

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3240

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to reform the restaurant meals program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. ERNST 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 reform the restaurant meals program, 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 “McStopping Chains
5 from Using SNAP EBT to Make Entrees Act of 2025”
6 or the “McSCUSE ME Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. RESTAURANT MEALS PROGRAM.**

8 Section 9(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
9 (7 U.S.C. 2018(h)) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by striking “determines that the par-
 2 ticipation” and inserting the following: “deter-
 3 mines that—

4 “(A) the private establishment is a retail
 5 food store that—

6 “(i) operates a prepared food section,
 7 hot bar, or deli counter;

8 “(ii) is not primarily engaged in the
 9 sale of quick-service or fast-food items, as
 10 determined by the Secretary; and

11 “(iii) meets all State and local food
 12 safety and health standards applicable to
 13 grocery stores or supermarkets; and

14 “(B) the participation”;

15 (2) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
 16 graph (6);

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
 18 lowing:

19 “(3) ELIGIBLE MEALS.—Benefits may be re-
 20 deemed under the program under this subsection
 21 from a private establishment described in paragraph
 22 (2)(A) only for meals from a prepared food section,
 23 hot bar, or deli counter that—

24 “(A) are intended for immediate consump-
 25 tion; and

1 “(B) contain at least—

2 “(i) 1 fruit or vegetable; and

3 “(ii) 1 protein, as defined by the Sec-
4 retary.

5 “(4) SINGLE AUTHORIZATION.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A retail food store au-
7 thorized under section 9 shall not be required
8 to obtain a separate authorization for partici-
9 pating in the program under this section.

10 “(B) EBT SYSTEMS.—The Secretary shall
11 ensure that State agencies maintain or update
12 EBT card coding and retailer coding systems
13 necessary to restrict redemption of benefits
14 under this subsection to eligible households.

15 “(5) SPOUSAL EXCLUSION.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of this Act, a spouse of an indi-
17 vidual eligible for benefits under the supplemental
18 nutrition assistance program shall not be eligible to
19 participate in the program under this subsection.”;
20 and

21 (4) in paragraph (6) (as so redesignated), by
22 striking “Senate a report on the effectiveness of a”
23 and inserting the following: “Senate, and make pub-
24 licly available, a report describing—

1 “(A) the number of private establishments
2 participating in the program under this sub-
3 section;

4 “(B) for each private establishment par-
5 ticipating in the program under this sub-
6 section—

7 “(i) the name and location of the pri-
8 vate establishment; and

9 “(ii) the amount of benefits redeemed
10 at the private establishment;

11 “(C) the number of individuals receiving
12 benefits under the program under this sub-
13 section;

14 “(D) the costs of the program under this
15 subsection; and

16 “(E) the effectiveness of the”.

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