

S 2243

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Improvement Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 24, 2021

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. (Jun 24, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2243>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 24, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4162	Related bill	Jul 22, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Improvement Act of 2021

This bill modifies and provides additional funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), with a particular focus on greenhouse gas reduction. Under the program, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) supports energy efficiency and renewable energy development for agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

As part of the selection criteria for a grant or loan from the program, USDA must consider the potential of a project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide other climate benefits. The bill also prohibits USDA from imposing restrictions on the quantity of energy that is generated under a grant or loan.

Further, the bill expands the program by making agricultural producer cooperatives, electric cooperatives, and nongovernmental organizations eligible for financial assistance under the program. The bill also (1) increases from 25% to 50% the portion of a project's cost that may be covered by a grant, and (2) establishes a reserve fund to provide grants and other financial assistance related to underutilized renewable energy technologies.

In addition, USDA must study dual-use energy systems (i.e., systems where both renewable energy and agricultural production occur on the same piece of land) and ensure that grant and loan recipients receive outreach, technical assistance, and education concerning such systems.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 24, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 24, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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