HR 3104

Food Deserts Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Agriculture and Food
Introduced: Jun 29, 2017
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition. (Jul 24, 2017)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/3104

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]
Party: Democratic • **State:** IN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Feb 6, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 24, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 29, 2017)

Food Deserts Act of 2017

This bill establishes a Department of Agriculture program to provide grants to states for revolving funds to support the establishment and operation of grocery stores in underserved communities.

An *underserved community* is a community that has (1) limited access to affordable, healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, in grocery retail stores or farmer-to-consumer direct markets; and (2) a high rate of hunger, a high rate of food insecurity, or a high poverty rate.

States must use the funds to make loans to support grocery stores in underserved communities, including for opening a store (excluding new construction), supporting or purchasing an existing store, or supporting a store located in a community that would be underserved without the store.

States may only make loans for grocery stores that meet requirements related to:

- emphasizing unprocessed, healthful foods;
- providing staple foods and a variety of raw fruits and vegetables;
- having a plan to keep the foods in stock;
- charging prices at or below market averages;
- meeting specified matching requirements using nonfederal funds; and
- being qualified to operate a store or having partnerships with organizations that provide technical assistance.

States must prioritize loan applications from entities that meet criteria related to:

- hiring workers from the underserved community,
- providing classes or educational information about a healthful diet,
- sourcing food from local urban farms and gardens,
- not selling alcohol or tobacco products, or
- demonstrating existing supply chain relationships in the grocery industry.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 24, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition.
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E928)
- **Jun 29, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

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