

HR 805

Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Feb 2, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry. (Mar 6, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/805>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Meng, Grace [D-NY-6]	D · NY		Feb 2, 2023
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Feb 17, 2023
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Feb 17, 2023
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 10, 2023
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		May 22, 2023
Rep. Kamlager-Dove, Sydney [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jul 12, 2023
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Aug 18, 2023
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Oct 2, 2023
Rep. Escobar, Veronica [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Nov 17, 2023
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-12]	D · MI		Jun 25, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 6, 2023
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 2, 2023
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 3, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 272	Identical bill	Feb 2, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Summary (as of Feb 2, 2023)

Industrial Agriculture Accountability Act of 2023

This bill establishes additional requirements for larger animal feeding operations (AFOs) owned or controlled by industrial operators and increases handling requirements for livestock and poultry.

Specifically, the bill establishes the Office of High-Risk AFO Disaster Mitigation and Enforcement within the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and requires such industrial operators to register with the office and submit annual disaster mitigation plans (e.g., for public health emergencies and major disasters). In addition, industrial operators must pay annual disaster mitigation maintenance fees to the office and are liable for costs associated with disaster events or depopulation (the rapid destruction of animals in response to urgent circumstances).

Industrial operators are restricted from using specified methods of depopulation; any person may sue an industrial operator or USDA over a violation. Further, USDA must establish depopulation standards that rapidly induce unconsciousness and death with minimal pain and distress.

The Department of Labor must enforce minimum labor standards for industrial operators regarding covered workers or affected contract growers in disaster mitigation events, including whistleblower protections and health insurance requirements. Further, industrial operators may not use incarcerated workers in these events.

The bill also includes provisions on the handling of livestock and poultry, such as

- requiring USDA to set additional standards for animal transport;
- including poultry in the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 and creating a USDA grant program to transition processing facilities to a different slaughter method;
- requiring USDA to promulgate certain regulations regarding the humane treatment, euthanasia, and disposition of nonambulatory livestock;
- and terminating programs that allow for slaughter speeds that exceed existing limits or reduce the use of federal inspectors.

Actions Timeline

- Mar 6, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.
- Feb 3, 2023: Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- Feb 2, 2023: Introduced in House
- Feb 2, 2023: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.