purpose of the Senate amendment is to relieve critical shortages in the supply of oats in the hands of processors of food products.

The report of the Committee on Ways and Means on this bill is as follows:

The Committee on Ways and Means, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 4410) to extend for an additional 90 days the period during which certain grains and other products to be used for livestock and poultry feed may be imported from foreign countries free of duty, having had the same under consideration, report favorably thereon without amendment, and recommend that the bill do pass.

In order to meet the acute domestic shortage of grains for use as livestock and poultry feed, the Congress passed, and the President approved, the so-called Murray resolution (Public Law 211, 78th Cong., approved Dec. 22, 1943), which permitted the free entry, for a period of 90 days, of the following, when imported for feed purposes: Wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed, corn, or hay, or

products in chief value of one or more of the foregoing or derivatives thereof. The resolution contained a proviso that it should not be construed to authorize the importation of wheat for milling purposes.

Unless extended by Congress, the Murray resolution will expire this month. In view of the fact that the domestic shortage of livestock and poultry feeds still obtains, it is essential that the resolution be extended for another 90-day period. In some sections of the country the feed situation is actually desperate, and the extension of the Murray resolution offers the only hope of relief. Unfortunately, much of the benefit which would otherwise have accrued from the original resolution has been lost, due to the fact that potential shipments from Canada have been held up as a result of the shortage of transportation and the fact that the Great Lakes have been frozen over during the winter months, thus preventing movement of the grain by water. With the coming of spring, the latter difficulty will be overcome, provided the authority under the resolution is extended for 90 days additional.

In addition to extending the life of the Murray resolution for another 90 days, the pending bill specifically includes flaxseed as one of the products to be granted temporary free entry for use as feed for livestock and poultry. Flax, itself, was included in the original resolution, with the thought in mind that oil cake and oil-cake meal, which is obtained by crushing flaxseed, would be made available for feed purposes. Such oil cake and oil-cake meal, being a protein concentrate, is highly satisfactory feed. The Customs Bureau ruled that flaxseed could not be entered free of duty under Public Law 211 if imported for milling purposes. However, unless milled, it has almost no value as feed. In order to carry out the intent of Congress under the Murray resolution, the House last month passed the Reed resolution (H. J. Res. 231) which, if enacted, would have permitted the free entry of flaxseed for a period of 90 days in order to encourage the production of oil cake and oil-cake meal for use as feed. This measure has not yet received consideration by the other body, and in order to expedite action, the substance of the Reed resolution has been incorporated in the pending bill as an amendment to the original Murray resolution. This amendment will be effective only as to flaxseed entered or withdrawn after the date the pending bill becomes law and before June 20, 1944.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with the Ramseyer rule, changes in existing law are shown as follows (present text of section I of Public Law 211 is shown in stricken-through type; text as amended by H. R. 4410 is shown in italic type):

~~That notwithstanding the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, the following, when imported into the United States from foreign countries, and when entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, during the period of ninety days beginning with the day following the date of enactment of this joint resolution, to be used as, or as a constituent part of, feed for livestock and poultry, shall be exempt from duty: Wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed, corn, [or hay, or products in chief value of one or more of the foregoing or derivatives thereof. Provided, That this Act shall not be construed to authorize the importation of wheat for milling purposes. As used in this joint resolution the term "United States" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Territories, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.~~

That (a) notwithstanding the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, the following, when imported into the United States from foreign countries, and when entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, at any time after December 22, 1943, and before June 20, 1944, shall be exempt from duty:

(1) Wheat, oats, barley, rye, flax, cottonseed, corn, or hay, or products in chief value of one or more of the foregoing or derivatives thereof, any of the foregoing if to be used as, or as a constituent part of, feed for livestock and poultry.

(2) Flaxseed, if the entry or withdrawal is after the date this paragraph takes effect.

(b) This joint resolution shall not be construed to authorize the importation of wheat for milling purposes.

(c) As used in this joint resolution the term "United States" means the several States, the District of Columbia, the Territories, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.