

## HR 2918

Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Apr 30, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research. (Jun 21, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2918>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]

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

### Cosponsors (24 total)

| Cosponsor                            | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]         | R · IL        |      | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]              | D · WI        |      | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]          | R · WA        |      | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Panetta, Jimmy [D-CA-20]        | D · CA        |      | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]       | D · ME        |      | Apr 30, 2021 |
| Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]       | D · CA        |      | Jul 9, 2021  |
| Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]       | D · OR        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]      | D · OR        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Craig, Angie [D-MN-2]           | D · MN        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]      | R · NE        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]         | D · NH        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Pappas, Chris [D-NH-1]          | D · NH        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]            | D · WI        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira [R-FL-27] | R · FL        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Schrader, Kurt [D-OR-5]         | D · OR        |      | Jul 19, 2021 |
| Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]         | D · CA        |      | Jul 29, 2021 |
| Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]     | D · MA        |      | Jul 29, 2021 |
| Rep. Herrera Beutler, Jaime [R-WA-3] | R · WA        |      | Aug 23, 2021 |
| Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]          | D · WA        |      | Sep 3, 2021  |
| Rep. Schrier, Kim [D-WA-8]           | D · WA        |      | Sep 20, 2021 |
| Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]          | D · MD        |      | Oct 15, 2021 |
| Rep. Kim, Young [R-CA-39]            | R · CA        |      | Jan 6, 2022  |
| Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]  | R · PA        |      | Mar 30, 2022 |
| Rep. Trone, David J. [D-MD-6]        | D · MD        |      | Apr 1, 2022  |

## Committee Activity

| Committee             | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|-----------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Agriculture Committee | House   | Referred to | Jun 21, 2021 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Summary (as of Apr 30, 2021)

### Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to undertake rulemaking and other activities to implement certain recommendations of the National Organic Standards Board (a federal advisory board that considers and makes recommendations concerning the production, handling, and processing of organic products).

Specifically, USDA must issue within a specified time line final rules for implementing recommendations approved (1) by the board between December 31, 2000, and the date of the bill's enactment; and (2) with at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting where a quorum was present. If USDA determines issuing rules for such recommendations is not practicable, it must identify and report to Congress about the specific constraints that preclude rulemaking.

In addition, the bill sets out a process and time line for USDA to implement through rulemaking future recommendations of the board that are approved by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a meeting where a quorum was present.

The bill also requires state officials or entities that certify organic farms or handling operations to report annually concerning the implementation of and compliance with any new rule or guidance.

## Actions Timeline

- **Jun 21, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research.
- **Apr 30, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 30, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.