

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6203

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for blended workforces to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program under certain conditions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for blended workforces to carry out the supplemental nutrition assistance program under certain conditions.

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 “Emergency SNAP
5 Staffing Flexibility Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SNAP STAFFING FLEXI-**
7 **BILITY.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
9 11(e)(6)(B) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, a

1 State agency (as defined in section 3 of the Food and Nu-
2 trition Act of 2008) may, by contract with the State agen-
3 cy at a reasonable cost in accordance with the State agen-
4 cy's standard contracting rules, hire a contractor to under-
5 take supplemental nutrition assistance program certifi-
6 cation or carry out any other function of the State agency
7 under such program.

8 (b) USE.—A State agency may use the authority pro-
9 vided in subsection (a) when the State experiences in-
10 creases in supplemental nutrition assistance program ap-
11 plications or an inability to timely process such applica-
12 tions from causes that include—

- 13 (1) pandemics and other health emergencies,
- 14 (2) seasonal workforce cycles,
- 15 (3) temporary staffing shortages, and
- 16 (4) weather or other natural disasters.

17 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—A State agency that hires a
18 contractor under subsection (a) shall ensure such action—

- 19 (1) is consistent with all principles under sec-
20 tion 900.603 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regu-
21 lations; and
- 22 (2) does not supplant existing merit-based per-
23 sonnel in the State.

1 (d) NOTIFICATION.—A State agency shall notify the
2 Secretary of Agriculture of the intent to use the authority
3 provided in this section.

4 (e) DURATION.—To the maximum extent practicable,
5 any new contract entered into, or any contract modified,
6 under subsection (a) shall terminate not later than the
7 date on which the cause for the increase in supplemental
8 nutrition assistance program applications or an inability
9 to timely process such applications subsides.

10 (f) PROGRAM DESIGN.—Any action taken by a State
11 agency under subsection (a) shall not be—

12 (1) considered to be a major change in the op-
13 erations of such State agency for the purposes of
14 section 11(a)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
15 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(a)(4)), or

16 (2) subject to any requirement specified in such
17 section.

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