

HR 5691

Drought Assistance Improvement Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Sep 26, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. (Sep 26, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5691>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Letlow, Julia [R-LA-5]

Party: Republican • **State:** LA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Oct 25, 2023
Rep. Graves, Garret [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Feb 20, 2024
Rep. Carter, Troy A. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Mar 1, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 26, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 3836	Related bill	Feb 29, 2024: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Drought Assistance Improvement Act

This bill modifies access to two Farm Service Agency (FSA) administered programs: the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

The bill modifies the LFP to allow for one monthly payment when a county has four consecutive weeks of a D2 rating (severe drought) and two payments for eight consecutive weeks of D2. Currently, one payment is available for eight consecutive weeks of D2. (LFP makes payments to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses on drought-affected pastureland, including cropland planted specifically for grazing.)

The bill also expands coverage under ELAP for losses caused by adverse weather or drought. The bill includes under ELAP the loss of a crawfish harvest due to adverse weather or drought. (ELAP provides payments to producers of livestock, honey bees, and farm-raised fish as compensation for losses due to disease, adverse weather, feed or water shortages, or other conditions that are not covered under other programs.)

The FSA must establish ELAP documentation standards for (1) collecting data, (2) the production of crawfish, and (3) defining loss conditions due to drought.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 26, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 26, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.