

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7027

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve program requirements, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2022

Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve program requirements, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “School Hunger Elimini-

5 nation Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL MEDICAID DIRECT CERTIFICATION.**

7 Section 9(b)(15) of the Richard B. Russell National

8 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)(15)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (A) by striking clause (i) and inserting the  
2 following:

3 “(i) ELIGIBLE CHILD.—

4 “(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘el-  
5 ible child’ means a child who—

6 “(aa)(AA) is eligible for and  
7 receiving medical assistance  
8 under the Medicaid program; and

9 “(BB) is a member of a  
10 family with an income as meas-  
11 ured by the Medicaid program  
12 that does not exceed, in the case  
13 of eligibility for free meals, 133  
14 percent of the poverty line (as  
15 defined in section 673(2) of the  
16 Community Services Block Grant  
17 Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)), includ-  
18 ing any revision required by such  
19 section) applicable to a family of  
20 the size used for purposes of de-  
21 termining eligibility for the Med-  
22 icaid program, or, in the case of  
23 eligibility for reduced price meals,  
24 the applicable family size income  
25 level under the income eligibility

1 guidelines for reduced price  
2 meals; or

3 “(bb) is a member of a  
4 household (as that term is de-  
5 fined in section 245.2 of title 7,  
6 Code of Federal Regulations (or  
7 a successor regulation)) with a  
8 child described in item (aa).

9 “(II) OTHER CHILDREN.—The  
10 term ‘eligible child’ includes a child  
11 who is eligible for and receiving med-  
12 ical assistance under the Medicaid  
13 program under subclause (I) of sec-  
14 tion 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of the Social  
15 Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
16 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i))—

17 “(aa) on the basis of receiv-  
18 ing aid or assistance under the  
19 State plan approved under part  
20 E of title IV of that Act (42  
21 U.S.C. 670 et seq.);

22 “(bb) by reason of section  
23 473(b) of that Act (42 U.S.C.  
24 673(b)); or

1 “(cc) under subclause (II) of  
2 section 1902(a)(10)(A)(i) of that  
3 Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 1396a(a)(10)(A)(i)).”; and

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

6 “(iii) WITHOUT FURTHER APPLICA-  
7 TION.—The term ‘without further applica-  
8 tion’ has the meaning given the term in  
9 paragraph (4)(G).”; and

10 (2) by striking subparagraphs (B) through (H)  
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(B) AGREEMENT.—For the school year  
13 beginning on July 1, 2022, and each school  
14 year thereafter, each State shall enter into an  
15 agreement described in subparagraph (C) with  
16 the 1 or more State agencies conducting eligi-  
17 bility determinations for the Medicaid program.

18 “(C) PROCEDURES.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to sub-  
20 paragraph (D) and paragraph (6), an  
21 agreement entered into under subpara-  
22 graph (B) shall establish procedures under  
23 which an eligible child shall be certified as  
24 eligible, without further application, for—

1                   “(I) free or reduced price lunch  
2                   under this Act; and

3                   “(II) free or reduced price break-  
4                   fast under section 4 of the Child Nu-  
5                   trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

6                   “(ii) FREE MEALS.—Each agreement  
7                   entered into under subparagraph (B) shall  
8                   ensure that a child who is simultaneously  
9                   eligible for reduced price meals under this  
10                  paragraph or based on an income eligibility  
11                  determination, and for free meals based on  
12                  documentation provided under subsection  
13                  (d)(2), shall be certified for free meals.

14                  “(D) CERTIFICATION.—Subject to para-  
15                  graph (6), and according to an agreement en-  
16                  tered into under subparagraph (B), the local  
17                  educational agency conducting eligibility deter-  
18                  minations under that agreement shall certify an  
19                  eligible child as eligible, without further applica-  
20                  tion, for—

21                         “(i) free or reduced price lunch under  
22                         this Act; and

23                         “(ii) free or reduced price breakfast  
24                         under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act  
25                         of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).”.

1 **SEC. 3. DIRECT CERTIFICATION FOR CHILDREN RECEIVING**  
 2 **SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(b)(5) of the Richard B.  
 4 Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.  
 5 1758(b)(5)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “(2));”  
 7 and inserting “(2));”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at  
 9 the end;

10 (3) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking the pe-  
 11 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

13 “(F) a child who receives supplemental se-  
 14 curity income payments under title XVI of the  
 15 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.).”.

16 (b) DATA FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRA-  
 17 TION.—Section 9(b) of the Richard B. Russell National  
 18 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(b)) is amended by add-  
 19 ing at the end the following:

20 “(16) DATA FROM SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINIS-  
 21 TRATION.—In the case of direct certification under  
 22 paragraph (5) or (12)(A) of a child who receives  
 23 supplemental security income payments under title  
 24 XVI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1381 et  
 25 seq.), the Commissioner of Social Security shall pro-  
 26 vide a local educational agency with the data nec-

1        essary to certify the child in accordance with a data-  
2        sharing agreement between the Commissioner and  
3        the State in which the local educational agency is lo-  
4        cated.”.

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