

115TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6208

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to authorize additional funds to expand the nutritional assistance program in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and to require the Secretary of Agriculture to permit such assistance to be provided by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the form of cash during periods for which the Secretary determines that access to such assistance is limited or unavailable as a result of a natural disaster.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to authorize additional funds to expand the nutritional assistance program in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and to require the Secretary of Agriculture to permit such assistance to be provided by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the form of cash during periods for which the Secretary determines that access to such assistance is limited or unavailable as a result of a natural disaster.

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 “Puerto Rico Flexibility
3 in Food Assistance Act of 2018”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR**
5 **BLOCK GRANT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF**
6 **PUERTO RICO.**

7 Section 19(a)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
8 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)) is amended—

- 9 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and
10 (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively, and
11 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(C) AUTHORIZATION AND ADVANCE
14 AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
16 TIONS.—In addition to funds made avail-
17 able under subparagraph (B), there is au-
18 thorized to be appropriated \$635,000,000
19 for each of the fiscal years 2020 and 2021
20 for payment to the Commonwealth of
21 Puerto Rico for the provision of the assist-
22 ance described in subparagraph (B).

23 “(ii) APPROPRIATION IN ADVANCE.—
24 Except as provided in clause (iii), only
25 funds appropriated under clause (i) in ad-
26 vance specifically for the provision of the

1 assistance described in subparagraph (B)
2 shall be available for payment to the Com-
3 monwealth of Puerto Rico for the provision
4 of the assistance described in subpara-
5 graph (B).

6 “(iii) OTHER FUNDS.—Funds appro-
7 priated under clause (i) shall be in addition
8 to funds made available under subpara-
9 graph (B).”.

10 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE CASH BENEFITS DURING**
11 **NATURAL DISASTERS.**

12 Section 19(e)(3)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act
13 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028(e)(3)(B)) is amended—

14 (1) by striking “Secretary, informed” and in-
15 serting the following:

16 “Secretary—

17 “(i) informed”,

18 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
19 ing “; and”, and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(ii) shall approve the modification of
22 such plan by the Commonwealth of Puerto
23 Rico to allow participants, or categories of
24 participants, to receive benefits in the form
25 of cash immediately after a determination

1 by the Secretary that access to such bene-
2 fits is limited or unavailable as a result of
3 a natural disaster, and during specific pe-
4 riods for which the Secretary has made
5 such a determination.”.

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