

S 272

Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 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. (Feb 2, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/272>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 2, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 2, 2023

Committee Activity

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

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 805	Identical bill	Mar 6, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act of 2023

This bill establishes additional requirements for larger animal feeding operations (AFOs) owned or controlled by industrial operators and increases handling requirements for livestock and poultry.

Specifically, the bill establishes the Office of High-Risk AFO Disaster Mitigation and Enforcement within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and requires such industrial operators to register with the office and submit annual disaster mitigation plans (e.g., for public health emergencies and major disasters). In addition, industrial operators must pay annual disaster mitigation maintenance fees to the office and are liable for costs associated with disaster events or depopulation (the rapid destruction of animals in response to urgent circumstances).

Industrial operators are restricted from using specified methods of depopulation; any person may sue an industrial operator or USDA over a violation. Further, USDA must establish depopulation standards that rapidly induce unconsciousness and death with minimal pain and distress.

The Department of Labor must enforce minimum labor standards for industrial operators regarding covered workers or affected contract growers in disaster mitigation events, including whistleblower protections and health insurance requirements. Further, industrial operators may not use incarcerated workers in these events.

The bill also includes provisions on the handling of livestock and poultry, such as

- requiring USDA to set additional standards for animal transport;
- including poultry in the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 and creating a USDA grant program to transition processing facilities to a different slaughter method;
- requiring USDA to promulgate certain regulations regarding the humane treatment, euthanasia, and disposition of nonambulatory livestock; and
- terminating programs that allow for slaughter speeds that exceed existing limits or reduce the use of federal inspectors.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.