

S 569

Farm to School Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 25, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1120-1121; text of measure as introduced: CR S1121) (Feb 25, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/569>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS] | R · MS | | Feb 25, 2015 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Aug 5, 2015 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Sep 15, 2015 |
| Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT] | D · CT | | Sep 22, 2015 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Oct 19, 2015 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] | I · ME | | Oct 28, 2015 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Nov 3, 2015 |
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | Dec 1, 2015 |
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Dec 7, 2015 |
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Feb 1, 2016 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Jul 13, 2016 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Jul 14, 2016 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Sep 21, 2016 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee | Senate | Referred To | Feb 25, 2015 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 114 HR 5003 | Related bill | Dec 8, 2016: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 665. |
| 114 S 3136 | Related bill | Jul 6, 2016: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 547. |
| 114 HR 1061 | Identical bill | Apr 29, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education. |

Summary (as of Feb 25, 2015)

Farm to School Act of 2015

This bill amends the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Farm to School Program through FY2021 and modify the program. The program currently provides grants and technical assistance to schools, state and local agencies, Indian tribal organizations, agricultural producers, and nonprofit entities to improve access to local foods in schools.

The bill makes schools participating in the Summer Food Service Program for children, the early care and afterschool portions of the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the School Breakfast Program eligible to participate in the program. It also permits USDA to provide land-grant colleges and universities with grants, research, and technical assistance under the program.

The purposes for grants awarded under the program are expanded to include agricultural literacy and nutrition education. The bill requires USDA to provide technical assistance, research, and information to increase awareness of and participation in farm to school programs among agricultural producers.

In awarding grants, USDA must improve local food procurement and distribution options for agricultural producers and eligible schools. USDA is permitted to fund projects that include innovative approaches to aggregation, processing, transportation, and distribution.

The bill establishes new limitations on the amount and duration of grants.

The bill also establishes reporting requirements and limits funds that may be used for administrative costs.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 25, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 25, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S1120-1121; text of measure as introduced: CR S1121)