

Family Grocery and Farmer Relief Act – Section-by-Section

Summary: The Family Grocery and Farmer Relief Act is a competition-driven, pro-farmer, pro-rancher, pro-consumer cost-of-living bill that breaks up dominant meatpackers, reins in foreign-controlled corporate giants, and uses federal tools to stop unfair pricing that drives up grocery bills for American families. It is designed to turn structural reforms into concrete benefits: more competition and greater fairness for farmers and ranchers, more resilient supply chains, and lower prices and better choices at the meat counter.

Secs. 1–3: Short title, findings, definitions

The bill is framed as a cost-of-living and fair-competition measure, documenting how four giant corporations dominate beef, pork, and poultry and squeeze both producers and families. It sets out detailed findings on concentration and its harms, and defines key markets, measures of concentration (including HHI, CR4, and market share), and covered entities so that enforcers can accurately measure market power and close loopholes the industry has exploited in the past.

Title I – Breaking up the meatpacking industry

Title I makes it unlawful for a major meatpacking conglomerate to control more than one major type of meat, forcing the biggest players to choose a line of business instead of sprawling empires across beef, pork, and poultry. It directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to design and enforce divestiture plans, so the law delivers real structural change, not just fines that companies treat as a cost of doing business.

Title II – Breaking up the monopolistic beef marketplace

Title II imposes hard caps on the concentration of beef markets at both the regional and national levels, relying on standard competition metrics (HHI, CR4, and single-firm market share) to trigger mandatory deconcentration. When these thresholds are exceeded, the FTC must order targeted divestitures—selling off plants, facilities, or business units, or spinning off new independent firms—until markets are competitive again, while using equitable powers where needed.

Title II – Stopping vertical lock-in of feedlots

Within Title II, the bill also targets “captive supply” and similar vertical arrangements between large packers and large feedlots that can be the functional equivalent of ownership. It limits how much of any single large feedlot’s cattle a packer can slaughter in a year and creates remedies and penalties when those limits

are violated, protecting independent producers' ability to secure fair prices and preventing abusive buyer power over feedlots.

Title III – Prohibiting foreign leverage over the domestic beef and pork markets

Title III recognizes that some of the most powerful packers operating in the U.S. are foreign-based multinationals that have used state-backed or corruption-tainted financing to acquire U.S. assets, including JBS and other firms. Similar foreign-controlled enterprises to divest U.S. meatpacking and processing assets on a clear timeline, with the FTC empowered to structure those sales to protect competition and national security.

Title III – Reviewing other foreign ownership

Beyond the specifically covered foreign-controlled enterprises, Title III orders a comprehensive study of other foreign-controlled meat and food processors, such as Chinese-owned firms like Smithfield Foods and its recent acquisitions. The FTC must examine their financing, ownership structures, and competitive effects, consult with defense and intelligence agencies, report to Congress, and, where warranted and not disapproved by Congress, move toward divestitures or other structural remedies with meaningful penalties for noncompliance.

Title IV – Bringing prices down for the American family

Title IV links the bill's structural reforms to kitchen-table prices by focusing on unfair and unjustly discriminatory pricing practices in retail and wholesale meat markets that hit independent and neighborhood grocers hardest. It sets out detailed findings on how concentration enables unfair pricing and provides that the FTC's authority under section 406 of the Packers and Stockyards Act and section 5 and section 6(b) of the FTC Act can and should be fully used to investigate meat pricing, challenge unfair methods of competition and price discrimination, and report back to Congress on the FTC's enforcement, studies, and coordination with USDA, DOJ, and other agencies.

Title V – Making divestitures pro-farmer and pro-worker; empowering rural communities

Title V authorizes the Small Business Administration to provide financial assistance, loan guarantees, technical assistance, and other support to farmers' cooperatives and small business concerns that seek to acquire, operate, or expand meatpacking plants or facilities divested under the Act. It instructs the SBA to prioritize locally and regionally focused projects that will enhance competition for livestock and benefit

producers and consumers, and authorizes such sums as necessary to carry out this work.

Title VI – Rulemaking and enforcement authority

Title VI makes failure to divest enforceable under the FTC Act, backed by significant civil penalties tied to violators' revenues and enhanced penalties for knowing violations, as well as equitable remedies such as specific performance and appointment of monitors. It requires the FTC, within set deadlines, to promulgate rules needed to implement the Act—including market definitions, divestiture standards, including protections for workers, and identification of covered foreign-controlled enterprises—and directs that these rules prioritize discouraging monopolistic practices, strengthening small businesses, fostering new independent competitors, and preferring farmers' cooperatives and small firms in divestiture plans.