

S 96

Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Agriculture and Food

Introduced: Jan 26, 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. (Jan 26, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/96>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • State: NJ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 26, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 21, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 16, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Oct 17, 2023
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 10, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 26, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 S 2633	Related bill	Jul 27, 2023: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.
118 HR 1167	Related bill	Feb 24, 2023: Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Financial Services, the Judiciary, and the Budget, 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.

Summary (as of Jan 26, 2023)

Justice for Black Farmers Act of 2023

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide a variety of assistance to address historical discrimination and disparities in the agricultural sector.

For example, the bill establishes an equity commission in USDA to examine discrimination by the agency against Black farmers and ranchers and recommend actions to end the systematic disparities in the treatment of Black farmers and ranchers.

USDA must also establish a Farm Conservation Corps to provide young adults who are from socially disadvantaged groups with the skills necessary to pursue careers in farming and ranching.

The bill provides funding for historically Black colleges and universities to commence and expand courses of study that are focused on careers in agriculture or related disciplines. The bill also increases the authorization of appropriations for a program to resolve issues relating to ownership and succession on farmland. Additionally, it expands credit assistance for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Further, the bill (1) establishes that a minimum of 50% of a covered packer's (not including a packer that owns only one livestock processing plant) daily volume of livestock slaughter must be purchased through spot market sales from nonaffiliated producers; (2) increases funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program; and (3) gives priority to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers for conservation technical assistance, the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Rural Energy for America Program.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 26, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 26, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.