

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1098

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to improve food stamp informational activities in those States with the greatest rate of hunger.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 26, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to improve food stamp informational activities in those States with the greatest rate of hunger.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “State Hunger Assist-
5 ance in Response to Emergency Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the Secretary of Agriculture conducts an
 2 annual report that measures food security and hun-
 3 ger by State; and

4 (2) many households that are eligible to receive
 5 food stamps under the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7
 6 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) do not know that the house-
 7 holds are eligible to receive food stamps.

8 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR FOOD STAMP INFORMATIONAL AC-**
 9 **TIVITIES BY STATES WITH GREATEST RATE**
 10 **OF HUNGER.**

11 Section 16 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C.
 12 2025) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
 14 (k)” and inserting “subsections (k) and (l)”; and

15 (2) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(l) FUNDING FOR FOOD STAMP INFORMATIONAL
 17 ACTIVITIES BY STATES WITH GREATEST RATE OF HUN-
 18 GER.—

19 “(1) DESIGNATION OF STATES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal
 21 years 2001 through 2005, the Secretary—

22 “(i) shall designate the 10 States that
 23 have the greatest rate of hunger, as deter-
 24 mined on the basis of the most recent re-
 25 port that measures food security and hun-

ger by State prepared by the Secretary for
which data are available; and

“(ii) may designate not more than 5
additional States if the Secretary deter-
mines, on the basis of a proposal submitted
by a State, that the State will carry out a
demonstration project to carry out food
stamp informational activities under this
paragraph that uses innovative approaches
that have national significance.

“(B) NOTIFICATION OF STATES.—As soon
as practicable after designation of a State
under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall no-
tify the State agency of the State that the State
agency is eligible to receive payments for ad-
ministrative costs incurred in carrying out food
stamp informational activities in accordance
with paragraph (2).

“(C) ACCEPTANCE BY STATES.—If a State
agency of a State notified under subparagraph
(B) elects to carry out food stamp informational
activities in exchange for payments under para-
graph (2), not later than 90 days after the date
of notification by the Secretary, the State agen-
cy shall—

1 “(i) notify the Secretary that the
2 State agency will carry out food stamp in-
3 formational activities in exchange for the
4 payments; and

5 “(ii) provide to the Secretary a sum-
6 mary describing the manner in which—

7 “(I) the payments will be used;

8 “(II) the outcomes of the activi-
9 ties will be measured; and

10 “(III) any other eligibility cri-
11 teria established by the Secretary for
12 payments under paragraph (2) will be
13 met.

14 “(2) PAYMENTS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B), if the State agency of a State elects
17 to carry out food stamp informational activities
18 under paragraph (1), subject to subparagraphs
19 (B) through (E), the Secretary shall pay the
20 State agency of the State 100 percent of the
21 administrative costs incurred by the State agen-
22 cy in carrying out food stamp informational ac-
23 tivities, including activities under section
24 11(e)(1)(A) and outreach activities.

1 “(B) ELIGIBILITY.—A State agency shall
2 be eligible for payments under subparagraph
3 (A) for only 1 period of 3 fiscal years.

4 “(C) STATE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The
5 amount of administrative costs for which the
6 State agency of a State may receive payments
7 for a fiscal year under subparagraph (A) shall
8 not exceed such amount as the Secretary deter-
9 mines is reasonable, as determined on the basis
10 of—

11 “(i) the population of the State;

12 “(ii) the rate of hunger in the State;

13 “(iii) the number of households that
14 are eligible to participate in the food stamp
15 program but are not participating in the
16 program; and

17 “(iv) other factors determined by the
18 Secretary.

19 “(D) MAXIMUM PAYMENT.—The amount
20 of payments made to the State agency of a
21 State for a fiscal year under subparagraph (A)
22 shall not exceed \$1,000,000.

23 “(E) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The ex-
24 penditure of funds by the State agency of a
25 State for the maintenance of food stamp infor-

1 mational activities described in subparagraph
2 (A) shall not be diminished as a result of pay-
3 ments made available under this paragraph.

4 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 end of the third fiscal year for which the State agen-
6 cy of a State receives payments under paragraph
7 (2), the State agency shall submit to the Secretary
8 a brief report that measures the outcomes of food
9 stamp informational activities described in para-
10 graph (2) carried out by the State agency during the
11 preceding 3 fiscal years.”.

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