

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6726

To provide a State option for certain cash-value voucher increases during the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2020

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. WRIGHT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To provide a State option for certain cash-value voucher increases during the COVID–19 public health emergency, 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 “WIC Benefit Flexi-
5 bility During COVID–19 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATE OPTION FOR CASH-VALUE VOUCHER IN-**
7 **CREASES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—

9 (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE AMOUNT OF
10 CASH-VALUE VOUCHER.—During the COVID–19

1 public health emergency declared under section 319
2 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d)
3 and in response to challenges related to such public
4 health emergency, the Secretary may increase the
5 amount of a cash-value voucher under a qualified
6 food package to an amount less than or equal to
7 \$35.

8 (2) APPLICATION OF INCREASED AMOUNT OF
9 CASH-VALUE VOUCHER TO STATE AGENCIES.—

10 (A) NOTIFICATION.—An increase to the
11 amount of a cash-value voucher under para-
12 graph (1) shall apply to any State agency that
13 notifies the Secretary of the intent to use such
14 an increased amount, without further applica-
15 tion.

16 (B) USE OF INCREASED AMOUNT.—A
17 State agency that notifies the Secretary under
18 subparagraph (A) may use or not use the in-
19 creased amount described in such subparagraph
20 during the period beginning on the date of the
21 notification by the State agency under such
22 subparagraph and ending September 30, 2020.

23 (3) APPLICATION PERIOD.—An increase to the
24 amount of a cash-value voucher under paragraph (1)
25 may only apply during the period beginning on the

1 date of the enactment of this section and ending on
2 September 30, 2020.

3 (4) SUNSET.—The authority to make an in-
4 crease to the amount of a cash-value voucher under
5 paragraph (1) or to use such an increased amount
6 under paragraph (2)(B) shall terminate on Sep-
7 tember 30, 2020.

8 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

9 (1) CASH-VALUE VOUCHER.—The term “cash-
10 value voucher” has the meaning given the term in
11 section 246.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regula-
12 tions.

13 (2) QUALIFIED FOOD PACKAGE.—The term
14 “qualified food package” means the following food
15 packages under section 246.10(e) of title 7, Code of
16 Federal Regulations:

17 (A) Food Package IV—Children 1 through
18 4 years.

19 (B) Food Package V—Pregnant and par-
20 tially (mostly) breastfeeding women.

21 (C) Food Package VI—Postpartum women.

22 (D) Food Package VII—Fully breastfeed-
23 ing.

24 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
25 the Secretary of Agriculture.

1 (4) STATE AGENCY.—The term “State agency”
2 has the meaning given the term in section 17(b) of
3 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
4 1786(b)).

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