

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7794

To extend existing supplemental nutrition assistance program flexibilities for States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2020

Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. SCHRIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To extend existing supplemental nutrition assistance program flexibilities for States during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 Flexibilities Extension Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EXISTING SNAP FLEXIBILITIES FOR**
7 **COVID-19.**

8 (a) STATE OPTIONS.—

1 (1) A State agency (as defined in section 3(s)
2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
3 2012(s))) shall have the option—

4 (A) to extend certification periods under
5 section 3(f) of the Food and Nutrition Act of
6 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012(f)) for not more than 6
7 months and adjust periodic report requirements
8 under section 6(c)(1)(D)(i) of the Food and
9 Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
10 2015(c)(1)(D)(i)) for some or all participating
11 households with certification periods set to ex-
12 pire or periodic reports due on or before June
13 30, 2021, consistent with the extensions and
14 adjustments provided in the Food and Nutrition
15 Service’s April 22, 2020, blanket approval for
16 extending certification and adjusting periodic
17 reports, unless otherwise provided in this para-
18 graph;

19 (B) to allow household reporting require-
20 ments under section 273.12(a)(5)(iii) of title 7
21 of the Code of Federal Regulations to satisfy
22 the recertification requirements under section
23 273.14 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regula-
24 tions for some or all participating households

1 with recertification periods set to expire on or
2 before December 31, 2021; and

3 (C) to adjust the interview requirements
4 under sections 273.2 and 273.14(b) of title 7 of
5 the Code of Federal Regulations for some or all
6 household applications or recertifications
7 through June 30, 2021, consistent with the ad-
8 justments provided in the Food and Nutrition
9 Service's March 26, 2020, blanket approval for
10 adjusting interview requirements, unless other-
11 wise provided in this paragraph.

12 (2) Not later than 5 days after exercising an
13 option under paragraph (1), a State agency shall no-
14 tify the Secretary of Agriculture in writing of the
15 option exercised, the categories of households af-
16 fected by the option, and the duration of such op-
17 tion.

18 (b) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary of Agriculture
19 shall allow a State agency to suspend the requirements
20 under sections 275.11(b)(1) and (2), 275.12, and 275.13
21 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations from June
22 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, consistent with the waiv-
23 ers provided in the Food and Nutrition Service's April 30,
24 2020, blanket approval for waiver of quality control re-
25 views, unless otherwise provided in this subsection.

1 (c) REPORT.—Section 2302 of the Families First
2 Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116–127; 7 U.S.C.
3 2011 note) is amended by striking subsection (c) and in-
4 serting the following:

5 “(c) REPORT.—Not later than June 30, 2022, the
6 Secretary of Agriculture shall submit, to the Committee
7 on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the
8 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the
9 Senate, a report containing the following information:

10 “(1) A description of any information or data
11 supporting State agency requests under this section
12 and any additional measures that State agencies re-
13 quested that were not approved by the Secretary of
14 Agriculture.

15 “(2) An evaluation of the use of all waivers, ad-
16 justments, and other flexibilities in the operation of
17 the supplemental nutrition assistance program (as
18 defined in section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act
19 of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012)), in effect under this Act,
20 the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011
21 et seq.), or any other Act, to respond to the COVID-
22 19 public health emergency.

23 “(3) A recommendation of any additional waiv-
24 ers or flexibilities needed in the operation of the sup-

- 1 plemental nutrition assistance program to respond to
- 2 public health emergencies with pandemic potential.”.

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