

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6518

To replace certain Federal nutrition programs with a block grant to the States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2012

Mr. HUELSKAMP (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. JORDAN, and Mr. KING of Iowa) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To replace certain Federal nutrition programs with a block grant to the States, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “State Nutrition Assistance Flexibility Act of 2012”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Purpose.

Sec. 3. Grants to States.
 Sec. 4. Administrative and fiscal accountability.
 Sec. 5. Nondiscrimination provisions.
 Sec. 6. Definitions.
 Sec. 7. Report on reduction of federal administrative expenditures.
 Sec. 8. Repeals.
 Sec. 9. Severability.
 Sec. 10. Effective date.

1 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to provide Federal finan-
 3 cial assistance to the States, in the form of a single grant,
 4 to allow the States maximum flexibility in providing, and
 5 financing the provision of, supplemental food and nutri-
 6 tion assistance.

7 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO STATES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of
 9 this Act, each State that meets the requirements of sub-
 10 section (d) is entitled to receive from the Secretary of the
 11 Treasury a grant for each quarter of fiscal years 2013,
 12 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and
 13 2022, in an amount that is equal to 25 percent of the
 14 sum of—

15 (1) the total amount of funds received by a
 16 State; and

17 (2) with funds not received by a State, the dol-
 18 lar value of in-kind benefits (as determined by the
 19 Secretary of Agriculture) provided to residents of
 20 such State;

1 under the provisions listed in section 8 for fiscal year
2 2008.

3 (b) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
4 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
5 there are appropriated for fiscal years 2013, 2014, 2015,
6 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 such sums
7 as are necessary for grants under this subsection (a).

8 (c) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO INTERGOVERN-
9 MENTAL FINANCING.—The Secretary of the Treasury
10 shall make the transfer of funds under grants under sub-
11 section (a) directly to each State in accordance with the
12 requirements of section 6503 of title 31, United States
13 Code.

14 (d) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—In order to receive a
15 grant under subsection (a), the Governor of a State shall
16 certify to the Secretary of the Treasury that the supple-
17 mental food and nutrition assistance that will be provided
18 by the State using such grant will include—

19 (1) as conditions of receiving supplemental food
20 and nutrition assistance, work requirements that are
21 at least as strict as the work requirements which a
22 State is required to impose under a State program
23 funded under part A of title IV of the Social Secu-
24 rity Act on recipients of assistance under such a
25 program; and

(2) limitations on the eligible uses of benefits that are at least as restrictive as the limitations in place for the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) as of May 31, 2012.

(e) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received by a State under subsection (a) for any fiscal year shall be expended by the State in such fiscal year or in the succeeding fiscal year.

(2) USE OF RAINY DAY FUND PERMITTED.—Of the amounts received by a State under subsection (a), the State may set aside, in a separate account, such amounts as the State deems necessary to provide, without fiscal limitation, supplemental food and nutrition assistance and services for indigent individuals during—

(A) periods of unexpectedly high rates of unemployment; or

(B) periods related to circumstances that are not described in subparagraph (A) and that cause unexpected increases in the need for such assistance and services for such individuals.

1 (3) FUNDS REMAINING AFTER FISCAL YEAR
2 2022.—If, after 2022, a State has funds in the ac-
3 count under paragraph (2), the State may only ex-
4 pend such funds if such funds are used in a manner
5 that is permitted under subsection (f), as such sub-
6 section is in effect on September 30, 2022.

7 (f) USE OF FUNDS.—A State may only use the
8 amounts received under subsection (a) as follows:

9 (1) GENERAL PURPOSE.—For the purpose
10 under section 2, except that nothing in this Act shall
11 be construed as limiting the flexibility of a State to
12 determine which providers of such assistance and
13 services qualify to receive payment from a grant
14 made to the State under subsection (a).

15 (2) AUTHORITY TO USE PORTION OF FEDERAL
16 ASSISTANCE FOR OTHER WELFARE-RELATED PRO-
17 GRAMS.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limit
19 under subparagraph (B), to carry out a State
20 program pursuant to any or all of the following
21 provisions of law:

22 (i) Part A of title IV of the Social Se-
23 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.).

24 (ii) Section 1616 of such Act (42
25 U.S.C. 1382e).

1 (B) LIMITATION.—A State may not use
2 more than 30 percent of the amount received
3 under subsection (a) for a fiscal year to carry
4 out a State program, or programs, under sub-
5 paragraph (A).

6 (C) REQUIREMENTS ON FUNDS.—Any
7 amounts that are used under subparagraph
8 (A)—

9 (i) shall not be subject to any of the
10 requirements of subsection (e) or section 5;
11 and

12 (ii) shall be subject to—

13 (I) the audit requirements under
14 section 4; and

15 (II) any requirements that apply
16 to Federal funds provided directly for
17 such State program.

18 (g) NO FUNDING FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS.—Except as
19 provided under this Act, no funds appropriated in this Act
20 may be used to provide supplemental food and nutrition
21 assistance to an alien who is not lawfully admitted for per-
22 manent residence or otherwise permanently residing in the
23 United States under color of law.

24 (h) NONENTITLEMENT.—Nothing in this Act shall be
25 construed as providing an individual with an entitlement

1 to supplemental food and nutrition assistance under this
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

4 (a) AUDITS.—

5 (1) CONTRACT WITH APPROVED AUDITING EN-
6 TITY.—Not later than October 1, 2013, and annu-
7 ally thereafter, a State shall contract with an ap-
8 proved auditing entity (as defined under paragraph
9 (3)(B)) for purposes of conducting an audit under
10 paragraph (2) (with respect to the fiscal year ending
11 September 30 of such year).

12 (2) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—Under a contract
13 under paragraph (1), an approved auditing entity
14 shall conduct an audit of the expenditures or trans-
15 fers made by a State from amounts received under
16 a grant under this section 3(a) with respect to the
17 fiscal year which such audit covers, to determine the
18 extent to which such expenditures and transfers
19 were expended in accordance with this Act.

20 (3) ENTITY CONDUCTING AUDIT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a
22 State, the audit under paragraph (2) shall be
23 conducted by an approved auditing entity in ac-
24 cordance with generally accepted auditing prin-
25 ciples.

1 (B) APPROVED AUDITING ENTITY.—For
2 purposes of this section, the term “approved
3 auditing entity” means, with respect to a State,
4 an entity that is—

5 (i) approved by the Secretary of the
6 Treasury;

7 (ii) approved by the chief executive of-
8 ficer of the State; and

9 (iii) independent of any Federal,
10 State, or local agency.

11 (4) SUBMISSION OF AUDIT.—Not later than
12 December 31, 2013, and annually thereafter, a State
13 shall submit the results of the audit under para-
14 graph (2) (with respect to the fiscal year ending on
15 September 30 of such year) to the State legislature
16 and to the Secretary of the Treasury.

17 (5) ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTING REQUIRE-
18 MENTS.—The provisions of chapter 75 of title 31,
19 United States Code, shall apply to the audit require-
20 ments of this section.

21 (b) REIMBURSEMENT AND PENALTY.—If, through an
22 audit conducted under subsection (a), an approved audit-
23 ing entity finds that any amounts paid to a State under
24 a grant under section 3(a) were not expended in accord-
25 ance with this Act—

1 (1) the State shall pay to the Treasury of the
2 United States any such amount, plus 10 percent of
3 such amount as a penalty; or

4 (2) the Secretary of the Treasury shall offset
5 such amount plus the 10 percent penalty against
6 any other amount in any other fiscal year that the
7 State may be entitled to receive under a grant under
8 section 3(a).

9 (c) ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 31,
11 2014, and annually thereafter, each State shall sub-
12 mit to the Secretary of the Treasury and the State
13 legislature a report on the activities carried out by
14 the State during the most recently completed fiscal
15 year with funds received by the State under a grant
16 under section 3(a) for such fiscal year.

17 (2) CONTENT.—A report under paragraph (1)
18 shall, with respect to a fiscal year—

19 (A) contain the results of the audit con-
20 ducted by an approved auditing entity for a
21 State for such fiscal year, in accordance with
22 the requirements of subsection (a) of this sec-
23 tion;

1 (B) specify the amount of the grant made
2 to the State under section 3(a) that is used to
3 carry out a program under section 3(f)(2); and

4 (C) be in such form and contain such other
5 information as the State determines is nec-
6 essary to provide—

7 (i) an accurate description of the ac-
8 tivities conducted by the State for the pur-
9 pose described under section 2 and any
10 other use of funds permitted under sub-
11 sections (d) and (e) of section 3; and

12 (ii) a complete record of the purposes
13 for which amounts were expended in ac-
14 cordance with this Act.

15 (3) CONFORMITY WITH ACCOUNTING PRIN-
16 CIPLES.—Any financial information in the report
17 under paragraph (1) shall be prepared and reported
18 in accordance with generally accepted accounting
19 principles, including the provisions of chapter 75 of
20 title 31, United States Code.

21 (4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—A State shall make
22 copies of the reports required under this section
23 available on a public Web site and shall make copies
24 available in other formats upon request.

1 (d) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS.—

2 The Secretary of the Treasury shall not make any pay-
3 ment to a State under a grant authorized by section
4 3(a)—

5 (1) if an audit for a State is not submitted as
6 required under subsection (a), during the period be-
7 tween the date such audit is due and the date on
8 which such audit is submitted; or

9 (2) if a State fails to submit a report as re-
10 quired under subsection (c), during the period be-
11 tween the date such report is due and the date on
12 which such report is submitted.

13 (e) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERVISION AND OVER-
14 SIGHT.—

15 (1) LIMITED ROLE FOR SECRETARY OF THE
16 TREASURY AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

17 (A) TREASURY.—The authority of the Sec-
18 retary of the Treasury under this Act is limited
19 to—

20 (i) promulgating regulations, issuing
21 rules, or publishing guidance documents to
22 the extent necessary for purposes of imple-
23 menting subsections (a)(3)(B), (b), and
24 (d);

1 (ii) making quarterly payments to the
2 States under grants under this Act in ac-
3 cordance with section 3(a);

4 (iii) approving entities under sub-
5 section (a)(3)(B) for purposes of the audits
6 required under subsection (a);

7 (iv) withholding payment to a State of
8 a grant under subsection (d) or offsetting
9 a payment of such a grant to a State
10 under subsection (b); and

11 (v) exercising the authority relating to
12 nondiscrimination that is specified in sec-
13 tion 5(b).

14 (B) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The authority
15 of the Attorney General to supervise the
16 amounts received by a State under section 3(a)
17 is limited to the authority under section 5(c).

18 (2) FEDERAL SUPERVISION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
20 under paragraph (1), an administrative officer,
21 employee, department, or agency of the United
22 States (including the Secretaries of Agriculture
23 and Health and Human Services) may not—

24 (i) supervise—

1 (I) the amounts received by the
2 States under section 3(a); or
3 (II) the use of such amounts by
4 the States; or
5 (ii) promulgate regulations or issue
6 rules in accordance with this Act.

7 (B) LIMITATION ON SECRETARIES OF AG-
8 RICULTURE AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-
9 ICES.—The Secretaries of Agriculture and
10 Health and Human Services shall have no au-
11 thority over any provision of this Act.

12 (f) RESERVATION OF STATE POWERS.—Nothing in
13 this section shall be construed to limit the power of a
14 State, including the power of a State to pursue civil and
15 criminal penalties under State law against any individual
16 or entity that misuses, or engages in fraud or abuse re-
17 lated to the funds provided to a State under this Act.

18 **SEC. 5. NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS.**

19 (a) NONDISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIVIDUALS.—
20 No individual shall be excluded from participation in, de-
21 nied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under,
22 any program or activity funded in whole or in part with
23 amounts paid to a State under this section 3(a) on the
24 basis of such individual's—

1 (1) disability under section 504 of the Rehabili-
2 tation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794);

3 (2) sex under title IX of the Education Amend-
4 ments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.); or

5 (3) race, color, or national origin under title VI
6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d
7 et seq.).

8 (b) COMPLIANCE.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the
10 Treasury determines that a State or an entity that
11 has received funds from amounts paid to a State
12 under a grant under section 3(a) has failed to com-
13 ply with a provision of law referred to in subsection
14 (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall notify the
15 chief executive officer of the State of such failure to
16 comply and shall request that such chief executive
17 officer secure such compliance.

18 (2) REFUSAL TO SECURE COMPLIANCE.—If, not
19 later than 60 days after receiving notification under
20 paragraph (1), the chief executive officer of a State
21 fails or refuses to secure compliance with the provi-
22 sion of law referred to in such notification, the Sec-
23 retary of the Treasury may—

1 (A) refer the matter to the Attorney Gen-
2 eral with a recommendation that an appropriate
3 civil action be instituted; or

4 (B) exercise the powers and functions pro-
5 vided under section 505 of the Rehabilitation
6 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794a), title IX of the
7 Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C.
8 1681 et seq.), or title VI of the Civil Rights Act
9 of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) (as applica-
10 ble).

11 (c) CIVIL ACTIONS.—If a matter is referred to the
12 Attorney General under subsection (b)(2)(A), or the At-
13 torney General has reason to believe that a State or entity
14 has failed to comply with a provision of law referred to
15 in subsection (a), the Attorney General may bring a civil
16 action in an appropriate district court of the United States
17 for such relief as may be appropriate, including injunctive
18 relief.

19 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

20 For purposes of this Act:

21 (1) SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD AND NUTRITION AS-
22 SISTANCE.—The term “supplemental food and nutri-
23 tion assistance” shall be defined by a State with re-
24 spect to use of such term for purposes of the appli-
25 cation of this Act to the State.

1 (2) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
2 ing given the term in section 3 of the Food and Nu-
3 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012).

4 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON REDUCTION OF FEDERAL ADMINISTRA-**
5 **TIVE EXPENDITURES.**

6 Beginning not later than October 31, 2013, and an-
7 nually thereafter until October 31, 2022, the Secretaries
8 of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, in con-
9 sultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit
10 a report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce in
11 the House of Representatives and the Finance Committee
12 in the Senate containing a description of the total reduc-
13 tion in Federal expenditures required to administer and
14 provide oversight for the programs to provide supple-
15 mental food and nutrition assistance to indigent individ-
16 uals under this Act, compared to the expenditures re-
17 quired to administer and provide oversight for the pro-
18 grams listed in section 8, as such programs were in effect
19 on September 30, 2012.

20 **SEC. 8. REPEALS.**

21 The following provisions are repealed:

22 (1) The Emergency Food Assistance Act of
23 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.).

24 (2) Section 5 of the Agriculture and Consumer
25 Protection Act of 1973, (commonly known as the

1 commodity supplemental food program) (7 U.S.C.
2 612c note).

3 (3) Section 4402 of Public Law 107–171 (relat-
4 ing to the seniors farmers’ market nutrition pro-
5 gram) (7 U.S.C. 3007).

6 (4) Section 25 of the Food and Nutrition Act
7 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2034).

8 (5) Section 19 of the Richard B. Russell Na-
9 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769a).

10 **SEC. 9. SEVERABILITY.**

11 If any provision of this Act, or the application of such
12 provision to any person or circumstance, is found to be
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or the applica-
14 tion of that provision to other persons or circumstances,
15 shall not be affected.

16 **SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
18 take effect with respect to items and services furnished
19 on or after October 1, 2012.

○