HR 5961

Farmer's Privacy Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Agriculture and Food
Introduced: Jun 19, 2012
Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 493.
Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 493. (Sep 20, 2012)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/5961

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV-2]
Party: Republican • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Akin, W. Todd [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]	R · VA		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Holden, Tim [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Johnson, Bill [R-OH-6]	R · OH		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]	R · SD		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Smith, Adrian [R-NE-3]	R · NE		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Terry, Lee [R-NE-2]	R · NE		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Jun 19, 2012
Rep. Rehberg, Denny [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Jun 20, 2012
Rep. Hastings, Doc [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Jul 25, 2012
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Jul 25, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Discharged from	Aug 1, 2012
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Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Sep 20, 2012)

Farmer's Privacy Act of 2012 - Prohibits the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in exercising any authority under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act), from conducting aerial surveillance of agricultural land unless the Administrator has: (1) obtained the voluntary written consent of the owner or operator of the land to be surveilled, and (2) obtained from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia a certification of reasonable suspicion that a violation of the Act exists in the area to be surveilled.

Requires the Administrator to ensure that such consent: (1) specifies a period of up to one year during which the consent is effective, (2) contains a specific description of the geographical area to be surveilled, (3) contains limitations on the days and times during which the surveillance may be conducted if requested by such owner or operator, and (4) is granted voluntarily. Prohibits the Administrator from threatening additional, more detailed, or more thorough inspections or coercing or enticing such owner's or operator's consent.

Prohibits the Administrator, except where a land operator or owner has petitioned for copies of information collected through aerial surveillance permitted under this Act or where the information is pertinent to an active EPA investigation or prosecution, from disclosing information collected through such surveillance. Excepts information collected through such surveillance from the Freedom of Information Act.

Requires the destruction of information collected through aerial surveillance conducted under this Act not later than 30 days after collection, unless it is pertinent to an active EPA investigation or prosecution.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 20, 2012:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H. Rept. 112-682.
- **Sep 20, 2012:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 493.
- **Aug 1, 2012:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Aug 1, 2012:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Aug 1, 2012:** Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Discharged.
- **Aug 1, 2012:** Subcommittee on Aviation Discharged.
- **Jun 20, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
- **Jun 20, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Jun 19, 2012:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 19, 2012:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.