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Increased TSP Access Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: May 2, 2023

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. (May 2, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1400>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 2, 2023
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		May 2, 2023
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Sep 5, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 19, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Oct 24, 2023
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 15, 2023
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 25, 2024
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 7, 2024
Sen. Ricketts, Pete [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 20, 2024
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 21, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 2, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3036	Identical bill	Jun 1, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

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This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to modify the certification process for Technical Service Providers (TSPs) at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by establishing an approval process for nonfederal certifying entities and a streamlined certification process for TSPs that hold certain specialty certifications. (TSPs are third-party service providers, such as private businesses, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations, who work on behalf of customers to offer planning, design, and implementation services that meet NRCS criteria.)

The bill specifies that USDA must ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, third-party providers with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation are eligible to become approved TSPs.

USDA must provide a streamlined certification process for TSPs who hold appropriate specialty certifications (e.g., certified crop advisors).

In determining the eligibility of a nonfederal certifying entity, USDA must consider the ability, experience, expertise, and history of the entity. USDA must decide whether to approve an application submitted by a nonfederal certifying entity to certify TSPs not later than 40 business days after receiving an application.

USDA must review a TSP's certification by a nonfederal certifying entity not later than 10 business days after receiving a notification from the nonfederal entity. If the certification is satisfactory, USDA must include the TSP on a USDA-maintained registry of certified TSPs.

The bill also specifies that TSPs must be paid at rates equivalent to technical assistance provided by USDA.

Further, USDA must provide accessible public information on TSPs, including information on funding, contributions, certification results, and utilization rates.

Actions Timeline

- **May 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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