

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1752

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require retail food stores to collect, and report to the Secretary of Agriculture, detailed information that identifies food items purchased with benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and to require the Secretary to compile and publish such information.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2013

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

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require retail food stores to collect, and report to the Secretary of Agriculture, detailed information that identifies food items purchased with benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and to require the Secretary to compile and publish such information.

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 “SNAP Transparency
5 Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM REPORTING SYSTEM.**

2 Section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
3 U.S.C. 2013) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “(d) ISSUANCE OF UNIFORM REPORTING GUIDE-
6 LINES.—

7 “(1) REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR RETAIL
8 FOOD STORES.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the enactment of the SNAP Transparency
10 Act of 2013, the Secretary shall issue guidelines in
11 accordance with paragraph (2) that establish a uni-
12 form reporting system regarding the food items pur-
13 chased partially or completely with benefits from the
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program that can
15 be applied with reasonable consistency by each retail
16 food store that redeems such benefits. Such guide-
17 lines should be issued according to best practices of
18 monitoring and evaluation studies and analyses.

19 “(2) OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The guidelines issued
21 under paragraph (1) shall provide direction to
22 retail food stores that redeem benefits under
23 this program on how to report on a quarterly
24 basis the complete range, identities, sizes,
25 quantites, and costs of particular food items
26 purchased with such benefits. This uniform re-

1 porting system shall ensure that the reports
2 from each retail food store are comparable.

3 “(B) OBJECTIVES.—Specifically, the
4 guidelines shall provide direction on what infor-
5 mation to include to comply with the reporting
6 requirements established under paragraph (1):

7 “(i) The established uniform, quar-
8 terly reporting system or form to be made
9 available to participating retail food stores.

10 “(ii) The identity (including label and
11 brand name) of each food item purchased
12 with such benefits in the reporting period.

13 “(iii) The size of each food item pur-
14 chased with such benefits in the reporting
15 period.

16 “(iv) The number of units of each
17 identical food item purchased with such
18 benefits in the reporting period.

19 “(v) The aggregate cost of each iden-
20 tical food item purchased with such bene-
21 fits in the reporting period.

22 “(vi) The address of the retail food
23 store in which the food item was purchased
24 with such benefits in the reporting period.

1 “(vii) Application of rigorous moni-
2 toring and evaluation methodologies to en-
3 sure that—

4 “(I) the total value of benefits re-
5 deemed by each reporting retail food
6 store is equal to the total retail cost
7 of food items purchased with such
8 benefits reported in the reporting pe-
9 riod; and

10 “(II) the accuracy of the infor-
11 mation reported in the reporting pe-
12 riod.

13 “(e) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—

14 “(1) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY RETAIL FOOD
15 STORES.—Not later than 60 days after end of each
16 calendar quarter, or earlier if determined by the Sec-
17 retary, and in accordance with rules issued by the
18 Secretary, each retail food store that redeems bene-
19 fits under the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
20 gram shall submit to the Secretary a report that
21 complies with subsection (d).

22 “(2) PUBLICATION OF REPORTS BY SEC-
23 RETARY.—Not later than 90 days after the end of
24 each calendar quarter, or earlier if determined by
25 the Secretary, the Secretary shall compile, and shall

1 publish on the Internet in a format searchable by
2 the public as compiled, the information received in
3 the reports submitted under paragraph (1) for such
4 quarter. Such information so compiled shall in-
5 clude—

6 “(A) a comprehensive, timely, comparable,
7 and accessible information on the food items
8 purchased with benefits from the supplemental
9 nutrition assistance program, using the report-
10 ing requirements established by the Secretary
11 under subsection (d)(1);

12 “(B) the identity (including label and
13 brand name) of each food item purchased with
14 such benefits in the reporting period;

15 “(C) the size of each food item purchased
16 with such benefits in the reporting period;

17 “(D) the number of units of each identical
18 food item purchased with such benefits in the
19 reporting period;

20 “(E) the aggregate cost of each identical
21 food item purchased with such benefits in the
22 reporting period;

23 “(F) the address of the retail food store in
24 which the food item was purchased with such
25 benefits in the reporting period; and

1 “(G) with respect to each type of par-
2 ticular food item identified, the average retail
3 sale price of the item purchased with such bene-
4 fits.”.

5 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS IF REQUIREMENTS**
6 **ARE NOT MET.**

7 If the information described in section 4(e)(2) of the
8 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
9 2013(e)(2)) with respect to food items purchased with
10 benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
11 gram is not provided as required under section 4(e) of
12 such Act (7 U.S.C. 2013(e)), then the Secretary shall pro-
13 vide briefings to the appropriate congressional committees,
14 along with a detailed explanation of why the requirements
15 for publication on the Internet have not been met and
16 when they will be met, with respect to each month for
17 which such information is not published on the Internet.

18 **SEC. 4. OFFSET.**

19 Of the amount appropriated to carry out the supple-
20 mental nutrition assistance program for each fiscal year,
21 up to 5 percent shall be available to carry out the
22 amendment made by section 2 of this Act.

23 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

24 (a) GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as pro-
25 vided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendment made

1 by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (b) DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (e) of
4 section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
5 2013), as added by section 2 of this Act, shall take effect
6 on the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter that begins
7 not less than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
8 this Act.

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