

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2359

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require consideration of the assets of a household for broad-based categorical eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2019

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

A BILL

To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require consideration of the assets of a household for broad-based categorical eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance 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. ASSETS AS INCOME FOR CATEGORICAL ELIGI-**
4 **BILITY FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION**
5 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5(a) of the Food and Nu-
7 trition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in the fourth sentence, by striking “Assist-
2 ance” and inserting the following:

3 “(4) AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE.—Assist-
4 ance”;

5 (2) in the third sentence, by striking “Except”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(3) GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Ex-
8 cept”;

9 (3) in the second sentence—

10 (A) by striking “Notwithstanding” and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(2) CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
14 graph (B), and notwithstanding”; and

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

16 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF ASSETS.—

17 “(i) DEFINITION OF NONINCOME
18 ASSET.—In this subparagraph, the term
19 ‘nonincome asset’ means available cash (in-
20 cluding in a savings account or checking
21 account), a stock, a savings bond, a mutual
22 fund, a pension fund, and a real estate
23 holding (other than a primary home).

24 “(ii) CONSIDERATION OF ASSETS.—A
25 household described in subparagraph (A)

1 shall not be eligible to participate in the
 2 supplemental nutrition assistance program
 3 if the total nonincome assets of the house-
 4 hold are valued at not less than—

5 “(I) \$2,250; or

6 “(II) in the case of a household
 7 that includes an elderly or disabled
 8 member, \$3,500.”; and

9 (4) by striking “(a) Participation” and insert-
 10 ing the following:

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(1) ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS.—Participation”.

13 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

14 (1) Section 11(i)(2) of the Food and Nutrition
 15 Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2020(i)(2)) is amended by
 16 striking “the second sentence of section 5(a)” and
 17 inserting “section 5(a)(2)”.

18 (2) Section 17(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(bb) of the Food
 19 and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C.
 20 2026(b)(1)(B)(iv)(III)(bb)) is amended by striking
 21 “the last sentence of section 5(a)” and inserting
 22 “section 5(a)(4)”.

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