

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2723

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for children be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 19, 2018

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require that supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits for children be calculated with reference to the cost of the low-cost food plan, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, 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 “SNAP for Kids Act
5 of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. CALCULATION OF PROGRAM BENEFITS WITH REF-**
2 **ERENCE TO LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Food and Nutri-
4 tion Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (n) through (v)
6 as subsections (o) through (w), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (m) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(n) LOW-COST FOOD PLAN.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘low-cost food
11 plan’ means the diet required to feed a family of 4
12 persons, consisting of a man and a woman 19
13 through 50 years old, a child 6 through 8 years old,
14 and a child 9 through 11 years old, at a cost that
15 is in the second quartile of food expenditures for
16 those families in the United States, as determined
17 by the Secretary.

18 “(2) UNIFORM USE FOR SMALL HOUSEHOLDS
19 INCLUDING CHILDREN.—Subject to paragraph (3),
20 the Secretary shall use the cost of the diet deter-
21 mined under paragraph (1) as the basis for uniform
22 allotments for all small households that include one
23 or more children not less than 5 and not greater
24 than 17 years old (as determined on the first day of
25 each month), regardless of the composition of such
26 a household.

1 “(3) ADJUSTMENTS.—In determining the diet
2 under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

3 “(A) make household-size adjustments
4 (based on the unrounded cost of the diet), tak-
5 ing into account economies of scale;

6 “(B) make cost adjustments in the diet for
7 the State of Hawaii and the urban and rural
8 parts of the State of Alaska to reflect the cost
9 of food in the State of Hawaii and urban and
10 rural parts of the State of Alaska;

11 “(C) make cost adjustments in the sepa-
12 rate low-cost food plans for Guam and the
13 United States Virgin Islands to reflect the cost
14 of food in those States, which shall not exceed
15 the cost of food in the 50 States and the Dis-
16 trict of Columbia; and

17 “(D) on October 1, 2018, and each Octo-
18 ber 1 thereafter—

19 “(i) adjust the cost of the diet to re-
20 flect the cost of the diet in the preceding
21 June; and

22 “(ii) round the cost determined under
23 clause (i) to the nearest lower dollar incre-
24 ment.”.

1 (b) VALUE OF ALLOTMENT.—Section 8 of the Food
2 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2017) is amended—

3 (1) by striking the section heading and all that
4 follows through “(a) The value” and inserting the
5 following:

6 **“SEC. 8. VALUE OF ALLOTMENT.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

8 “(1) DETERMINATION OF ALLOTMENT.—Sub-
9 ject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the value”; and

10 (2) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by
12 striking “dollar: *Provided*, That for households”
13 and inserting the following: “dollar.

14 “(2) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
16 graph (B), for a household”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2) (as so designated), by
18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(B) SMALL HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDING
20 CHILDREN.—For a household of 1 or 2 persons,
21 not fewer than one of which is a child not less
22 than 5 and not greater than 17 years old (as
23 determined on the first day of each month), the
24 minimum allotment shall be 8 percent of the
25 cost of the low-cost food plan for a household

1 containing 1 member, as determined by the
 2 Secretary under section 3, rounded to the near-
 3 est whole dollar increment.”; and

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

5 “(3) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT FOR CERTAIN
 6 HOUSEHOLDS INCLUDING CHILDREN.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph
 8 (2)(B), in the case of a household that includes
 9 one or more children not less than 5 and not
 10 greater than 17 years old (as determined on the
 11 first day of each month), a State agency shall
 12 issue an additional allotment to the household
 13 in an amount (rounded to the nearest lower
 14 whole dollar) equal to the sum of each of the
 15 amounts determined under subparagraph (B).

16 “(B) CALCULATION OF ALLOTMENT.—The
 17 amount of an additional allotment determined
 18 by the Secretary under subparagraph (A) shall
 19 be an amount equal to the difference (rounded
 20 to the nearest lower whole dollar) between—

21 “(i) the product obtained by multi-
 22 plying—

23 “(I) the amount determined
 24 under paragraph (1), except by sub-
 25 stituting ‘thrifty food plan’ in that

1 paragraph with ‘low-cost food plan’;

2 and

3 “(II) the quotient obtained by di-

4 viding—

5 “(aa) the number of children

6 described in subparagraph (A);

7 by

8 “(bb) the number of mem-

9 bers of the household; and

10 “(ii) the product obtained by multi-

11 plying—

12 “(I) the amount determined

13 under paragraph (1); and

14 “(II) the quotient obtained by di-

15 viding—

16 “(aa) the number of children

17 described in subparagraph (A);

18 by

19 “(bb) the number of mem-

20 bers of the household.”.

21 (c) TOLERANCE LEVEL FOR EXCLUDING SMALL ER-

22 RORS.—Section 16(c)(1)(A)(ii) of the Food and Nutrition

23 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2025(c)(1)(A)(ii)) is amended—

24 (1) in subclause (I), by striking “for fiscal year

25 2014, at an amount not greater than \$37” and in-

1 serting “for fiscal year 2018, at an amount not
2 greater than \$50”; and

3 (2) in subclause (II), by striking “3(u)(4) be-
4 tween June 30, 2013” and inserting “3(v)(4) be-
5 tween June 30, 2018”;

6 (d) CONSOLIDATED BLOCK GRANTS FOR PUERTO
7 RICO AND AMERICAN SAMOA.—Section 19(a)(2)(A) of the
8 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(2)(A))
9 is amended—

10 (1) in clause (i) by striking “and” at the end;

11 (2) in clause (ii)—

12 (A) by striking “each fiscal year there-
13 after” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2004
14 through 2018”;

15 (B) by striking “3(u)(4)” and inserting
16 “3(v)(4)”; and

17 (C) by striking the period at the end and
18 inserting a semicolon; and

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

20 “(iii) for fiscal year 2019,
21 \$2,011,992,716; and

22 “(iv) subject to the availability of ap-
23 propriations under section 18(a), for fiscal
24 year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter,
25 the amount determined under clause (iii),

1 as adjusted by the percentage by which the
2 thrifty plan has been adjusted under sec-
3 tion 3(v)(4) between June 30, 2019, and
4 June 30 of the immediately preceding fis-
5 cal year.”.

6 (e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 27(a)(2) of
7 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)(2))
8 is amended in subparagraphs (C) and (E) by striking
9 “3(u)(4)” each place it appears and inserting “3(v)(4)”.

10 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11 This Act and the amendments made by this Act take
12 effect on October 1, 2018.

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