

## HR 5298

### Food Date Labeling Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Health

**Introduced:** May 19, 2016

**Current Status:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, f

**Latest Action:** 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. (May 19, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5298>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** ME • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	May 19, 2016
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	May 19, 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 S 2947	Identical bill	May 18, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## **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.

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **May 19, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **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.