

S 2874

Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Sep 20, 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. (Sep 20, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2874>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

Party: Democratic • State: OH • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 21, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 25, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 20, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5589	Identical bill	Jan 11, 2024: Referred to the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture.

Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act of 2023

This bill directs the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to establish a fresh produce program that serves individuals at risk of food and nutrition insecurity.

Specifically, the AMS must enter into contracts with growers, distributors, food hubs, and others to procure U.S.- grown fresh produce (excluding legumes) for distribution to organizations that serve individuals at risk (e.g., nonprofit food banks and pantries, schools, child or senior care centers, and community-based organizations).

Under the AMS contracts, the produce must meet specific requirements. For example, the produce must be grown in the United States, include locally grown produce, and include at least seven varieties of fresh produce that are distributed.

The AMS must prioritize contracts with eligible growers, distributors, food hubs, and others that are (or source produce from)

- beginning farmers;
- small or mid-sized farms that are structured as family farms; or
- socially disadvantaged farmers, including women-owned and veteran-owned eligible entities.

As part of the program, the AMS must provide (1) information to assist small farmers, beginning farmers, veteran farmers, and socially disadvantaged farmers in obtaining food safety certifications; (2) financial assistance for changes and upgrades to improve food safety; and (3) technical assistance to eligible fresh produce growers, distributors, food hubs, and others.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office must submit a report to Congress that evaluates the effectiveness of the program with respect to, among other things, increasing low-income households' access to a wide variety of fresh produce and increasing the federal government's procurement of fresh produce.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 20, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 20, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.