

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6968

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to carry out a food service delivery pilot program for children during the non-school summer months, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TRONE, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CROW, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ALLRED) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to carry out a food service delivery pilot program for children during the non-school summer months, 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 “Meals on Wheels for
5 Kids Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGREGATE MEAL SERVICE REQUIREMENT.**

2 Section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School
3 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the
5 following:

6 “(13) OFF-SITE CONSUMPTION.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later
8 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of
9 this subparagraph, the Secretary shall make
10 available an option to States to provide pro-
11 gram meals to children under this section
12 through service institutions that provide off-site
13 consumption.

14 “(B) AVAILABILITY.—In administering
15 this paragraph, the Secretary shall ensure that
16 off-site consumption is only available to a child
17 if—

18 “(i) the child is determined to be eligi-
19 ble for a free or reduced price lunch under
20 this Act and a free or reduced price break-
21 fast under section 4 of the Child Nutrition
22 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773); and

23 “(ii) not less than 1 of the conditions
24 described in subparagraph (C) is present.

1 “(C) CONDITIONS.—The conditions re-
2 ferred to in subparagraph (B)(ii) are the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(i) The child lives in a rural area or
5 hard-to-reach area.

6 “(ii) The child lives in an area in
7 which poor economic conditions exist.

8 “(iii) The program is available to the
9 child at a congregate feeding site but—

10 “(I) the site is closed due to ex-
11 treme weather conditions;

12 “(II) the site is not reasonably
13 accessible to the child, as determined
14 by the Secretary;

15 “(III) violence or other public
16 safety concerns in the area prevent
17 the child from traveling safely to the
18 site; or

19 “(IV) the site is open not more
20 than 4 days a week.

21 “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering
22 this paragraph, the Secretary shall ensure
23 that—

24 “(i) any meal served by a service in-
25 stitution through off-site consumption

1 meets the same standards for safety and
2 quality as a meal served at a congregate
3 feeding site; and

4 “(ii) each State gives priority to a
5 child living in an area in which a con-
6 gregate feeding site is not reasonably ac-
7 cessible, as determined by the Secretary.

8 “(E) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year
9 after the date of the enactment of this subpara-
10 graph, the Secretary shall—

11 “(i) establish guidelines to ensure the
12 safety of children provided program meals
13 through off-site consumption; and

14 “(ii) establish best practices to ensure
15 the safety of meals served through off-site
16 consumption.”; and

17 (2) in subsection (n)—

18 (A) by striking “and (6)” and inserting
19 “(6)”; and

20 (B) by striking the period at the end and
21 inserting “; and (7) the plans of the State for
22 using off-site consumption described in sub-
23 section (a)(13), if applicable.”.

1 **SEC. 3. FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM FOR**
2 **SUMMER MONTHS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 13 of the
4 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1761) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(i) FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PILOT PROGRAM.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
8 tablish a pilot program under which the Secretary
9 shall award grants on a competitive basis to States
10 to enter into contracts with eligible service institu-
11 tions or a consortia of eligible service institutions to
12 deliver meals in accordance with paragraph (5).

13 “(2) APPLICATION.—A State seeking a grant
14 under this subsection shall submit an application to
15 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
16 containing such information as the Secretary may
17 require.

18 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
19 subsection, the Secretary may give priority to appli-
20 cations submitted by eligible service institutions—

21 “(A) from States with—

22 “(i) high low-income child popu-
23 lations; or

24 “(ii) high child populations in rural
25 areas or hard-to-reach areas; or

1 “(B) that plans to provide educational en-
2 richment opportunities to children who receive
3 meals under the pilot program.

4 “(4) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of receiving
5 a grant under this subsection, a State shall—

6 “(A) require that any service institution
7 with which the State enters into a contract to
8 provide meals pursuant to this subsection—

9 “(i) complies with the nutrition re-
10 quirements under section 9(a)(1)(A) of the
11 Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(a)(1)(A)) with re-
13 spect to such meals; and

14 “(ii) delivers at least 5 meals a week
15 during the non-school summer months to
16 children in accordance with paragraph (5);

17 “(B) in selecting service institutions to
18 enter into a contract pursuant to this sub-
19 section, give priority to service institutions lo-
20 cated in rural areas or hard-to-reach areas; and

21 “(C) provide matching support in the form
22 of cash or in-kind contributions, including fa-
23 cilities, equipment, or services provided by the
24 State in an amount that is at least equal to 100

1 percent of the amount of Federal funds received
2 under the grant under this subsection.

3 “(5) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(A) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—A State
5 that receives a grant under this subsection shall
6 use the grant funds to enter into one or more
7 contracts with one or more service institutions
8 to deliver meals during the summer months di-
9 rectly to children who—

10 “(i) are eligible—

11 “(I) to participate in the summer
12 food service program under this sec-
13 tion; or

14 “(II) for free or reduced price
15 lunch under this Act or free or re-
16 duced price breakfast under section 4
17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
18 (42 U.S.C. 1773); and

19 “(ii) live in a rural area or hard-to-
20 reach area.

21 “(B) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—A
22 State that receives a grant under this sub-
23 section may use the grant funds to provide to
24 children described in subparagraph (A) meals

during extended school breaks or closures the duration of which is greater than 5 school days.

“(6) OVERSIGHT AND EVALUATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide for an independent evaluation of the services carried out under paragraph (5) that measures, to the maximum extent practicable, the impact of such grants on the reduction of hunger and access to meals for children residing in rural or hard-to-reach areas and low-income areas during summer months.

“(B) PROGRAM REVIEW.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which grants are first provided under this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall—

“(i) review and evaluate the effectiveness of the services carried out under paragraph (5);

“(ii) suggest alternative services not offered by a grant recipient that would be appropriate for providing summer meals to children in rural or hard-to-reach areas;

“(iii) submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Education and Labor of

1 the House of Representatives and the
2 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
3 Forestry of the Senate, a report containing
4 the results of the review conducted under
5 clause (i) and a description of the services
6 provided through the programs funded
7 under such a grant; and

8 “(iv) make the report described in
9 clause (iii) available on the public website
10 of the Department of Agriculture.

11 “(C) PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFOR-
12 MATION.—In making the report under subpara-
13 graph (B)(iii) publicly available, the Secretary
14 shall ensure that such report does not contain
15 any information that would identify any child or
16 parent, family member, or guardian of a child
17 who received services pursuant to this sub-
18 section.

19 “(7) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this
20 subsection shall terminate on the date that is 3
21 years after the date of the enactment this sub-
22 section.

23 “(8) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In
24 addition to amounts made available under subsection
25 (r), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry

1 out this subsection \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2020
2 and each of the 2 fiscal years thereafter.

3 “(9) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

4 “(A) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
5 means any area other than—

6 “(i) a city or town that has a popu-
7 lation of greater than 50,000 inhabitants;
8 and

9 “(ii) any urbanized area contiguous
10 and adjacent to a city or town described in
11 clause (i).

12 “(B) STATE.—The term ‘State’ includes
13 each Federally-recognized Indian Tribe.”.

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