

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 596

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to reduce hunger, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2009

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

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to reduce
hunger, 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 “Economic Recovery
5 Through Increased Feeding Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINGERPRINTING PROHIBITED.**

7 Section 11(e)(2)(D) of the Food and Nutrition Act
8 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting
9 the following before the semicolon at the end: “, and the
10 fingerprint or any other form of biometric testing of any

1 member of a household shall not be required for the pur-
 2 pose of participating in the supplemental nutrition assist-
 3 ance program or for issuance of benefits for which the
 4 household would otherwise be eligible”.

5 **SEC. 3. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY IN HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT**
 6 **AREAS.**

7 Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
 8 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “3 months”
 10 and inserting “12 months”, and

11 (2) in paragraph 4(A) by striking “On the re-
 12 quest of a State agency, the Secretary may” and in-
 13 serting “The Secretary shall”.

14 **SEC. 4. PARTICIPATION IN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AS-**
 15 **SISTANCE PROGRAM IN CITIES.**

16 (a) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

17 (1) require the appropriate States to submit to
 18 the Secretary reports identifying the levels of partici-
 19 pation in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
 20 gram by eligible households located in the 25 largest
 21 cities in the United States, and

22 (2) submit to the Congress a report identifying
 23 the results contained in the reports required by
 24 paragraph (1).

25 (b) **ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION.**—

1 (1) REQUIREMENT.—If a State submits a re-
2 port under subsection (a)(1) that identifies a city in
3 which the participation rate of eligible households in
4 the supplemental nutrition assistance program is
5 less than 85 percent, the Secretary of Agriculture
6 shall require such State to implement practices to
7 increase such participation rate.

8 (2) DEFINITION.—The term “practices” means
9 telephone interviews, educational public service an-
10 nouncements, town halls, and other services that the
11 State deems fit to increase the participation rate to
12 more than 85 percent of eligible households.

13 **SEC. 5. GRANTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BENEFITS.**

14 Section 11(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
15 (7 U.S.C. 2020(t)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “\$5,000,000”
17 and inserting “\$15,000,000”, and

18 (2) in paragraph (5)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
20 at the end,

21 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting “and”, and

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

24 “(C) shall give special consideration to eli-
25 gible entities that are nonprofit organizations

1 that provide on site at the locations of such or-
2 ganizations online application support to eligible
3 households.”.

4 **SEC. 6. ENCOURAGE BETTER NUTRITION.**

5 (a) EBT CARD ACCESS AT FARMERS’ MARKETS.—

6 The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a program
7 to support the use of electronic benefits transfers for Fed-
8 eral nutrition programs at farmers’ markets by means of
9 installing or modernizing electronic benefit transfer equip-
10 ment at such markets and by providing educational fo-
11 rums on the benefits of nutrition program participation
12 at such markets.

13 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds available to carry out this
14 section—

15 (1) may not be used for the ongoing cost of car-
16 rying out any project, and

17 (2) shall only be provided to eligible entities
18 that demonstrate a plan to continue to provide elec-
19 tronic benefit transfer card access at 1 or more
20 farmers’ markets following the receipt of such funds.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 to carry out
23 this section.

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