

S 1715

Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: May 18, 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 18, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1715>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 18, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		May 18, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 18, 2023
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 9, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 18, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3439	Related bill	Jun 23, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Forestry.
118 S 188	Identical bill	Jan 31, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S174-175)

Wildfire Emergency Act of 2023

This bill provides for programs and activities in support of forest restoration, wildfire mitigation, and energy resilience.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) shall establish a pilot program under which it may enter into conservation finance agreements with public or private persons to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration and land management projects across the National Forest System.

The bill provides for an increased federal cost share for conservation finance projects that would primarily benefit one or more low-income communities and for which the nonfederal entities involved cannot meet a specified cost share requirement.

The Department of Energy shall establish a program to support critical facilities (e.g., hospitals), including by improving the energy resilience and power needs of critical facilities through the development and use of microgrids, renewable energy, energy efficiency, reduced electricity demand, and on-site storage.

The bill expands the weatherization assistance program to support the use of fire-resistant materials.

The bill directs USDA and the Department of the Interior to take actions to improve the detection and monitoring of wildfires.

USDA and Interior shall establish one or more centers in western states to train individuals in methods relevant to the mitigation of wildfire risk.

USDA shall establish a competitive grant program to support workforce development in forestry and fire management.

USDA may issue grants to increase community capacity for land stewardship activities.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 18, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.