

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5849

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2018

Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana) 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 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Food Security Im-
5 provement Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AS-**
2 **SISTANCE PROGRAM BENEFITS USING COST**
3 **OF LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.**

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

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) make cost adjustments in the separate
24 low-cost food plans for Guam, and the Virgin Is-
25 lands of the United States, to reflect the cost of food

1 in those States, but not to exceed the cost of food
2 in the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

3 “(4) on October 1, 2019, and each October 1
4 thereafter, adjust the cost of the diet to reflect the
5 cost of the diet in the preceding June, and round the
6 result to the nearest lower dollar increment for each
7 household size.”;

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

11 (3) in section 19(a)(2)(A) (7 U.S.C.
12 2028(a)(2)(A))—

13 (A) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (B) in clause (ii)—

16 (i) by striking “each fiscal year there-
17 after” and inserting “each of the fiscal
18 years 2004 through 2018”; and

19 (ii) by striking the period at the end
20 and inserting a semicolon; and

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

22 “(iii) for fiscal year 2019,
23 \$2,191,000,000; and

24 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-
25 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal

1 year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter,
2 the amount determined under clause (iii),
3 as adjusted by the percentage by which the
4 low-cost food plan has been adjusted under
5 section 3(l–A)(4) between June 30, 2018,
6 and June 30 of the immediately preceding
7 fiscal year.”.

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