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Local FARMS Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Oct 5, 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. (Oct 5, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1947>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jan 30, 2018
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 12, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 5, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 5316	Related bill	Apr 30, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
115 HR 3941	Related bill	Oct 4, 2017: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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.

Local Food And Regional Market Supply Act or the Local FARMS Act

This bill consolidates, modifies, and authorizes several Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs to expand regional or local food markets and implement food safety practices.

The bill authorizes and provides mandatory funding for a new Agricultural Market Development Program that is administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and consolidates:

- the Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program,
- Value-Added Producer Grants,
- regional food chain coordination, and
- public-private partnerships to plan and develop regional food systems.

The bill modifies the Food Safety Outreach Program to move the program to the AMS, provide mandatory funding, and expand the project priorities.

The bill also:

- establishes a national food safety cost-share program;
- reauthorizes the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program;
- authorizes rural development grants and loans to be used for meat, dairy, and poultry processing infrastructure;
- allows institutions participating in the school food programs to use locally grown, locally raised, or locally caught as a product specification;
- authorizes grants for produce prescription programs for low-income individuals and households; and
- reauthorizes the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program and expands eligibility to include low-income veterans.

The bill modifies the Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program to: (1) require the majority of funds to be reserved for national or regional programs involving multiple states, and (2) expand the purposes of the program to include food waste reduction.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 5, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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