

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4521

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to simplify the SNAP recertification process for the elderly and disabled, and to spur innovation in the application processes of SNAP, the Medicare Savings Program, and supplemental security income that will increase the utilization of entitlement programs among the most vulnerable of populations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2017

Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CRIST, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. HASTINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to simplify the SNAP recertification process for the elderly and disabled, and to spur innovation in the application processes of SNAP, the Medicare Savings Program, and supplemental security income that will increase the utilization of entitlement programs among the most vulnerable of populations.

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 “SNAP Simplification
5 for the Elderly Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ENHANCED AND COORDINATED PROCEDURES FOR**
7 **CERTAIN HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR**
8 **DISABLED MEMBERS.**

9 (a) LONGER CERTIFICATION PERIODS FOR CERTAIN
10 HOUSEHOLDS WITH ELDERLY OR DISABLED MEM-
11 BERS.—Section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
12 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(f)) shall be amended to read as fol-
13 lows:

14 “(f) ‘Certification period’ means the period for which
15 households shall be eligible to receive benefits. The certifi-
16 cation period shall not exceed 12 months, except as pro-
17 vided in paragraphs (1) and (2). The limits specified in
18 this subsection may be extended until the end of any tran-
19 sitional benefit period established under section 11(s). The
20 certification period may be—

21 “(1) up to 24 months if all adult household
22 members are elderly or disabled; or

23 “(2) up to 36 months if—

24 “(A) all adult household members are el-
25 derly or disabled;

1 “(B) all adult household members who are
2 elderly or disabled are enrolled in Medicaid, in-
3 cluding those enrolled in the Medicare Savings
4 Program as defined in section 1144(c)(7) of the
5 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-
6 14(c)(7));

7 “(C) the State agency’s administration of
8 the program under paragraph (B) is jointly ad-
9 ministered or highly coordinated with benefits
10 under this Act, as determined by the Secretary;
11 and

12 “(D) at the time the household is certified
13 the household has no earned income.”.

14 (b) COMBINED APPLICATION PROJECTS.—Section
15 11(j) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
16 2020(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following—

17 “(3) SSI COMBINED APPLICATION PROJECTS.—

18 The Secretary and the Commissioner of Social Secu-
19 rity shall revise the memorandum of understanding
20 in effect on the date of enactment of the SNAP Sim-
21 plification for the Elderly Act regarding services to
22 be provided in Social Security offices under this sub-
23 section and subsection (i), to provide that, in addi-
24 tion to the other activities under this subsection, the
25 two agencies shall make available Combined Applica-

1 tion Projects to not fewer than 10 additional States
2 that are prepared to undertake such projects and
3 satisfy the Secretary and Commissioner’s require-
4 ments for such projects.”.

5 (c) PILOT PROJECTS.—Section 17 of the Food and
6 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2026) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following—

8 “(m) PILOT PROJECTS FOR SSA SENIOR CENTERS
9 TO PROVIDE INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF SERVICES.—

10 “(1) AUTHORITY FOR PILOT PROJECTS.—The
11 Secretary shall carry out, in collaboration with the
12 Commissioner of Social Security, under such terms
13 and conditions as they consider appropriate, pilot
14 projects in not more than 10 local offices of the So-
15 cial Security Administration that serve high-poverty
16 areas to develop and test approaches to integrate de-
17 livery of benefits to households that include low-in-
18 come elderly or disabled members.

19 “(2) PILOT PROJECTS.—Pilot projects carried
20 out under this subsection shall develop and test ap-
21 proaches to improve participation in multiple pro-
22 grams that provide benefits to such members.

23 “(A) Such approaches shall include—

24 “(i) developing service delivery offices
25 that—

1 “(I) provide a ‘one-stop shopping’
2 approach where applicants and recipi-
3 ents can apply for multiple benefits at
4 local offices of the Social Security Ad-
5 ministration; or

6 “(II) include collocation of staff
7 of other government entities or non-
8 profit private organizations at such
9 offices;

10 “(ii) collaborating with private non-
11 profit organizations, such as community-
12 based organizations, emergency feeding or-
13 ganizations, or organizations that serve el-
14 derly individual or individuals with disabil-
15 ities;

16 “(iii) make changes to allow for appli-
17 cations (which may include recertification
18 applications) to be collected for a wider
19 range of programs, for example, by revis-
20 ing applications and data systems to collect
21 information for multiple programs;

22 “(iv) targeting education and applica-
23 tion assistance to specific sub-populations
24 with low participation rates in included
25 programs; or

1 “(v) data-driven approaches that allow
2 sharing relevant data across included pro-
3 grams for the purpose of improving cross-
4 program enrollment.

5 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
6 subsection—

7 “(i) the term ‘eligible entity’ means
8 the State agency that administers the sup-
9 plemental nutrition assistance program in
10 collaboration with the Social Security Ad-
11 ministration; and

12 “(ii) the term ‘included programs’
13 means—

14 “(I) the supplemental nutrition
15 assistance program;

16 “(II) programs administered by
17 the Administrator of Social Security
18 that are available to individuals who
19 are elderly or have a disability;

20 “(III) the Medicare Savings Pro-
21 gram (as defined in section
22 1144(e)(7) of the Social Security Act
23 (42 U.S.C. 1320b–14(e)(7));

24 “(IV) at the option of an eligible
25 entity, any other Federal, State, or

1 local program that is available to low-
2 income individuals who are elderly or
3 have disability.

4 “(3) FUNDING OF GRANTS.—The Secretary
5 shall use not more than \$50,000,000 of funds made
6 available for fiscal year 2018 under section 18(a)(1),
7 to remain available until expended, to make grants
8 to State agencies to pay 100 percent of the cost of
9 the selected eligible entities to carry out the pilot.
10 Such grants shall supplement and not supplant
11 other funding available to the eligible entities.

12 “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY AND LEAD AGENCY.—
13 “(A) To be eligible to receive a grant for
14 a pilot project under this subsection, an entity
15 shall be a State agency administering the sup-
16 plemental nutrition assistance program in col-
17 laboration with the Social Security Administra-
18 tion.

19 “(B) The State agency shall designate a
20 lead agency for the pilot project, which may be
21 the State agency, a local governmental agency,
22 or the Social Security Administration.

23 “(5) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
24 grant under this subsection a State shall submit an
25 application at such time, in such manner, and con-

1 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
2 quire.

3 “(6) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The
4 Secretary and Commissioner of Social Security—

5 “(A) shall develop criteria for the selection
6 of eligible entities to receive grants for pilot
7 projects under this subsection; and

8 “(B) shall give preference to—

9 “(i) projects that target individuals or
10 communities with high levels of poverty
11 among seniors and people with disabilities;

12 “(ii) partnerships between govern-
13 mental and nongovernmental entities;

14 “(iii) strategies that test innovative
15 approaches that would be likely to be
16 replicable in other communities;

17 “(iv) projects that include resources
18 from sources other than the federal gov-
19 ernment.

20 “(7) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
21 years after the date of the enactment of SNAP Sim-
22 plification for the Elderly Act, the Secretary and
23 Commissioner of Social Security jointly shall submit
24 to the Committees on Agriculture and Ways and
25 Means of the House of Representatives and the

1 Committees of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
2 and Finance of the Senate a report that includes—

3 “(A) an assessment of the impact such
4 pilot projects have on participation in included
5 programs and a description of the results of
6 such projects;

7 “(B) identification of approaches that are
8 most successful and, to the extent practicable,
9 the reasons for the success; and

10 “(C) a discussion of best practices and the
11 factors that would affect whether such ap-
12 proaches can be replicated in other locations.”.

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