

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2384

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2013

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. VELA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. GALLEGGO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Food Security Im-  
3       provement Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AS-**  
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS USING COST**  
6 **OF LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.**

7       The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011  
8       et seq.) is amended—

9               (1) in section 3 (7 U.S.C. 2012) by inserting  
10       after subsection (l) the following:

11       “(l–A) ‘Low-cost food plan’ means the cost of the diet  
12       determined by the Secretary, as described in ‘The Low-  
13       Cost, Moderate-Cost, and Liberal Food Plans, 2007’, pub-  
14       lished by the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion  
15       (CNPP–20, November 2007) of the Department of Agri-  
16       culture. The cost of such diet shall be the basis for uni-  
17       form allotments for all households regardless of their ac-  
18       tual composition, except that the Secretary shall—

19               “(1) make household-size adjustments (based  
20       on the unrounded cost of such diet) taking into ac-  
21       count economies of scale;

22               “(2) make cost adjustments in the low-cost food  
23       plan for Hawaii and the urban and rural parts of  
24       Alaska to reflect the cost of food in Hawaii and  
25       urban and rural Alaska;

1 “(3) make cost adjustments in the separate  
2 low-cost food plans for Guam, and the Virgin Is-  
3 lands of the United States, to reflect the cost of food  
4 in those States, but not to exceed the cost of food  
5 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

6 “(4) on October 1, 2015, and each October 1  
7 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect the  
8 cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round the  
9 result to the nearest lower dollar increment for each  
10 household size.”;

11 (2) in section 8(a) (7 U.S.C. 2017(a)) by strik-  
12 ing “thrifty food plan” each place it appears, and in-  
13 serting “low-cost food plan”;

14 (3) in section 18(a)(1) (7 U.S.C. 2027(a)(1))  
15 by striking “2012” and inserting “2015”;

16 (4) in section 19(a)(2)(A) (7 U.S.C.  
17 2028(a)(2)(A))—

18 (A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the  
19 end;

20 (B) in clause (ii)—

21 (i) by striking “each fiscal year there-  
22 after” and inserting “each of fiscal years  
23 2003 through 2014”; and

24 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
25 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

2 “(iii) for fiscal year 2015,  
3 \$2,191,000,000; and

4 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-  
5 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal  
6 year 2016 and each fiscal year thereafter,  
7 the amount determined under clause (iii),  
8 as adjusted by the percentage by which the  
9 low-cost food plan has been adjusted under  
10 section 3(l–A)(4) between June 30, 2014,  
11 and June 30 of the immediately preceding  
12 fiscal year.”; and

13 (5) in section 27(a) (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)) by  
14 striking “2012” each place it appears and inserting  
15 “2015”.

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