

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1941

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2019

Mrs. MURRAY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a permanent, nationwide summer electronic benefits transfer for children program.

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 “Stop Child Summer
5 Hunger Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANSFER FOR**
 2 **CHILDREN PROGRAM.**

3 Section 13(a) of the Richard B. Russell National
 4 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1761(a)) is amended by add-
 5 ing at the end the following:

6 “(13) SUMMER ELECTRONIC BENEFITS TRANS-
 7 FER FOR CHILDREN PROGRAM.—

8 “(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

9 “(i) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLD.—The
 10 term ‘eligible household’ means a house-
 11 hold that includes one or more children
 12 who are eligible to receive free or reduced-
 13 price lunches under this Act or free or re-
 14 duced-price breakfasts under the Child Nu-
 15 trition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et
 16 seq.).

17 “(ii) SUMMER EBT CARD.—The term
 18 ‘summer EBT card’ means an electronic
 19 benefit transfer card that is issued to an
 20 eligible household under this paragraph
 21 and limited to food purchases.

22 “(B) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall es-
 23 tablish a program under which the Secretary
 24 shall provide to eligible households summer
 25 EBT cards for the purpose of providing access
 26 to food for children during summer months—

1 “(i) to reduce or eliminate the food in-
2 security and hunger of children; and

3 “(ii) to improve the nutritional status
4 of children.

5 “(C) USE.—An eligible household may use
6 a summer EBT card only to purchase food
7 from retail food stores that have been approved
8 for participation in the supplemental nutrition
9 assistance program established under the Food
10 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et
11 seq.), in accordance with section 7(b) of that
12 Act (7 U.S.C. 2016(b)).

13 “(D) AMOUNT.—Each summer EBT card
14 issued shall be in an amount of—

15 “(i) for calendar year 2020, \$150 in
16 food assistance per child per summer; and

17 “(ii) for each subsequent calendar
18 year, the amount specified in clause (i) as
19 adjusted to reflect changes in reimburse-
20 ment rates for school meals under this Act
21 between calendar year 2020 and the most
22 recent calendar year.

23 “(E) TIMING.—Summer EBT cards shall
24 be issued at the end of the regular school year.

25 “(F) FUNDING.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—On October 1,
2 2019, and on each October 1 thereafter,
3 out of any funds in the Treasury not oth-
4 erwise appropriated, the Secretary of the
5 Treasury shall transfer to the Secretary
6 such sums as are necessary to carry out
7 this section, to remain available until ex-
8 pended.

9 “(ii) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—
10 The Secretary shall be entitled to receive,
11 shall accept, and shall use to carry out this
12 section the funds transferred under clause
13 (i), without further appropriation.

14 “(G) REGULATIONS.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Oc-
16 tober 1, 2019, the Secretary shall issue
17 regulations to carry out this paragraph.

18 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Regulations
19 issued under this subparagraph shall re-
20 quire that—

21 “(I) children shall be eligible to
22 participate and shall be enrolled into
23 the program under this paragraph for
24 a summer without further application
25 if the children are enrolled to partici-

1 pate in the free or reduced-price lunch
2 program under this Act or the free or
3 reduced-price breakfast program
4 under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966
5 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) during the
6 school year immediately preceding the
7 summer; and

8 “(II) local educational agencies
9 shall distribute to the families of all
10 children enrolled in schools partici-
11 pating in programs authorized under
12 this Act and the Child Nutrition Act
13 of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) and,
14 to the maximum extent practicable,
15 the families of all children enrolled in
16 schools of the local educational agency
17 information, as provided by the Sec-
18 retary—

19 “(aa) regarding the program
20 authorized under this paragraph,
21 including eligibility rules and how
22 children in eligible households
23 that are not automatically en-
24 rolled under subclause (I) may
25 apply for program benefits; and

1 “(bb) to assist households
2 receiving summer EBT cards in
3 making healthy food choices and
4 maximizing resources.

5 “(iii) ALTERNATIVE TIMING.—

6 “(I) IN GENERAL.—In issuing
7 regulations under this subparagraph,
8 the Secretary shall allow alternative
9 plans for the timing of issuance of the
10 summer electronic benefit cards under
11 subparagraph (D) in any part of a
12 State in which the school year does
13 not include a typical summer break,
14 on the condition that the Secretary
15 determines that no alternative plan in-
16 creases or decreases Federal costs.

17 “(II) CONSIDERATIONS.—In de-
18 veloping regulations under subclause
19 (I), the Secretary shall consider the
20 ability of a State effectively to issue
21 benefits under an alternative sched-
22 ule.”.

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