

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4189

To establish youth advisory councils for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce with respect to environmental issues as those issues relate to youth communities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Ms. BUTLER (for herself and Mr. MARKEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## A BILL

To establish youth advisory councils for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce with respect to environmental issues as those issues relate to youth communities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Youth Climate Leader-  
3 ship Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **COVERED AGENCY HEAD.**—The term “cov-  
7 ered agency head” means each of the following  
8 heads of agencies:

9 (A) The Administrator of the Environ-  
10 mental Protection Agency.

11 (B) The Secretary of the Interior.

12 (C) The Secretary of Energy.

13 (D) The Secretary of Agriculture.

14 (E) The Secretary of Commerce.

15 (2) **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER.**—The  
16 term “designated Federal officer” means the des-  
17 ignated Federal officer for a Youth Advisory Council  
18 appointed under section 3(b)(6).

19 (3) **DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.**—The term  
20 “disadvantaged community” means a community  
21 identified as a disadvantaged community by the  
22 Justice40 Initiative (or a successor initiative) and  
23 the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool of  
24 the Council on Environmental Quality (or a suc-  
25 cessor tool).

1 (4) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.—The term “en-  
2 vironmental justice” means the just treatment and  
3 meaningful involvement of all people, without regard  
4 to income, race, color, national origin, Tribal affili-  
5 ation, or disability, in agency decisionmaking and  
6 other Federal activities that affect human health  
7 and the environment so that people—

8 (A) are fully protected from dispro-  
9 portionate and adverse human health and environ-  
10 mental effects (including risks) and hazards, in-  
11 cluding those related to climate change, the cu-  
12 mulative impacts of environmental and other  
13 burdens, and the legacy of racism or other  
14 structural or systemic barriers; and

15 (B) have equitable access to a healthy, sus-  
16 tainable, and resilient environment in which to  
17 live and engage in cultural and subsistence  
18 practices.

19 (5) YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The term  
20 “Youth Advisory Council” means a Youth Advisory  
21 Council established by a covered agency head pursu-  
22 ant to section 3(a).

23 **SEC. 3. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCILS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each covered agency head  
25 shall establish within the respective agency of the covered

1 agency head a Youth Advisory Council for the purpose of  
2 providing recommendations to the applicable covered  
3 agency head with respect to governmental approaches to  
4 environmental issues as those issues relate to youth, in-  
5 cluding—

6 (1) recommendations with respect to programs  
7 to help the governments of disadvantaged commu-  
8 nities address environmental issues in those dis-  
9 advantaged communities;

10 (2) recommendations with respect to perform-  
11 ance measures that could be used to measure the  
12 impact of climate change and other environmental  
13 harms that affect youth communities; and

14 (3) researching, writing reports on, and making  
15 recommendations with a focus on environmental jus-  
16 tice, climate change mitigation and resiliency, and  
17 pollution reduction.

18 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 (1) SIZE.—A Youth Advisory Council shall con-  
20 sist of not fewer than 15, and not greater than 25,  
21 representative members of non-Federal interests  
22 that have demonstrated high levels of knowledge and  
23 expertise in environmental issues, to be appointed by  
24 the applicable covered agency head.

25 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) AGE.—A member of a Youth Advisory  
2 Council shall have an age, at the time of ap-  
3 pointment or reappointment under paragraph  
4 (4), of not less than 16 years and not more  
5 than 29 years.

6 (B) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY REQUIRED.—  
7 A covered agency head shall seek to ensure that  
8 members of a Youth Advisory Council are from  
9 geographically diverse locations across the  
10 United States.

11 (C) CONSIDERATION OF BACKGROUNDS.—

12 (i) IN GENERAL.—In selecting mem-  
13 bers of a Youth Advisory Council, a cov-  
14 ered agency head shall consider candidates  
15 with varying backgrounds, including—

- 16 (I) business and industry;  
17 (II) academic institutions;  
18 (III) State, local, and Tribal gov-  
19 ernments;  
20 (IV) public interest groups;  
21 (V) environmental organizations;  
22 and  
23 (VI) service groups.

24 (ii) REQUIREMENT.—Of the members  
25 of a Youth Advisory Council, not more

1           than 60 percent may come from any 1 cat-  
2           egory described in clause (i).

3           (D) REPRESENTATION OF DISADVANTAGED  
4           COMMUNITIES.—Of the members of a Youth  
5           Advisory Council, not less than 50 percent shall  
6           come from, reside primarily in, or work pri-  
7           marily in disadvantaged communities.

8           (E) DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND  
9           ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting  
10          members of a Youth Advisory Council, a cov-  
11          ered agency head shall consider diversity, eq-  
12          uity, inclusion, and accessibility, in accordance  
13          with Executive Order 14035 (42 U.S.C. 2000e  
14          note; relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and  
15          accessibility in the Federal workforce).

16          (3) TERM.—A member of a Youth Advisory  
17          Council shall serve for a term of 2 years.

18          (4) REAPPOINTMENT.—A covered agency head  
19          may reappoint members of a Youth Advisory Council  
20          to that Youth Advisory Council.

21          (5) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in a Youth Advi-  
22          sory Council—

23                  (A) shall not affect the powers of the  
24          Youth Advisory Council; and

1 (B) shall be filled in the same manner as  
2 the original appointment.

3 (6) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER.—Each  
4 covered agency head shall appoint a full-time em-  
5 ployee of the agency of the covered agency head to  
6 serve as the designated Federal officer for the appli-  
7 cable Youth Advisory Council.

8 (7) CO-CHAIRPERSONS; VICE-CHAIRPERSONS.—  
9 Each covered agency head shall, from among the  
10 members of the applicable Youth Advisory Council,  
11 appoint 2 co-chairpersons and 2 vice-chairpersons.

12 (c) MEETINGS.—

13 (1) FREQUENCY.—A Youth Advisory Council  
14 shall meet at the call of the applicable designated  
15 Federal officer, but not less frequently than annu-  
16 ally.

17 (2) OPEN MEETINGS.—The meetings of a  
18 Youth Advisory Council shall be open to the public  
19 unless the covered agency head determines, in ac-  
20 cordance with section 552b(c) of title 5, United  
21 States Code, to close a meeting or portion of a meet-  
22 ing.

23 (3) AGENDA.—The agenda of a meeting of a  
24 Youth Advisory Council shall be approved in advance  
25 by the applicable designated Federal officer.

1           (4) REQUIREMENT.—A Youth Advisory Council  
2           or subcommittee of a Youth Advisory Council may  
3           not meet without the presence of the applicable des-  
4           ignated Federal officer (or a designee).

5           (5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—A person inter-  
6           ested in the proceedings of a Youth Advisory Council  
7           or interested in providing comment on a matter be-  
8           fore a Youth Advisory Council may—

9                   (A) attend meetings of the Youth Advisory  
10            Council;

11                   (B) appear before the Youth Advisory  
12            Council; and

13                   (C) file written comments with the Youth  
14            Advisory Council.

15           (6) ADJOURNMENT.—The designated Federal  
16           officer for a Youth Advisory Council may adjourn  
17           the meeting of the Youth Advisory Council if the  
18           designated Federal officer determines it is in the  
19           public interest to do so.

20           (d) SUBCOMMITTEES.—A Youth Advisory Council  
21           may establish subcommittees as determined appropriate  
22           by the Youth Advisory Council.

23           (e) EDUCATION.—Each covered agency head shall de-  
24           velop and provide to members of the Youth Advisory  
25           Council an educational curriculum, which shall include



1 briefings on the organizational structure and work of the  
2 agency of the covered agency head.

3 (f) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than annually, a  
4 Youth Advisory Council shall submit to the applicable cov-  
5 ered agency head a report describing any recommenda-  
6 tions of the Youth Advisory Council made in accordance  
7 with subsection (a).

8 (g) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The agency of a  
9 covered agency head shall provide administrative support  
10 to the Youth Advisory Council of the agency.

11 (h) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—Section 1013 of title  
12 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a Youth Advisory  
13 Council.

14 (i) APPLICABILITY TO EXISTING COUNCILS.—The  
15 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency  
16 may, in accordance with this Act, designate the National  
17 Environmental Youth Advisory Council as the Youth Advi-  
18 sory Council of the Environmental Protection Agency.

19 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000 to  
21 each of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Depart-  
22 ment of the Interior, the Department of Energy, the De-  
23 partment of Agriculture, and the Department of Com-

1 merce for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2035 for the  
2 purpose of carrying out this Act.

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