

## S 2624

EQIP Improvement Act of 2018

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Mar 22, 2018

**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. (Mar 22, 2018)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/2624>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Mar 22, 2018

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 22, 2018

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## **EQIP Improvement Act of 2018**

This bill amends the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). (EQIP provides financial and technical assistance for agricultural producers and land owners to implement certain conservation practices.)

The bill modifies EQIP to:

- reduce the maximum federal cost-share from 75% to 40% for specified practices,
- repeal the requirement for at least 60% of the funds made available for EQIP payments to be targeted at practices relating to livestock production, and
- reduce the five-year EQIP payment cap from \$450,000 to \$150,000.

The bill also requires USDA to: (1) coordinate the program with the conservation effects assessments carried out by USDA, and (2) revise the guidance issued to states for allocating funds to require data regarding environmental concerns to be used as a primary factor to prioritize projects.

USDA must prioritize EQIP applications that consist only of the performance of certain land management or vegetative practices that are a cost-effective means of addressing the most pressing impairments that threaten to degrade or impair water quality, water quantity, soil or related natural resources within a local watershed, or a specific natural resource boundary.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 22, 2018:** Introduced in Senate
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