

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2996

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the work requirement applicable to able-bodied adults without dependents.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 22, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to modify the work requirement applicable to able-bodied adults without dependents.

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 “Supplemental Nutri-
5 tion Assistance Program Reform Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS**
7 **WITHOUT DEPENDENTS.**

8 (a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—Section 2 of the
9 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following: “Congress

1 further finds that it should also be the purpose of the sup-
2 plemental nutrition assistance program to increase em-
3 ployment, to encourage healthy marriage, and to promote
4 prosperous self-sufficiency, which means the ability of
5 households to maintain an income above the poverty level
6 without services and benefits from the Federal Govern-
7 ment.”.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

9 (1) FOOD.—Section 3(k) of the Food and Nu-
10 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(k)) is amended
11 by inserting before the period at the end the fol-
12 lowing: “, except that a food, food product, meal, or
13 other item described in this subsection shall be con-
14 sidered a food under this Act only if it is an essen-
15 tial (as determined by the Secretary)”.

16 (2) SUPERVISED JOB SEARCH.—Section 3 of
17 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
18 2012) is amended—

19 (A) by redesignating subsections (t)
20 through (v) as subsections (u) through (w), re-
21 spectively; and

22 (B) by inserting after subsection (s) the
23 following:

1 “(t) SUPERVISED JOB SEARCH.—The term ‘super-
2 vised job search’ means a job search program that has
3 the following characteristics:

4 “(1) The job search occurs at an official loca-
5 tion where the presence and activity of the recipient
6 can be directly observed, supervised, and monitored.

7 “(2) The entry, time onsite, and exit of the re-
8 cipient from the official job search location are re-
9 corded in a manner that prevents fraud.

10 “(3) The recipient is expected to remain and
11 undertake job search activities at the job search cen-
12 ter.

13 “(4) The quantity of time the recipient is ob-
14 served and monitored engaging in job search at the
15 official location is recorded for purposes of compli-
16 ance with the work and work activation require-
17 ments of sections 6(o) and 30.”.

18 (c) WORK REQUIREMENT FOR ABLE-BODIED
19 ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS.—Section 6(o) of the
20 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (2)—

23 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

24 (A) by striking “not less than 3 months (con-

1 secutive or otherwise)” and inserting “more
2 than 1 month”;

3 (B) in subparagraph (C) by striking “or”
4 at the end;

5 (C) in subparagraph (D) by striking the
6 period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

7 (D) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(E) participate in supervised job search
9 for at least 8 hours per week.”;

10 (2) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the
11 following:

12 “(C) TERMINATION.—Subparagraph (A)
13 shall not apply with respect to any fiscal year
14 that begins after the date of the enactment of
15 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
16 Reform Act of 2017.”;

17 (3) in paragraph (6)—

18 (A) in the paragraph heading by striking
19 “15-PERCENT” and inserting “5-PER-
20 CENT”;

21 (B) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(IV) by striking
22 “3 months” and inserting “1 month”; and

23 (C) in subparagraph (D) by striking “15
24 percent” and inserting “5 percent”; and

25 (4) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(8) PROMOTING WORK.—As a condition of re-
2 ceiving supplemental nutrition assistance program
3 funds under this Act, a State agency shall provide
4 each individual subject to the work requirement of
5 this subsection with the opportunity to participate in
6 an activity selected by the State from among the op-
7 tions described in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (E)
8 of paragraph (2).

9 “(9) PENALTIES FOR INADEQUATE STATE PER-
10 FORMANCE.—If a State agency fails to fully comply
11 with this section, including the requirement to termi-
12 nate the benefits of individuals who fail to fulfill the
13 work requirements described in paragraph (2) dur-
14 ing a fiscal quarter, the funding allotment of the
15 State for the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
16 gram shall be reduced by 10 percent for the quarter
17 that begins 180 days after the first day of the quar-
18 ter in which the noncompliance occurred.”.

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