

S 2370

BARK Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jul 19, 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. (Jul 19, 2023)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2370

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]

Party: Democratic • State: GA • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 19, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 25, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 19, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 4750	Related bill	Jul 19, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Bring Animals Relief and Kibble Act of 2023 or the BARK Act of 2023

This bill provides civil and criminal liability protections for the donation of pet food and pet supplies under the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. (The act shields persons that donate and distribute food to nonprofit organizations from liability for injuries caused by those donated products, with exceptions.)

Specifically, the bill limits liability for persons or gleaners arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of food or pet supplies that are donated in good faith by the person or gleaner to a nonprofit organization, state, or local government for direct distribution to pets, service animals, or emotional support animals. *Gleaner* means a person who harvests for free distribution to the needy, or for donation to a nonprofit organization, an agricultural crop that has been donated by the owner.

Further, the bill limits liability for a nonprofit organization, state, or local government arising from donated items received from a person or gleaner in good faith for direct distribution to pets, service animals, or emotional support animals.

The bill also specifies that the existing exception that permits a person, gleaner, or nonprofit organization to be held liable for acts or omissions that constitute gross negligence or intentional misconduct applies to the liability protections established by this bill.

Further, the bill expands provisions that protect a person who allows the collection or gleaning of donations on their property from liability arising from certain injuries or deaths to include donations for distribution to pets, service animals, or emotional support animals.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 19, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 19, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.