HR 3685

JUST Act of 2025

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Agriculture and Food
Introduced: Jun 3, 2025
Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture. (Jun 3, 2025)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3685

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jackson, Jonathan L. [D-IL-1]
Party: Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jun 3, 2025
Rep. Thanedar, Shri [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 5, 2025

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 3, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Agriculture and Food

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 3, 2025)

Just USDA Standards and Transparency Act of 2025 or the JUST Act of 2025

This bill increases Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversight and enforcement of civil rights-related violations and actions.

USDA must take appropriate corrective action regarding any USDA official or employee who engages in certain discriminatory actions, retaliatory actions, harassment, or civil rights violations (e.g., failure to provide appropriate information regarding relevant USDA programs and services). A corrective action (1) is any action that would enhance civil rights at USDA, including policy or programmatic changes; and (2) may include disciplinary actions (e.g., removal from federal service or a letter of reprimand).

The bill shifts the burden of proof from a farmer or rancher to USDA in an appeal to the USDA National Appeals Division. Specifically, USDA must prove by substantial evidence the validity of a USDA adverse decision.

Further, a farmer or rancher who fails to comply fully with the requirements to receive a loan may be eligible for equitable relief if the USDA determines the individual made a good faith effort to comply with the loan requirements.

The bill also

- directs USDA to establish an Office of the Legal Advisor for Civil Rights and Office of the Civil Rights Ombudsperson;
- creates the required position of Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights (currently an optional USDA position); and
- allows the Assistant Secretary to grant relief, without prior approval, to farmers or ranchers who file certain civil rights complaints, including complaints regarding direct farm ownership, operating, or emergency loans.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 3, 2025:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 3, 2025:** Referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com