

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2778

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a program for the procurement of domestically grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables to provide healthier school meals, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

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## A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a program for the procurement of domestically grown unprocessed fruits and vegetables to provide healthier school meals, 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 “Local School Foods  
5 Expansion Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF DOMESTICALLY**  
 2 **GROWN UNPROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETA-**  
 3 **BLES.**

4 Section 6(f) of the Richard B. Russell National  
 5 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1755(f)) is amended—

6 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking  
 7 “PILOT PROJECT FOR PROCUREMENT OF” and in-  
 8 serting “PROGRAM FOR PROCUREMENT OF DOMES-  
 9 TICALLY GROWN”;

10 (2) in paragraph (1)—

11 (A) by striking “conduct a pilot project”  
 12 and inserting “carry out a program (referred to  
 13 in this subsection as the ‘program’)”;

14 (B) by inserting “domestically grown” be-  
 15 fore “unprocessed”; and

16 (C) by striking “8” and inserting “14”;

17 (3) by striking “pilot project” each place it ap-  
 18 pears and inserting “program”;

19 (4) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding  
 20 subparagraph (A), by inserting “domestically  
 21 grown” before “unprocessed”;

22 (5) in paragraph (3)(B), in the matter pre-  
 23 ceding clause (i), by striking “1 project is located in  
 24 a State” and inserting “2 projects are located in 1  
 25 or more States”;

26 (6) in paragraph (4)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
 2 and (C) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respec-  
 3 tively; and

4 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
 5 the following:

6 “(B) the demonstrated commitment of the  
 7 State to support small, local, and socially dis-  
 8 advantaged farmers;

9 “(C) the demonstrated commitment of the  
 10 State to support Tribal agricultural producers  
 11 and communities utilizing traditional foods;

12 “(D) whether the State will serve a high  
 13 proportion of children from socially disadvan-  
 14 taged backgrounds in carrying out the pro-  
 15 gram;”;

16 (7) in paragraph (5)—

17 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking  
 18 “RECORDKEEPING AND REPORTING” and in-  
 19 serting “RECORDKEEPING, REPORTING, AND  
 20 EVALUATION”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

22 (i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at  
 23 the end;

24 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking the pe-  
 25 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 “(iii) the challenges and opportunities  
4 presented by the program in the State.”;  
5 and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(C) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2  
9 years after the date of enactment of this  
10 subparagraph, the Secretary shall evaluate  
11 the impact of the program, including with  
12 respect to—

13 “(I) the quantity and cost of  
14 each type of unprocessed fruit and  
15 vegetable procured by each State  
16 under the program;

17 “(II) the benefit of the procured  
18 unprocessed fruits and vegetables to  
19 school food service in each State, in-  
20 cluding the benefit to meeting school  
21 meal requirements;

22 “(III) the economic impact of the  
23 program on agricultural producers in  
24 the State;

1 “(IV) the economic, geographic,  
 2 social, and administrative barriers to  
 3 participation, including the reimburse-  
 4 ment process, experienced by agricul-  
 5 tural producers and school food au-  
 6 thorities; and

7 “(V) eligibility requirements for  
 8 agricultural producers, including any  
 9 barriers to becoming approved ven-  
 10 dors.

11 “(ii) REPORT.—Not later than 4  
 12 years after the date of enactment of this  
 13 subparagraph, the Secretary shall submit  
 14 to the Committee on Agriculture of the  
 15 House of Representatives and the Com-  
 16 mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and For-  
 17 estry of the Senate a report that describes  
 18 the results of the evaluation conducted  
 19 under clause (i) and an analysis of that  
 20 evaluation.”; and

21 (8) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(6) FUNDING.—

23 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-  
 24 propriated to carry out this subsection

1           \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026  
2           through 2030.

3           “(B) RESERVATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE  
4           COSTS; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

5                   “(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the funds ap-  
6                   propriated under subparagraph (A) for  
7                   each fiscal year, \$10,000,000 shall be re-  
8                   served for States selected under the pro-  
9                   gram under paragraph (1) to carry out the  
10                  activities described in clause (ii)(I).

11                   “(ii) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS; TECH-  
12                  NICAL ASSISTANCE.—

13                   “(I) IN GENERAL.—The funds  
14                  reserved under clause (i) shall be  
15                  used—

16                           “(aa) for the administrative  
17                           costs of carrying out the pro-  
18                           gram, including costs of satis-  
19                           fying record keeping and report-  
20                           ing requirements;

21                           “(bb) to coordinate among  
22                           or share with agencies and de-  
23                           partments involved in carrying  
24                           out the program in the State;  
25                           and

1 “(cc) to provide technical as-  
2 sistance and outreach to—

3 “(AA) vendors to be-  
4 come certified to participate  
5 in the program; and

6 “(BB) school food au-  
7 thorities, regional food hubs,  
8 State and local agencies, In-  
9 dian Tribal organizations,  
10 agricultural producers, so-  
11 cially disadvantaged farm-  
12 ers, and other entities to  
13 participate in the program.

14 “(II) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—Of  
15 the funds reserved under clause (i),  
16 each State selected under paragraph  
17 (3)(A) shall receive not less than  
18 \$500,000 for each fiscal year during  
19 which the State participates in the  
20 program.

21 “(C) RESERVATION FOR TECHNICAL AS-  
22 SISTANCE TO NONPARTICIPATING STATES.—Of  
23 the funds appropriated under subparagraph (A)  
24 for each fiscal year, \$1,000,000 shall be re-  
25 served—

1                   “(i) only if there are fewer than 14  
2                   States participating in the program that  
3                   fiscal year; and

4                   “(ii) to provide technical assistance  
5                   with eligibility requirements for States  
6                   seeking to participate in the program.”.

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