

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6272

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand the eligibility of students to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. MENG, Ms. BASS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BOWMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. DEAN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CORREA, Mr. EVANS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CRIST, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. JONES, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mrs. HAYES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

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## A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to expand the eligibility of students to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “College Student Hun-  
3 ger Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
5 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
6 **PROGRAM.**

7       (a) DEFINITION OF HOUSEHOLD.—Section 3(m) of  
8 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(m))  
9 is amended—

10           (1) in paragraph (4), by inserting “, except  
11 with respect to the individuals described in para-  
12 graph (5)(F),” before “constitute”; and

13           (2) in paragraph (5), by adding at the end the  
14 following:

15           “(F) Students that are enrolled in and are  
16 residents of an institution of higher education  
17 (as defined in section 102 of the Higher Edu-  
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) and are  
19 eligible to participate in the supplemental nutri-  
20 tion assistance program under paragraphs (1)  
21 through (11) of section 6(e).”.

22       (b) ELIGIBILITY OF STUDENTS.—Section 6(e) of the  
23 Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(e)) is  
24 amended—

25           (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “20” and in-  
26 serting “10”;

1 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking “or” at the  
2 end;

3 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at  
4 the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(9) is eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under  
7 section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
8 (20 U.S.C. 1070a);

9 “(10) has an expected family contribution equal  
10 to zero, as determined by the procedures established  
11 in part F of title IV of the Higher Education Act  
12 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087kk et seq.); or

13 “(11) is independent (as the term is defined  
14 under subparagraph (B), (C), (D), (G), or (H) of  
15 section 480(d)(1) of the Higher Education Act (20  
16 U.S.C. 1087vv(d)(1))).”.

17 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION ON STUDENT**  
18 **ELIGIBILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NU-**  
19 **TRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term “college  
22 student” means a student enrolled in an institution  
23 of higher education.

24 (2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
2 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

3 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means  
4 the supplemental nutrition assistance program es-  
5 tablished under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008  
6 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).

7 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
8 the Secretary of Agriculture.

9 (b) STRATEGIES REPORT.—180 days after the effec-  
10 tive date of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Con-  
11 gress a report that describes the strategy to be used—

12 (1) to increase the awareness of State agencies  
13 and institutions of higher education about—

14 (A) college student hunger;

15 (B) the eligibility of college students for  
16 the program; and

17 (C) the procedures and resources available  
18 to college students who are participating in the  
19 program to access benefits under the program;

20 (2) to identify existing or potential barriers and  
21 mitigation strategies with respect to those barriers;  
22 and

23 (3) to update the strategic communications plan  
24 under subsection (c).

1 (c) UPDATED STATE OUTREACH PLAN GUIDANCE.—

2 Not later than 90 days after the Secretary submits to Con-  
3 gress a report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall  
4 publish an updated State Outreach Plan Guidance that—

5 (1) describes existing data on college student  
6 hunger;

7 (2) describes the manner in which college stu-  
8 dents can access the supplemental nutrition assist-  
9 ance program;

10 (3) recommends outreach activities to address  
11 college student hunger and encourages States to  
12 conduct those and other outreach activities;

13 (4) provides a template for a State to submit  
14 information to the Secretary describing the outreach  
15 activities being carried out by the State to address  
16 college student hunger; and

17 (5) contains updated guidance based on the  
18 content of such report.

19 **SEC. 4. DEMONSTRATION PILOT PROGRAM.**

20 The Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011  
21 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 **“SEC. 31. COLLEGE STUDENT HUNGER PILOT PROGRAM.**

23 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

1           “(1) COLLEGE STUDENT.—The term ‘college  
2           student’ means a student enrolled in an institution  
3           of higher education.

4           “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
5           The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
6           meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
7           Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002).

8           “(3) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ‘pilot pro-  
9           gram’ means the pilot program established under  
10          subsection (b).

11          “(b) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in collabora-  
12          tion with the Secretary of Education, shall establish a pilot  
13          program under which the Secretary shall carry out dem-  
14          onstration projects in accordance with subsection (c)—

15               “(1) to decrease student hunger at institutions  
16               of higher education; and

17               “(2) to reduce barriers to college students fully  
18               utilizing supplemental nutrition assistance program  
19               benefits at institutions of higher education.

20          “(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—To carry out the  
21          pilot program, the Secretary shall carry out demonstration  
22          projects that test the following new supplemental nutrition  
23          assistance program delivery methods:

24               “(1) Allowing a college student receiving sup-  
25               plemental nutrition assistance program benefits to

1 use those benefits or the cash value of those bene-  
2 fits—

3 “(A) to purchase prepared foods from a  
4 campus dining hall, on-campus store, or other  
5 on-campus merchant or provider that typically  
6 sells prepared meals and is affiliated with the  
7 institution of higher education at which the stu-  
8 dent is enrolled; and

9 “(B) to pay the institution of higher edu-  
10 cation the cost of an on-campus college meal  
11 plan, in whole or in part.

12 “(2) Allowing a college student to use an EBT  
13 card or a campus-specific card at any of the loca-  
14 tions described in paragraph (1)(A).

15 “(d) PROJECT LIMIT.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
17 out not more than 10 demonstration projects under  
18 the pilot program simultaneously.

19 “(2) INSTITUTIONS.—The Secretary shall carry  
20 out not more than 1 demonstration project under  
21 the pilot program at any single institution of higher  
22 education.

23 “(e) PROJECT ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary  
24 shall establish criteria and parameters for selecting, oper-

1 ating, monitoring, and terminating each demonstration  
2 project under the pilot program.

3 “(f) PROJECT TERMINATION.—To the maximum ex-  
4 tent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the termi-  
5 nation of a demonstration project under the pilot program  
6 shall not cause sudden adverse changes or the elimination  
7 of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance  
8 program for students participating in the demonstration  
9 project.

10 “(g) PROGRAM TERMINATION.—The pilot program  
11 shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the date  
12 on which the pilot program is established.

13 “(h) EVALUATION.—For the duration of the pilot  
14 program, the Secretary shall, in collaboration with the  
15 Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics  
16 and the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences,  
17 conduct an annual evaluation of each demonstration  
18 project carried out under the pilot program during the  
19 year covered by the evaluation, including an analysis of  
20 the extent to which the project is meeting the desired out-  
21 comes.

22 “(i) REPORT.—For the duration of the pilot program,  
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Agri-  
24 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry and Health, Education,  
25 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committees



1 on Agriculture and Education and Labor of the House of  
2 Representatives an annual report that includes—

3 “(1) a description of each demonstration project  
4 carried out under the pilot program during the year  
5 covered by the report;

6 “(2) the evaluation conducted under subsection  
7 (h); and

8 “(3) recommendations for legislation to improve  
9 the supplemental nutrition assistance program to  
10 better serve college students.

11 “(j) WAIVER AND MODIFICATION AUTHORITY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
13 the Secretary may, as may be necessary solely to  
14 carry out the pilot program—

15 “(A) waive any provision under this Act,  
16 including—

17 “(i) the requirement relating to local  
18 sales tax under section 4(a);

19 “(ii) requirements relating to the  
20 issuance and use of supplemental nutrition  
21 assistance program benefits under section  
22 7; and

23 “(iii) requirements for approval of re-  
24 tail food stores under section 9; and

1 “(B) modify the definitions under this Act  
2 for the purposes of the pilot program, including  
3 the definition of—

4 “(i) the term ‘food’ under section  
5 3(k);

6 “(ii) the term ‘household’ under sec-  
7 tion 3(m); and

8 “(iii) the term ‘retail food store’ under  
9 section 3(o).

10 “(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not  
11 waive a provision or modify a definition under para-  
12 graph (1) if the waiver or modification will—

13 “(A) cause increased difficulty for any  
14 household to apply for or access supplemental  
15 nutrition assistance program benefits; or

16 “(B) reduce the value of those benefits for  
17 any household.

18 “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such  
20 sums as are necessary to carry out this section.”.

21 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

22 This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall  
23 take effect on the first day of the fiscal year that begins  
24 after the date of enactment of this Act.

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