

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6181

To prevent the changing of regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to provide for expanded food security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2020

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. FUDGE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To prevent the changing of regulations governing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, to provide for expanded food security, 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 “Ensuring Emergency
5 Food Security Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF IMPLEMENTING RULE**
2 **CHANGES FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRI-**
3 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 No Federal funds (including fees) made available for
5 any fiscal year may be used to finalize, implement, admin-
6 ister, enforce, carry out, or otherwise give effect to any
7 proposed rule that would decrease program benefits or im-
8 pact program eligibility of the Supplemental Nutrition As-
9 sistance Program.

10 **SEC. 3. TEMPORARY INCREASE IN BENEFITS UNDER THE**
11 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**
12 **PROGRAM.**

13 (a) MAXIMUM BENEFIT INCREASE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning the first month
15 that begins not less than 10 days after the date of
16 enactment of this Act, the value of benefits deter-
17 mined under section 8(a) of the Food and Nutrition
18 Act of 2008 and consolidated block grants for Puer-
19 to Rico and American Samoa determined under sec-
20 tion 19(a) of such Act shall be calculated using
21 113.6 percent of the June 2019 value of the thrifty
22 food plan as specified under section 3(o) of such
23 Act.

24 (2) TERMINATION.—

1 (A) The authority provided by this sub-
2 section shall terminate after September 30,
3 2020.

4 (B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),
5 the Secretary of Agriculture may not reduce the
6 value of the maximum allotments, minimum al-
7 lotments or consolidated block grants for Puer-
8 to Rico and American Samoa below the level in
9 effect for fiscal year 2020 as a result of para-
10 graph (1).

11 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECRETARY.—In car-
12 rying out this section, the Secretary shall—

13 (1) consider the benefit increases described in
14 subsection (a) to be a “mass change”;

15 (2) require a simple process for States to notify
16 households of the increase in benefits;

17 (3) consider section 16(c)(3)(A) of the Food
18 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(3)(A))
19 to apply to any errors in the implementation of this
20 section, without regard to the 120-day limit de-
21 scribed in that section;

22 (4) disregard the additional amount of benefits
23 that a household receives as a result of this section
24 in determining the amount of over issuances under

1 section 13 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
2 (7 U.S.C. 2022); and

3 (5) set the tolerance level for excluding small
4 errors for the purposes of section 16(c) of the Food
5 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)) at
6 \$50 through September 30, 2020.

7 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the costs of State ad-
9 ministrative expenses associated with carrying out
10 this section and administering the Supplemental Nu-
11 trition Assistance Program established under the
12 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
13 seq.), the Secretary shall make available
14 \$145,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$150,000,000
15 in fiscal year 2021, of which \$4,500,000 is for nec-
16 essary expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service
17 for management and oversight of the program and
18 for monitoring the integrity and evaluating the ef-
19 fects of the payments made under this section.

20 (2) TIMING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020.—Not later
21 than 60 days after the date of enactment of this
22 Act, the Secretary shall make available to States
23 amounts for fiscal year 2020 under paragraph (1).

24 (3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Except as pro-
25 vided for management and oversight, funds de-

scribed in paragraph (1) shall be made available as grants to State agencies for each fiscal year as follows:

(A) Seventy-five percent of the amounts available for each fiscal year shall be allocated to States based on the share of each State of households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as reported to the Department of Agriculture for the most recent 12-month period for which data are available, adjusted by the Secretary (as of the date of enactment) for participation in disaster programs under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

(B) Twenty-five percent of the amounts available for each fiscal year shall be allocated to States based on the increase in the number of households that participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as reported to the Department of Agriculture over the most recent 12-month period for which data are available, adjusted by the Secretary (as of the date of enactment) for participation in disaster programs under section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)).

1 (d) FUNDING.—There are appropriated to the Sec-
 2 retary out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appro-
 3 priated such sums as are necessary to carry out this sec-
 4 tion.

5 **SEC. 4. PROVIDING FOR THE TREATMENT OF JOBLESS**
 6 **WORKERS.**

7 (a) TREATMENT OF JOBLESS WORKERS.—

8 (1) REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2020
 9 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2022.—Beginning with the
 10 first month that begins not less than 10 days after
 11 the date of enactment of this Act and for each sub-
 12 sequent month through September 30, 2022, eligi-
 13 bility for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-
 14 gram benefits shall not be limited under section
 15 6(o)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

16 (2) FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND THEREAFTER.—Be-
 17 ginning on October 1, 2022, for the purposes of sec-
 18 tion 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
 19 U.S.C. 2015(o)), a State agency shall disregard any
 20 period during which an individual received benefits
 21 under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Pro-
 22 gram prior to October 1, 2021.

1 **SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM**
2 **ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS.**

3 (a) FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM ON INDIAN RES-
4 ERVATIONS.—For the costs relating to facility improve-
5 ments and equipment upgrades associated with the Food
6 Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, as estab-
7 lished under section 4(b) of the Food and Nutrition Act
8 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2013(b)), the Secretary shall make
9 available \$5,000,000: *Provided*, That administrative cost-
10 sharing requirements are not applicable to funds provided
11 in accordance with this provision.

○