

## HR 5951

Soil CARE Act of 2023

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Oct 12, 2023

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology. (Jan 18, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/5951>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Salinas, Andrea [D-OR-6]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Oct 12, 2023
Rep. Hoyle, Val T. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Oct 12, 2023

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 18, 2024

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 3023	Identical bill	Oct 4, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## **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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- **Jan 18, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.
- **Oct 25, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- **Oct 12, 2023:** Introduced in House