

HR 4232

B-CROP Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Nov 2, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. (Dec 5, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4232>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Nov 2, 2017
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Nov 2, 2017
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Nov 2, 2017
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Nov 2, 2017
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Nov 7, 2017
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]	D · AZ		Nov 7, 2017
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Nov 7, 2017
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Nov 21, 2017
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Jan 17, 2018
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Apr 13, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 5, 2017
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 3, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 3360	Related bill	Aug 21, 2018: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5761)
115 S 1676	Identical bill	Jul 31, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Broadband Connections for Rural Opportunities Program Act or the B-CROP Act

This bill amends the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to include grants in the Department of Agriculture (USDA) program that provides loans and loan guarantees for broadband telecommunications services in rural areas.

In making grants, loans, or loan guarantees under the program, USDA must give the highest priority to applicants that offer to provide broadband service to the greatest proportion of unserved rural households or rural households that do not have the minimum acceptable level of residential broadband service.

USDA must then give priority to projects to serve rural communities that:

- have fewer than 10,000 permanent residents,
- are experiencing out-migration,
- have a high percentage of low-income residents, and
- are isolated from other significant population centers.

A grant may not exceed 50% of the development cost of the project. USDA may increase the limit to 75% for projects that serve a remote or low-income area that does not have access to broadband service from any provider.

USDA must: (1) provide technical assistance and training to entities that are eligible for the loans, loan guarantees, or grants; and (2) use a specified portion of the appropriations provided for the program for this purpose.

The bill sets forth reporting requirements for recipients of the grants, loans, or loan guarantees.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 5, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
- **Nov 3, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Nov 2, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.