

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4969

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to restore and standardize work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program and limit participation to 5 years for able-bodied adults.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. BURLISON (for himself and Mr. BRECHEEN) 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 restore and standardize work requirements for able-bodied adults enrolled in the supplemental nutrition assistance program and limit participation to 5 years for able-bodied adults.

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 “Ending the Cycle of  
5 Dependency Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMP-**  
2 **TIONS FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS IN THE**  
3 **SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE**  
4 **PROGRAM.**

5 Section 6(o)(3) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (2) shall not  
8 apply to an individual if the individual is—

9 “(A) under 18 or over 65 years of age;

10 “(B) medically certified as physically or  
11 mentally unfit for employment;

12 “(C) a parent or other member of a house-  
13 hold with primary responsibility for a dependent  
14 child under 6 years of age;

15 “(D) otherwise exempt under subsection  
16 (d)(2); or

17 “(E) a pregnant woman.”.

18 **SEC. 3. REPEALING WAIVER OF GEOGRAPHIC WORK RE-**  
19 **QUIREMENTS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRI-**  
20 **TION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

21 Section 6(o)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
22 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)) is repealed.

1 **SEC. 4. ELIMINATING NO GOOD CAUSE WORK REQUIRE-**  
2 **MENTS EXCEPTIONS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL**  
3 **NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 6(o)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
5 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(6)) is repealed.

6 **SEC. 5. STANDARDIZING WORK REQUIREMENT AGE LIMIT**  
7 **RULES IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**  
8 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9 Section 6(d)(1)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
10 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(1)(A)) is amended to read as fol-  
11 lows:

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—No physically and  
13 mentally fit individual over the age of 15 and  
14 under the age of 65 shall be eligible to partici-  
15 pate in the supplemental nutrition assistance  
16 program if the individual—

17 “(i) refuses, at the time of application  
18 and every 12 months thereafter, to register  
19 for employment in a manner prescribed by  
20 the Secretary;

21 “(ii) refuses without good cause to  
22 participate in an employment and training  
23 program established under paragraph (4),  
24 to the extent required by the State agency;

25 “(iii) refuses without good cause to  
26 accept an offer of employment, at a site or

1 plant not subject to a strike or lockout at  
2 the time of the refusal, at a wage not less  
3 than the higher of—

4 “(I) the applicable Federal or  
5 State minimum wage; or

6 “(II) 80 percent of the wage that  
7 would have governed had the min-  
8 imum hourly rate under section  
9 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards  
10 Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1))  
11 been applicable to the offer of employ-  
12 ment;

13 “(iv) refuses without good cause to  
14 provide a State agency with sufficient in-  
15 formation to allow the State agency to de-  
16 termine the employment status or the job  
17 availability of the individual;

18 “(v) voluntarily and without good  
19 cause—

20 “(I) quits a job; or

21 “(II) reduces work effort and,  
22 after the reduction, the individual is  
23 working less than 30 hours per week;  
24 or

25 “(vi) fails to comply with section 20.”.

1 **SEC. 6. STANDARDIZING WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMP-**  
2 **TIONS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**  
3 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 6(d)(2) of the Food and Nutrition Act of  
5 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(d)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(2) A person who otherwise would be required  
7 to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1) of  
8 this subsection shall be exempt from such require-  
9 ments if he or she is (A) currently subject to and  
10 complying with a work registration requirement  
11 under title IV of the Social Security Act, as amend-  
12 ed (42 U.S.C. 602), or the Federal-State unemploy-  
13 ment compensation system, in which case, failure by  
14 such person to comply with any work requirement to  
15 which such person is subject shall be the same as  
16 failure to comply with that requirement of para-  
17 graph (1); (B) a parent or other member of a house-  
18 hold with primary responsibility for the care of a de-  
19 pendent child under 6 years of age; (C) a bona fide  
20 student enrolled at least half time in any recognized  
21 school, training program, or institution of higher  
22 education (except that any such person enrolled in  
23 an institution of higher education shall be ineligible  
24 to participate in the supplemental nutrition assist-  
25 ance program unless he or she meets the require-  
26 ments of subsection (e) of this section); (D) a reg-

1 ular participant in a drug addiction or alcoholic  
2 treatment and rehabilitation program; (E) employed  
3 a minimum of thirty hours per week or receiving  
4 weekly earnings which equal the minimum hourly  
5 rate under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938,  
6 as amended (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)), multiplied by  
7 thirty hours; or (F) a person between the ages of  
8 sixteen and eighteen who is not a head of a house-  
9 hold or who is attending school, or enrolled in an  
10 employment training program, on at least a half-  
11 time basis.”.

12 **SEC. 7. LIFETIME BENEFIT LIMIT FOR ABLE-BODIED**  
13 **ADULTS IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**  
14 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

15 Section 6 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7  
16 U.S.C. 2015) is amended by adding a new subsection to  
17 read as follows:

18 “(t) NO ASSISTANCE FOR ABLE-BODIED ENROLLEES  
19 FOR MORE THAN 5 YEARS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No member of a household  
21 shall be eligible to participate who resides in a  
22 household that includes an individual who has par-  
23 ticipated for 60 months (whether or not consecu-  
24 tive).

1           “(2) MINOR CHILD EXCEPTION.—In deter-  
2           mining the number of months for which an indi-  
3           vidual participated, the State shall disregard any  
4           month for which such assistance was provided with  
5           respect to the individual and during which the indi-  
6           vidual was—

7                     “(A) a minor child; and

8                     “(B) not the head of a household or mar-  
9                     ried to the head of a household.

10           “(3) ADDITIONAL EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1)  
11           shall not apply to an individual if the individual is—

12                     “(A) under 18 or over 64 years of age;

13                     “(B) medically certified as physically or  
14                     mentally unfit for employment;

15                     “(C) a parent or other member of a house-  
16                     hold with primary responsibility for a dependent  
17                     child under 6 years of age; or

18                     “(D) a pregnant woman.”.

1 **SEC. 8. REPEALING SUSPENSION OF WORK REQUIREMENTS**  
2 **DUE TO COVID-19 FOR ABLE-BODIED ADULTS**  
3 **WITHOUT DEPENDENTS IN THE SUPPLE-**  
4 **MENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

5 Section 2301 of the Families First Coronavirus Re-  
6 sponse Act (P.L. 116-127, division B, title III, section  
7 2301) is repealed.

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