

S 2199

Pollinator-Friendly Plant Labeling Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jun 22, 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 22, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2199>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Jun 22, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 22, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Pollinator-Friendly Plant Labeling Act

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a voluntary pollinator-friendly plant labeling and certification program.

Specifically, a producer (i.e., a nursery or farmer growing a plant or cultivating a seed for sale) may submit an application to USDA for approval to sell or label a plant as a *USDA pollinator-friendly* plant. To qualify, a plant must (1) be living; (2) have a Natural Resources Conservation Service determination that it is native to the United States and known to be beneficial to pollinators (including providing habitat and forage for pollinators); and (3) be produced without any pesticide or substance prohibited from being used in the production or handling of organic products under the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

USDA must approve an application for certification if the producer meets the requirements and has been third-party certified.

Further, a plant labeled as *USDA pollinator-friendly* must comply with additional labeling requirements (e.g., include the name of the plant producer and an instruction specifying that distributors and retailers are not permitted to apply any pesticide product to the plant).

The bill also provides for USDA investigation and enforcement authority. Any person who knowingly mislabels a plant as *USDA pollinator-friendly* is subject to a civil penalty.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 22, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 22, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.