

## S 156

### Increased TSP Access Act of 2025

**Congress:** 119 (2025–2027, Current)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Agriculture and Food

**Introduced:** Jan 21, 2025

**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 21, 2025)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/156>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Jan 21, 2025

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 21, 2025

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 575	Identical bill	Feb 28, 2025: Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

## **Increased TSP Access Act of 2025**

This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to modify the certification process for Technical Service Providers (TSPs) at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by establishing an approval process for nonfederal certifying entities and a streamlined certification process for TSPs that hold certain specialty certifications.

As background, TSPs are third-party service providers, such as private businesses, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations, that work on behalf of customers to offer planning, design, and implementation services that meet NRCS criteria.

The bill specifies that USDA must ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, third-party providers with expertise in the technical aspects of conservation practice design, implementation, and evaluation are eligible to become approved TSPs.

USDA must provide a streamlined certification process for TSPs who hold appropriate specialty certifications (e.g., certified crop advisors).

In determining the eligibility of a nonfederal certifying entity, USDA must consider the ability, experience, expertise, and history of the entity. USDA must decide whether to approve an application submitted by a nonfederal certifying entity to certify TSPs within a specified time period.

USDA must also review a TSP's certification by a nonfederal certifying entity within a specified time period. If the certification is satisfactory, USDA must include the TSP on a USDA-maintained registry of certified TSPs.

The bill also specifies that TSPs must be paid at rates equivalent to technical assistance provided by USDA.

Further, USDA must provide accessible public information on TSPs, including information on funding, certification results, and utilization rates.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jan 21, 2025:** Introduced in Senate
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