

HR 7391

SUNRAY for Energy Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 15, 2024

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development. (Aug 30, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/7391>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Sorensen, Eric [D-IL-17]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Crockett, Jasmine [D-TX-30]	D · TX		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Pingree, Chellie [D-ME-1]	D · ME		Feb 15, 2024
Rep. Bishop, Sanford D. [D-GA-2]	D · GA		Mar 12, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 30, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 1778	Related bill	May 31, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Securing and Understanding our National Renewable Agriculture Yields for Energy Act or the SUNRAY for Energy Act

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct a study, research, and demonstration regarding agrivoltaic systems. The bill defines *agrivoltaic system* as a system under which solar energy production and agricultural production, including crop or animal production, occur in an integrated manner on the same piece of land through the duration of a project.

Specifically, the bill directs USDA to study agrivoltaic systems, which includes conducting a review of current research and identifying research gaps. USDA must also develop a five-year plan for using USDA's research, extension, outreach, conservation, and renewable energy activities to better support agrivoltaic systems that do not displace agricultural production.

USDA must also develop a definition for *agrivoltaic system* for the purposes of incorporating these systems into federal agriculture and energy programs, and investment tax credits.

In addition, the Agricultural Research Service must establish and maintain a network of agrivoltaic systems research and demonstration sites in multiple U.S. regions to investigate increasing agricultural productivity and profitability, enhancing agricultural resilience and the capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, protecting biodiversity, and increasing economic opportunities in rural communities.

Further, the Natural Resources Conservation Service must develop national and regional guidance on best practices for the protection of soil health and productivity during the siting, construction, operation, and decommissioning of solar energy systems on agricultural land. The guidance must be updated at least every two years.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 30, 2024:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development.
- **Feb 15, 2024:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 15, 2024:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.