

Three Senate Democrats back voluntary GMO labeling, bill now before full Senate

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis.**

States could no longer require labeling of genetically modified foods under legislation approved by a Senate panel.

The Senate Agriculture Committee voted 14-6 Tuesday to prevent the labeling on packages of foods that include genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Three Democrats voted for Roberts' bill: North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Indiana Sen. Joe Donnelly and Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

Vermont is set to require such labels this summer, and other states are considering similar laws.

Senators have said they want to find a compromise on the labeling issue before Vermont's law kicks in. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the panel, said a patchwork of state laws would be a "wrecking ball" that could be costly for agriculture, food companies and ultimately consumers.

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The bill would block Vermont's law and create new voluntary labels for companies that want to use them on food packages that contain genetically modified ingredients.

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Passage won't be as easy in the Senate, where 60 votes will be needed to overcome a certain filibuster. Vermont Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders have both strongly opposed efforts to block their state's law.

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[Sen. Debbie Stabenow D-Michigan] said that for the legislation to receive broad enough support to pass the Senate, "it must contain a pathway to a national system of mandatory disclosure that provides consumers the information they need and want to make informed choices."

**Read full, original post:** Labels on genetically modified foods? Not so fast