

S 2139

Chesapeake Bay Farm Bill Enhancements Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Nov 16, 2017

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 S7298-7299) (Nov 16, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2139>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 16, 2017
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 18, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 16, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4420	Related bill	Dec 5, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.

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This bill amends the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify and increase funding for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

(The RCPP operates through several USDA conservation programs to provide funding for partners to join in efforts with producers to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife, and related natural resources on regional or watershed scales. The RCPP includes the purposes and functions of several conservation programs such as the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative.)

The bill modifies the RCPP to:

- increase mandatory funding and revise the requirements for distributing funds,
- allow in-kind support to count toward a partner's matching contribution,
- allow partners to apply for a funding renewal of a partnership agreement,
- authorize USDA to provide information and feedback to applicants throughout the application process,
- authorize grants for partners to directly operate conservation projects,
- authorize USDA to advance funding to partners for technical assistance for project development and outreach activities,
- require USDA to make publicly available the amounts available for technical assistance under a partnership agreement,
- limit USDA costs for technical assistance to costs specific and necessary to carry out the objectives of the partnership agreement,
- modify the criteria for a critical conservation area, and
- revise the requirements for prioritizing applications.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 16, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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