

S 2023

Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 15, 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. (Jun 15, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2023>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 15, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 15, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 15, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 15, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 20, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 15, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1840	Related bill	Mar 28, 2023: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Energy and Commerce, House Administration, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
118 S 1016	Related bill	Mar 28, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Seeds and Breeds for the Future Act

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide competitive research grants for the development of public cultivars (i.e., seeds) and animal breeds. The bill defines a *public cultivar* and *public animal breed* as the commercially available uniform end product of a publicly funded breeding program that has been sufficiently tested to demonstrate improved characteristics and stable performance. Further, if intellectual property rights are asserted, they are in the form of plant patents or plant variety protection and not utility patents.

USDA must give priority to high-potential research projects that lead to the release of public cultivars and animal breeds, including those with specified adaptations, features, and benefits (e.g., that are regionally adapted, environmentally resilient, or of indigenous and place-based importance and are endangered).

Any person who receives title to a plant patent or plant variety protection developed with grant funds may grant the exclusive right to use or sell that public cultivar or animal breed to another person only if that person agrees to substantially produce in the United States any cultivars or animals embodying, or produced through the use of, the public cultivar or animal breed.

The bill also establishes a coordinator for public cultivars and animal breeding research within the USDA Research, Education, and Extension Office, whose duties include developing a strategic plan and promoting collaboration.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 15, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 15, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.