

Public Law 98-204
98th Congress

An Act

To suspend the noncash benefit requirement for the Puerto Rico nutrition assistance program, to provide States with greater flexibility in the administration of the food stamp program, and for other purposes.

Dec. 2, 1983

[H.R. 4252]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That effective for the period beginning January 1, 1984, and ending September 30, 1985, section 19(a)(1)(A) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028(a)(1)(A)) is amended by striking out "noncash".

Puerto Rico, nutrition assistance program. Food stamp program. Study.

7 USC 2028 note.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall conduct a study of the food assistance program in Puerto Rico carried out under section 19 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2028) which shall include (1) an assessment of its impact on the adequacy of the nutritional level of the diets of households receiving food assistance in the form of cash rather than in a noncash form, (2) an assessment of the expenditure levels for food of such households, and (3) any other factors the Secretary considers appropriate. The Secretary shall submit a final report of the findings of the study to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate no later than March 1, 1985.

Report to congressional committees.

SEC. 3. Section 3(c) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2012(c)) is amended by—

Waiver.

(1) by striking out "the limit of twelve months may be waived by the Secretary to improve the administration of the program" in the second sentence and inserting in lieu thereof "the foregoing limits on the certification period may, with the approval of the Secretary, be waived by a State agency for certain categories of households where such waiver will improve the administration of the program"; and

(2) adding at the end of clause (2) the following new sentence: "The maximum limit of twelve months for such period under the foregoing proviso may be waived by the Secretary where such waiver will improve the administration of the program."

SEC. 4. Section 5(f)(2) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2014(f)(2)) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C), and inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

"(B) Household income for households that (i) are permitted to report household circumstances at specified intervals less frequent than monthly under section 6(c)(1) of this Act, (ii) have no earned income and in which all adult members are elderly or disabled members, or (iii) are any other households, other than a migrant household, not required to report monthly or at less frequent intervals under section 6(c)(1) of this Act, may, with the approval of the Secretary, be calculated by a State agency on a prospective basis, as provided in paragraph (3)(A) of this subsection."

Household income.
7 USC 2015.

SEC. 5. Section 6(c)(1) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(c)(1)) is amended by inserting after the first sentence the

7 USC 2020.

following new sentence: "The Secretary may permit State agencies to accept, as satisfying the requirement that households report at such specified less frequent intervals, (i) recertifications conducted in accordance with section 11(e)(4) of this Act, (ii) in-person interviews conducted during a certification period, (iii) written reports filed by households, or (iv) such other documentation or actions as the Secretary may prescribe."

SEC. 6. Section 6(c)(3) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2015(c)(3)) is amended by striking out the third sentence and inserting in lieu thereof: "Reports required to be filed monthly under paragraph (1) shall be the sole reporting requirement for subject matter included in such reports."

SEC. 7. Section 11(e)(19) of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2020(e)(19)) is amended to read as follows:

"(19) that—

"(A) in any case in which information is available from agencies administering State unemployment compensation laws under section 303(d) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 503(d)), the information shall be requested and utilized by the State agency to the extent permitted under such section; or

"(B) in any case in which information is not available from agencies administering State unemployment compensation laws under section 303(d) of the Social Security Act—

"(i) information available from the Social Security Administration under section 6103(1)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 shall be requested and utilized by the State agency to the extent permitted under such section; or

"(ii) similar information available from other sources shall be requested and utilized by the State agency to the extent approved by the Secretary and permitted by any law controlling access to the information;"

26 USC 6103.

Approved December 2, 1983.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4252:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-539 (Comm. on Agriculture).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 129 (1983):

Nov. 15, considered and passed House.

Nov. 17, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Nov. 18, House concurred in certain Senate amendments and in another with amendments; Senate concurred in House amendments.