

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7069

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand benefits to households eligible for Federal and State energy assistance programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2026

Ms. McDONALD RIVET introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand benefits to households eligible for Federal and State energy assistance programs, 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 “Affordable Food and
5 Energy Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE.**

7 Section 5 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7
8 U.S.C. 2014) is amended—

1 (1) by amending subsection (e)(6)(C)(iv)(I) to
2 read as follows:

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to
4 subclause (II), if a State agency elects
5 to use a standard utility allowance
6 that reflects heating and cooling costs,
7 the standard utility allowance shall be
8 made available to households that re-
9 ceived a payment, or on behalf of
10 which a payment was made, under the
11 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance
12 Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.)
13 or other similar energy assistance pro-
14 gram, if in the current month or in
15 the immediately preceding 12 months,
16 the household either received such a
17 payment, or such a payment was
18 made on behalf of the household, that
19 was greater than \$20 annually, as de-
20 termined by the Secretary.”, and

21 (2) by amending subsection (k)(4) to read as
22 follows:

23 “(4) THIRD PARTY ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAY-
24 MENTS.—

1 “(A) ENERGY ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS.—

2 For purposes of subsection (d)(1), a payment
3 made under a State law (other than a law re-
4 ferred to in paragraph (2)(G)) to provide en-
5 ergy assistance to a household shall be consid-
6 ered money payable directly to the household.

7 “(B) ENERGY ASSISTANCE EXPENSES.—

8 For purposes of subsection (e)(6), an expense
9 paid on behalf of a household under a State law
10 to provide energy assistance shall be considered
11 an out-of-pocket expense incurred and paid by
12 the household.”.

13 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

14 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall
15 take effect July 4, 2025.

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