

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6539

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to promote nutrition, to increase access to food, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2010

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

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to promote nutrition, to increase access to food, 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 “Reducing American
5 Hunger Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DISCOUNT PURCHASE OF PRODUCE.**

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

9 (1) in the last sentence of section 4(a) by in-
10 serting “(increased by an amount equal to 100 per-

1 cent of benefits used to purchase produce)” after
2 “value”, and

3 (2) in section 7(b) by inserting “, but at 50
4 percent of the prevailing prices for produce pur-
5 chased in such stores” after “stores”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
7 subsection (a) shall take effect on the 1st day of the 1st
8 month that begins more than 180 days after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 3. FINGERPRINTING PROHIBITED.**

11 Section 11(e)(2)(D) of the Food and Nutrition Act
12 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting
13 the following before the semicolon at the end: “, and the
14 fingerprint or any other form of biometric testing of any
15 member of a household shall not be required for the pur-
16 pose of participating in the supplemental nutrition assist-
17 ance program or for issuance of benefits for which the
18 household would otherwise be eligible”.

19 **SEC. 4. EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY IN HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT**
20 **AREAS.**

21 Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
22 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (2) by striking “3 months”
24 and inserting “12 months”, and

1 (2) in paragraph 4(A) by striking “On the re-
2 quest of a State agency, the Secretary may” and in-
3 serting “The Secretary shall”.

4 **SEC. 5. PARTICIPATION IN SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION AS-**
5 **SISTANCE PROGRAM IN CITIES.**

6 (a) **REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

7 (1) require the appropriate States to submit to
8 the Secretary reports identifying the levels of partici-
9 pation in the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
10 gram by eligible households located in the 25 largest
11 cities in the United States, and

12 (2) submit to the Congress a report identifying
13 the results contained in the reports required by
14 paragraph (1).

15 (b) **ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION.**—

16 (1) **REQUIREMENT.**—If a State submits a re-
17 port under subsection (a)(1) that identifies a city in
18 which the participation rate of eligible households in
19 the supplemental nutrition assistance program is
20 less than 85 percent, the Secretary of Agriculture
21 shall require such State to implement practices to
22 increase such participation rate.

23 (2) **DEFINITION.**—The term “practices” means
24 telephone interviews, educational public service an-
25 nouncements, town halls, and other services that the

1 State deems fit to increase the participation rate to
2 more than 85 percent of eligible households.

3 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO BENEFITS.**

4 Section 11(t) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
5 (7 U.S.C. 2020(t)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (1) by striking “\$5,000,000”
7 and inserting “\$15,000,000”, and

8 (2) in paragraph (5)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and”
10 at the end,

11 (B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the
12 period at the end and inserting “and”, and

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

14 “(C) shall give special consideration to eli-
15 gible entities that are nonprofit organizations
16 that provide on site at the locations of such or-
17 ganizations online application support to eligible
18 households.”.

19 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGE BETTER NUTRITION.**

20 (a) **EBT CARD ACCESS AT FARMERS’ MARKETS.—**

21 The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a program
22 to support the use of electronic benefits transfers for Fed-
23 eral nutrition programs at farmers’ markets by means of
24 installing or modernizing electronic benefit transfer equip-
25 ment at such markets and by providing educational fo-

1 runs on the benefits of nutrition program participation
2 at such markets.

3 (b) LIMITATIONS.—Funds available to carry out this
4 section—

5 (1) may not be used for the ongoing cost of car-
6 rying out any project, and

7 (2) shall only be provided to eligible entities
8 that demonstrate a plan to continue to provide elec-
9 tronic benefit transfer card access at 1 or more
10 farmers' markets following the receipt of such funds.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 to carry out
13 this section.

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