

HR 5450

To increase the access of small farmers in Puerto Rico to Federal agriculture programs, and for other purposes.

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Apr 10, 2018

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit. (Apr 30, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/5450>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 30, 2018
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 12, 2018
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 12, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Office of Advocacy and Outreach to increase the access of small farmers who grow specialty crops in Puerto Rico to loans under several USDA programs. (Specialty crops include fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture.) The programs covered by the bill include microloan programs, programs for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, programs for beginning farmers, and the emergency loan program.

The USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach must also carry out a training program to teach best farming practices to small farmers in Puerto Rico.

The Department of the Interior must develop a program to allow small farmers to farm on federal land in Puerto Rico if: (1) the land is not environmentally sensitive, (2) farming on the land will not harm endangered native species or natural habitats, and (3) the land is suitable for farming.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 30, 2018:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.
- **Apr 12, 2018:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Apr 12, 2018:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.
- **Apr 10, 2018:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 10, 2018:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.