

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9649

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the accuracy of estimates of retail food store trafficking in the supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, to strengthen penalties for trafficking violations, to require reporting information to the Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2026

Mr. BURCHETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the accuracy of estimates of retail food store trafficking in the supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits, to strengthen penalties for trafficking violations, to require reporting information to the Congress, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stop Retail Food Store
5 SNAP Trafficking Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO RETAIL FOOD STORE SNAP**
2 **BENEFITS TRAFFICKING ESTIMATES.**

3 Section 17 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(l) RETAILER BENEFITS TRAFFICKING ESTI-
7 MATES.—

8 “(1) The Secretary, acting through the Admin-
9 istrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, shall—

10 “(A) evaluate and update key assumptions
11 used in estimating the trafficking of supple-
12 mental nutrition assistance program benefits by
13 approved retail food stores (including assump-
14 tions regarding the percentage of benefits traf-
15 ficked by store type or size);

16 “(B) validate such assumptions using inde-
17 pendent data sources, such as transaction data
18 from known cases of trafficking in such bene-
19 fits;

20 “(C) include ranges reflecting uncertainty
21 in all public reports of such estimates; and

22 “(D) assess the benefits and costs of more
23 frequent reauthorization of retail food store
24 (more often than every 5 years) for a sample of
25 such stores at high risk of such trafficking, and

1 implement changes to such reauthorization
2 process as appropriate.

3 “(2) Not later than 18 months after effective
4 date of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter,
5 the Secretary shall publish an updated national re-
6 tailer trafficking report that describes the results of
7 the actions taken under subsection (a).”.

8 **SEC. 3. STRENGTHENED PENALTIES FOR TRAFFICKING**
9 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
10 **PROGRAM BENEFITS.**

11 (a) CIVIL MONEY PENALTIES.—Section 12 of the
12 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2021) is
13 amended—

14 (1) in subsection (a)(1)(B), by striking by strik-
15 ing “\$100,000” and inserting “\$250,000”; and

16 (2) in subsection (c)(1) by striking “\$100,000”
17 and inserting “\$250,000”.

18 (b) DISQUALIFICATION AND PENALTIES.—The Sec-
19 retary of Agriculture shall promulgate regulations to en-
20 sure that—

21 (1) the permanent disqualification for approval
22 reauthorization of retail food stores that traffic in
23 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits
24 issued under such Act may be accompanied by civil
25 money penalties; and

1 (2) penalties better deter violations of law for
2 such trafficking are consistent with authority grant-
3 ed to the Secretary under prior law.

4 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

5 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
6 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to
7 the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representa-
8 tives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
9 Forestry of the Senate a brief report on—

10 (1) progress implementing the this Act and the
11 amendments made this Act;

12 (2) updated estimates of trafficking by retail
13 food stores in supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
14 gram benefits issues under the Food and Nutrition
15 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.); and

16 (3) the number of investigations, disqualifica-
17 tions, and penalties imposed with respect to such
18 trafficking by retail food stores.

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