S 2947

Food Date Labeling Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: May 18, 2016
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 18, 2016)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2947

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]
Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 18, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 3108	Related bill	**Jun 29, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
114 HR 5298	Identical bill	**May 19, 2016:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Summary (as of May 18, 2016)

Food Date Labeling Act of 2016

This bill establishes requirements that: (1) address food waste that occurs when people throw out fresh food because of their confusion over the meaning of expiration dates on food labels and whether or not the food is still safe to eat, and (2) standardize quality date and safety date food labels. Producers, manufacturers, distributors, or retailers that place a date label on food packaging of a product (food labelers) must use the phrases "best if used by" to indicate food quality and the phrase "expires on" to warn of food that may be unsafe to eat after a specified date.

While labelers may voluntarily choose to include a quality date on packaging, they must include a safety date on ready-to-eat products.

The Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) must establish guidance for food labelers on how to determine quality dates and safety dates for food products.

No one may prohibit the sale, donation, or use of a product after the quality date for the product has passed.

USDA and the Department of Health and Human Services must educate consumers on the meaning of quality date and safety date food labels.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 18, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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