

S 741

Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Mar 28, 2017

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 28, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/741>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

Party: Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jun 19, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 28, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 1753	Identical bill	Mar 28, 2017: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Opportunities for Fairness in Farming Act of 2017

This bill establishes restrictions and requirements for checkoff programs, which are programs overseen by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to promote and provide research and information for a particular agricultural commodity without reference to specific producers or brands.

The bill prohibits boards established to carry out a checkoff program or a USDA order issued under a checkoff program from entering into a contract or agreement to carry out program activities with a party that engages in activities to influence any government policy or action that relates to agriculture.

A board or its employees or agents acting in their official capacity may not engage in any:

- act that may involve a conflict of interest;
- anticompetitive activity;
- unfair or deceptive act or practice; or
- act that may be disparaging to, or in any way negatively portray, another agricultural commodity or product.

Upon approval of USDA, a board may enter directly into contracts and agreements to carry out generic promotion, research, or other activities authorized by law if the agreement or contract requires records accounting for the funds received to be submitted to the board.

The board must meet specified requirements regarding the publication of budgets and disbursements of funds.

The USDA Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office must conduct specified audits regarding checkoff programs.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 28, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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