

S 3023

Soil CARE Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Oct 4, 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. (Oct 4, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3023>

Sponsor

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

Party: Democratic • State: OR • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 4, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 4, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5951	Identical bill	Jan 18, 2024: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

Soil Conservation And Regeneration Education Act of 2023 or the Soil CARE Act of 2023

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to establish a training program for biological soil health management in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Under the bill, *biological soil health management* means land management methods used to increase and balance soil biology, such as microbial biomass and macrofauna, for the purpose of improving biological functions, including forming and stabilizing soil structure, cycling nutrients, controlling pests and disease, and degrading or detoxifying contaminants.

The training program must (1) provide education, resources, and technical support to USDA personnel and third-party providers on the rapidly evolving methodologies, science, and practices for improving soil health; and (2) assist USDA personnel and third-party providers in supporting agricultural producers in understanding and implementing biological soil health management systems that regenerate farmland.

The training program must be available twice every two years in each NRCS region and include both an online curriculum and in-person training workshops.

The training program must be developed and delivered through cooperative agreements with entities with biological soil health management systems expertise and experience working with and training producers.

The bill includes minimum curriculum requirements for the training program, including specific units on soil health and diversified production systems.

USDA must review and update the training program curriculum every two years.

Actions Timeline

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