

S 1680

Food Recovery Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jul 31, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Jul 31, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1680>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 31, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 31, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 31, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 31, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 31, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3444	Related bill	Jul 28, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Food Recovery Act of 2017

This bill provides funding and establishes requirements to reduce food waste and standardize date labeling on food.

The bill authorizes grants or loans for:

- raising awareness about wasted food and food recovery efforts to reduce the quantity of wasted food;
- reducing food waste at schools and farms; and
- reducing food waste in accordance with the Food Recovery Hierarchy of the Environmental Protection Agency, including for a state organic waste reduction plan, food waste management infrastructure, and certain composting or anaerobic digestion food waste-to-energy projects.

The bill provides funds for: (1) state storage and distribution costs under the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and (2) national media campaigns to decrease food waste.

The bill also:

- establishes a Food Recovery Liaison within the Department of Agriculture (USDA),
- specifies that composting is eligible for support under USDA's conservation programs,
- expands the liability protections for the donation of food, and
- requires companies that receive federal food service contracts to donate surplus food to nonprofit organizations that assist food-insecure people.

The bill requires date labels on food packaging to include the phrases "best if used by" to indicate food quality and "use by" to warn of food that may be unsafe to eat after a specified date.

Labelers may include a quality date on packaging, but must include a safety date on ready-to-eat products. No one may prohibit the sale, donation, or use of a product based on passage of the quality date of the product.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 31, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 31, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.