

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1752

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require retail food stores to collect, and report to the Secretary of Agriculture, detailed information that identifies food items purchased with benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and to require the Secretary to compile and publish such information.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2013

Mr. MARINO 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 require retail food stores to collect, and report to the Secretary of Agriculture, detailed information that identifies food items purchased with benefits provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance program; and to require the Secretary to compile and publish such information.

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 “SNAP Transparency  
5        Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHING A UNIFORM REPORTING SYSTEM.**

2 Section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7  
3 U.S.C. 2013) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(d) ISSUANCE OF UNIFORM REPORTING GUIDE-  
6 LINES.—

7 “(1) REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR RETAIL  
8 FOOD STORES.—Not later than one year after the  
9 date of the enactment of the SNAP Transparency  
10 Act of 2013, the Secretary shall issue guidelines in  
11 accordance with paragraph (2) that establish a uni-  
12 form reporting system regarding the food items pur-  
13 chased partially or completely with benefits from the  
14 supplemental nutrition assistance program that can  
15 be applied with reasonable consistency by each retail  
16 food store that redeems such benefits. Such guide-  
17 lines should be issued according to best practices of  
18 monitoring and evaluation studies and analyses.

19 “(2) OBJECTIVES OF GUIDELINES.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The guidelines issued  
21 under paragraph (1) shall provide direction to  
22 retail food stores that redeem benefits under  
23 this program on how to report on a quarterly  
24 basis the complete range, identities, sizes,  
25 quantites, and costs of particular food items  
26 purchased with such benefits. This uniform re-

1           porting system shall ensure that the reports  
2           from each retail food store are comparable.

3           “(B)     OBJECTIVES.—Specifically,     the  
4           guidelines shall provide direction on what infor-  
5           mation to include to comply with the reporting  
6           requirements established under paragraph (1):

7                     “(i) The established uniform, quar-  
8                     terly reporting system or form to be made  
9                     available to participating retail food stores.

10                    “(ii) The identity (including label and  
11                    brand name) of each food item purchased  
12                    with such benefits in the reporting period.

13                    “(iii) The size of each food item pur-  
14                    chased with such benefits in the reporting  
15                    period.

16                    “(iv) The number of units of each  
17                    identical food item purchased with such  
18                    benefits in the reporting period.

19                    “(v) The aggregate cost of each iden-  
20                    tical food item purchased with such bene-  
21                    fits in the reporting period.

22                    “(vi) The address of the retail food  
23                    store in which the food item was purchased  
24                    with such benefits in the reporting period.

1           “(vii) Application of rigorous moni-  
2           toring and evaluation methodologies to en-  
3           sure that—

4                   “(I) the total value of benefits re-  
5                   deemed by each reporting retail food  
6                   store is equal to the total retail cost  
7                   of food items purchased with such  
8                   benefits reported in the reporting pe-  
9                   riod; and

10                   “(II) the accuracy of the infor-  
11                   mation reported in the reporting pe-  
12                   riod.

13           “(e) SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORTS.—

14                   “(1) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY RETAIL FOOD  
15                   STORES.—Not later than 60 days after end of each  
16                   calendar quarter, or earlier if determined by the Sec-  
17                   retary, and in accordance with rules issued by the  
18                   Secretary, each retail food store that redeems bene-  
19                   fits under the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-  
20                   gram shall submit to the Secretary a report that  
21                   complies with subsection (d).

22                   “(2) PUBLICATION OF REPORTS BY SEC-  
23                   RETARY.—Not later than 90 days after the end of  
24                   each calendar quarter, or earlier if determined by  
25                   the Secretary, the Secretary shall compile, and shall

1 publish on the Internet in a format searchable by  
2 the public as compiled, the information received in  
3 the reports submitted under paragraph (1) for such  
4 quarter. Such information so compiled shall in-  
5 clude—

6 “(A) a comprehensive, timely, comparable,  
7 and accessible information on the food items  
8 purchased with benefits from the supplemental  
9 nutrition assistance program, using the report-  
10 ing requirements established by the Secretary  
11 under subsection (d)(1);

12 “(B) the identity (including label and  
13 brand name) of each food item purchased with  
14 such benefits in the reporting period;

15 “(C) the size of each food item purchased  
16 with such benefits in the reporting period;

17 “(D) the number of units of each identical  
18 food item purchased with such benefits in the  
19 reporting period;

20 “(E) the aggregate cost of each identical  
21 food item purchased with such benefits in the  
22 reporting period;

23 “(F) the address of the retail food store in  
24 which the food item was purchased with such  
25 benefits in the reporting period; and

1           “(G) with respect to each type of par-  
2           ticular food item identified, the average retail  
3           sale price of the item purchased with such bene-  
4           fits.”.

5 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS IF REQUIREMENTS**  
6                                   **ARE NOT MET.**

7           If the information described in section 4(e)(2) of the  
8 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
9 2013(e)(2)) with respect to food items purchased with  
10 benefits from the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-  
11 gram is not provided as required under section 4(e) of  
12 such Act (7 U.S.C. 2013(e)), then the Secretary shall pro-  
13 vide briefings to the appropriate congressional committees,  
14 along with a detailed explanation of why the requirements  
15 for publication on the Internet have not been met and  
16 when they will be met, with respect to each month for  
17 which such information is not published on the Internet.

18 **SEC. 4. OFFSET.**

19           Of the amount appropriated to carry out the supple-  
20 mental nutrition assistance program for each fiscal year,  
21 up to 5 percent shall be available to carry out the  
22 amendment made by section 2 of this Act.

23 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

24           (a) GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as pro-  
25 vided in subsection (b), this Act and the amendment made

1 by this Act shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
2 of this Act.

3 (b) DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (e) of  
4 section 4 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.  
5 2013), as added by section 2 of this Act, shall take effect  
6 on the 1st day of the 1st calendar quarter that begins  
7 not less than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
8 this Act.

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