

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4866

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand investment in farmers’ markets and farmers’ market nutrition programs to strengthen communities and improve access to healthy food, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2026

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to expand investment in farmers’ markets and farmers’ market nutrition programs to strengthen communities and improve access to healthy food, 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 “Farmers’ Market Local
5 Revitalization Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to increase and enhance funding for farm-
2 ers’ market nutrition programs—

3 (A) to better support seniors, food-insecure
4 families, and income-eligible mothers, infants,
5 and children; and

6 (B) to increase market opportunities for
7 local farmers; and

8 (2) to promote equitable access and support a
9 phased transition to a more modernized farmers’
10 market nutrition program.

11 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR SENIOR FARMERS’ MARKET**
12 **NUTRITION PROGRAM.**

13 Section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Invest-
14 ment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007) is amended—

15 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**SEN-**
16 **IORES**” and inserting “**SENIOR**”;

17 (2) by striking “seniors farmers’ market nutri-
18 tion program” each place it appears and inserting
19 “senior farmers’ market nutrition program”;

20 (3) in subsection (a)—

21 (A) by striking “\$20,600,000 for each of
22 fiscal years 2008 through 2023” and inserting
23 “\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
24 through 2031”;

1 (B) by striking “Of the funds of the Com-
 2 modity Credit Corporation, the Secretary of Ag-
 3 riculture” and inserting the following:

4 “(1) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—Of
 5 the funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation, the
 6 Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section
 7 as the ‘Secretary’); and

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

9 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the
 11 amounts made available under paragraph (1),
 12 there are authorized to be appropriated to the
 13 Secretary to carry out subsection (c)
 14 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027
 15 through 2031.

16 “(B) ALLOCATION FORMULA.—

17 “(i) STATE AMOUNTS.—Until the date
 18 on which a rule is promulgated under
 19 clause (ii), the additional amounts made
 20 available under subparagraph (A) shall be
 21 allocated to States based on the number of
 22 seniors with household incomes at or below
 23 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

24 “(ii) REVISED FORMULA.—Not later
 25 than 1 year after the date of enactment of

1 the Farmers’ Market Local Revitalization
 2 Act of 2026, the Secretary shall promul-
 3 gate a rule establishing a revised formula
 4 for allocating funds under this section,
 5 which shall—

6 “(I) take into account—

7 “(aa) the population of low-
 8 income seniors;

9 “(bb) senior food insecurity
 10 rates; and

11 “(cc) rurality and cost-to-
 12 serve factors; and

13 “(II) include hold-harmless provi-
 14 sions limiting decreases in benefit
 15 amounts to not more than 10 percent
 16 during the first 2 years of implemen-
 17 tation of the revised formula.

18 “(3) NONPARTICIPANT SET-ASIDE.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the total amounts
 20 made available under this section, not less than
 21 10 percent shall be reserved for States, terri-
 22 tories, and Indian Tribes that did not partici-
 23 pate in the program under this section in the
 24 prior fiscal year.

1 “(B) GENERAL AVAILABILITY.—If the
 2 amount reserved under subparagraph (A) is not
 3 fully utilized in a fiscal year, that amount shall
 4 be available in the subsequent fiscal year for all
 5 States participating in the program.”;

6 (4) by redesignating subsections (c) through (f)
 7 as subsections (g) through (j), respectively; and

8 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 9 lowing:

10 “(c) BENEFIT ENHANCEMENT.—The additional
 11 amounts made available under subsection (a)(2)(A) shall
 12 be used—

13 “(1) to increase the minimum individual benefit
 14 available under the senior farmers’ market nutrition
 15 program to \$35;

16 “(2) to remove the maximum individual benefit
 17 limit under the senior farmers’ market nutrition pro-
 18 gram;

19 “(3) to support a phased transition to electronic
 20 incentive delivery, including technical assistance and
 21 investments that allow farmers and seniors to con-
 22 tinue using existing redemption models during the
 23 transition, with an emphasis on interoperability; and

24 “(4) to allow State agencies to establish eligi-
 25 bility criteria for program participation, which may

1 include household income, participation in nutrition
2 programs for seniors, geographic isolation, or other
3 indicators of need.

4 “(d) APPROVED AGGREGATORS.—States shall allow
5 up to 50 percent of the benefit amount provided to partici-
6 pants in the senior farmers’ market nutrition program to
7 be redeemed through community supported agriculture,
8 food hubs, or other approved aggregators that purchase
9 directly from farms, including home delivery models.

10 “(e) PAYMENT TECHNOLOGIES.—The Secretary
11 shall—

12 “(1) allow States to use electronic benefit trans-
13 fer or mobile payment technologies for redemption of
14 benefits under the senior farmers’ market nutrition
15 program; and

16 “(2) encourage States to implement payment
17 technologies that are interoperable with other Fed-
18 eral nutrition benefit programs, including—

19 “(A) the supplemental nutrition assistance
20 program established under the Food and Nutri-
21 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

22 “(B) the special supplemental nutrition
23 program for women, infants, and children es-
24 tablished by section 17 of the Child Nutrition
25 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), including the

1 farmers' market nutrition program under that
2 program; and

3 “(C) the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incen-
4 tive Program established under section 4405 of
5 the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 7517).

7 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
9 available under this section, not more than
10 \$25,000,000 per fiscal year shall be provided to
11 State agencies, territories, and Indian Tribes to pro-
12 vide training and technical assistance—

13 “(A) to support infrastructure improve-
14 ments at farmers' markets and other eligible
15 outlets, including modernization of equipment
16 to integrate electronic benefit transfer, mobile
17 payment technologies, and other nutrition ben-
18 efit programs;

19 “(B) to assist rural markets and farmers
20 in expanding capacity to serve low-income sen-
21 iors;

22 “(C) to provide on-the-ground support to
23 facilitate the transition to electronic incentive
24 delivery for seniors and participating producers;
25 and

1 “(D) in the case of States, territories, or
 2 Indian Tribes that have not previously partici-
 3 pated in the program under this section, in es-
 4 tablishing and administering the program.

5 “(2) THIRD PARTY.—A State agency, territory,
 6 or Indian Tribe may contract with a third-party en-
 7 tity to provide the training and technical assistance
 8 described in paragraph (1).

9 “(3) ALLOCATION.—The amount made avail-
 10 able under paragraph (1) shall be allocated in ac-
 11 cordance with the allocation formula under sub-
 12 section (a)(2)(B).”.

13 **SEC. 4. MINIMUM INDIVIDUAL BENEFIT INCREASE UNDER**
 14 **WIC FARMERS’ MARKET NUTRITION PRO-**
 15 **GRAM.**

16 Section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
 17 U.S.C. 1786(m)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “(4) Subject
 19 to” and inserting the following:

20 “(4) FORMULA FOR AMOUNT OF GRANT.—Sub-
 21 ject to”;

22 (2) in paragraph (5)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 24 (A), by striking “(5) Each State” and inserting
 25 the following:

1 “(5) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—Each State”;

2 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
3 “funds—” in the matter preceding clause (i)
4 and all that follows through the period at the
5 end of clause (ii) and inserting “funds provided
6 under the grant.”;

7 (C) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (i) in clause (i), by striking “\$10”
9 and inserting “\$35”; and

10 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “\$30”
11 and inserting “\$60”;

12 (D) in subparagraph (F)—

13 (i) in clause (i), by striking “17” and
14 inserting “18”; and

15 (ii) in clause (iii), by striking “meet
16 the requirements of paragraph (3)” and in-
17 serting “carry out the program”; and

18 (E) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(H) The State may use not more than 10
20 percent of the total amount of program funds
21 in a fiscal year for technology modernization
22 and related administrative activities, subject to
23 the condition that those funds are not needed
24 to maintain caseload or participant benefits.

1 “(I) VOLUNTARY STATE SHARE.—A State
2 may provide additional State, local, or private
3 funds for the program.”;

4 (3) in paragraph (6)—

5 (A) by striking “(6)(A) The Secretary”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(6) FUNDING TO STATES.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

9 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (B)
10 through (F) and the clauses and subclauses
11 therein appropriately;

12 (C) in subparagraph (A), in the second
13 sentence, by striking “subparagraph (G)” and
14 inserting “subparagraph (F)”;

15 (D) in subparagraph (B)—

16 (i) in clause (i), by striking “Subject
17 to” and all that follows through “para-
18 graph (3), the State” and inserting “A
19 State”; and

20 (ii) in clause (ii)—

21 (I) by striking “paragraph (10)”
22 and inserting “paragraph (9)”; and

23 (II) by striking “paragraph (6)”
24 and inserting “this paragraph”;

1 (E) in subparagraph (C)(iv), by striking
 2 “subparagraph (G)(i)” each place it appears
 3 and inserting “subparagraph (F)(i)”;

4 (F) in subparagraph (D)(ii), in the matter
 5 preceding subclause (I), by striking “this para-
 6 graph” and inserting “this subparagraph”; and

7 (G) in subparagraph (F)(iii), by striking
 8 “paragraph (10)(B)(ii)” and inserting “para-
 9 graph (9)(B)(ii)”;
 10 (4) in paragraph (7)—

11 (A) by striking “(7)(A) The value” and in-
 12 serting the following:

13 “(7) OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE ASSISTANCE
 14 PROGRAMS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The value”; and

16 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
 17 designation and all that follows through “Any
 18 programs” and inserting the following:

19 “(B) SUPPLEMENT TO NUTRITION ASSIST-
 20 ANCE.—Any programs”;

21 (5) in paragraph (8)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 23 (A), by striking “(8) For each” and inserting
 24 the following:

1 “(8) COLLECTION OF STATE INFORMATION.—

2 For each”; and

3 (B) by indenting subparagraphs (A)

4 through (F) appropriately;

5 (6) in paragraph (9)—

6 (A) by indenting the paragraph designa-

7 tion and heading appropriately;

8 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

9 (i) in clause (ii), by striking “(ii) The
10 Secretary” and inserting the following:

11 “(ii) REALLOCATION PROCEDURES.—
12 The Secretary”;

13 (ii) in clause (i)(II), by striking “(II)
14 Notwithstanding” and inserting the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(II) REIMBURSEMENT FOR EX-
17 PENSES INCURRED.—Notwith-
18 standing”; and

19 (iii) by striking “(B)(i)(I) Each
20 State” and inserting the following:

21 “(C) UNOBLIGATED BALANCES.—

22 “(i) RETURN TO SECRETARY.—

23 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to
24 subclause (II), each State”; and

1 (C) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
 2 serting the following:

3 “(A) MANDATORY FUNDING.—There is ap-
 4 propriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not
 5 otherwise appropriated, to the Secretary to
 6 carry out this subsection \$30,000,000 for each
 7 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

8 “(B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
 9 TIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise made
 10 available to carry out this subsection, there are
 11 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary
 12 such sums as are necessary to carry out this
 13 subsection.”;

14 (7) by striking paragraphs (3) and (10);

15 (8) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 16 graph (3); and

17 (9) by striking “(m)(1) Subject to the avail-
 18 ability of funds appropriated for the purposes of this
 19 subsection, and as specified in this subsection, the
 20 Secretary” and inserting the following:

21 “(m) WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN FARMERS’
 22 MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

24 “(A) COUPON.—The term ‘coupon’ means
 25 a coupon, voucher, or other negotiable financial

1 instrument by which benefits provided under
2 this section are transferred.

3 “(B) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’
4 means—

5 “(i) the State farmers’ market coupon
6 nutrition program authorized by this sub-
7 section (as in effect on September 30,
8 1991); and

9 “(ii) the farmers’ market nutrition
10 program authorized by this subsection.

11 “(C) RECIPIENT.—The term ‘recipient’
12 means a person or household, as determined by
13 the State, that is—

14 “(i) chosen by a State to receive bene-
15 fits under this subsection; or

16 “(ii) included on a waiting list to re-
17 ceive those benefits.

18 “(D) STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘State
19 agency’ includes—

20 “(i) a State department of agri-
21 culture; and

22 “(ii) any other agency approved by
23 the chief executive officer of the State.

24 “(2) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary”.

1 **SEC. 5. STUDY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture (re-
3 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a
4 study—

5 (1) to identify opportunities to better align the
6 delivery and redemption of benefits across farmers’
7 market programs and nutrition incentive programs
8 under the supplemental nutrition assistance program
9 established under the Food and Nutrition Act of
10 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) for a more streamlined
11 experience for shoppers and vendors;

12 (2) to determine the feasibility of integrated or
13 interoperable technology systems to reduce the num-
14 ber of platforms that farmers and markets manage;

15 (3) to determine actions to reduce administra-
16 tive burden in the senior farmers’ market nutrition
17 program under section 4402 of the Farm Security
18 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)
19 and the farmers’ market nutrition program under
20 section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
21 (42 U.S.C. 1786(m)), including by minimizing dupli-
22 cative applications, reporting requirements, and
23 transaction systems for farmers, markets, and retail-
24 ers; and

25 (4) the feasibility and implications of creating
26 an integrated, modernized farmers’ market nutrition

1 program under section 4402 of the Farm Security
2 and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 3007)
3 that serves seniors and households that participate
4 in the special supplemental nutrition program for
5 women, infants, and children established by section
6 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
7 1786).

8 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the study
9 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with
10 stakeholders, including States, markets, farmers, non-
11 profit organizations, and relevant payment technology pro-
12 viders.

13 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
14 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
15 submit a report to Congress containing—

16 (1) the results of the study under subsection
17 (a); and

18 (2) recommendations, including any legislative
19 or administrative actions needed, relating to car-
20 rying out paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection
21 (a).

22 **SEC. 6. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

23 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
24 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee
25 on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Special

1 Committee on Aging of the Senate, and the Committee
2 on Agriculture and the Committee on Education and
3 Workforce of the House of Representatives, a report that
4 describes—

5 (1) the effect of this Act and the amendments
6 made by this Act on—

7 (A) local procurement of food;

8 (B) local farmers; and

9 (C) emergency feeding organizations, in-
10 cluding food banks, food pantries, and other
11 community-based hunger relief partners;

12 (2) the individuals and entities procuring food
13 locally pursuant to this Act and the amendments
14 made by this Act; and

15 (3) the communities involved in programs car-
16 ried out under this Act and the amendments made
17 by this Act.

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