

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1332

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2017

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program, 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 “Early Childhood Nutri-
5 tion Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION CRITERIA FOR PRO-**
7 **PRIETARY CHILD CARE CENTERS.**

8 Section 17(a)(6) of the Richard B. Russell National
9 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(a)(6)) is amended—

1 (1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at
2 the end;

3 (2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period
4 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

6 “(G) in the case of an institution described
7 in paragraph (2)(B), the eligibility determina-
8 tion shall be in effect for 6 months after the
9 date such institution is approved by the State
10 under section 17(d).”.

11 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF SERIOUS DEFICIENCY PROCESS.**

12 Section 17(d)(5) of the Richard B. Russell National
13 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(d)(5)) is amended by
14 adding at the end the following:

15 “(F) SERIOUS DEFICIENCY PROCESS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1
17 year after the date of enactment of this
18 subparagraph, the Secretary shall review
19 and issue guidance and, as appropriate,
20 regulations regarding the serious deficiency
21 process for the program under this section.

22 “(ii) REVIEW.—In carrying out clause
23 (i), the Secretary shall review, at a min-
24 imum, the processes for, and those in-
25 volved in—

1 “(I) determining when there is a
2 serious deficiency, including—

3 “(aa) what measures auto-
4 matically result in a finding of
5 serious deficiency; and

6 “(bb) how differentiation is
7 being made between—

8 “(AA) a reasonable
9 margin of human error and
10 systematic or intentional
11 noncompliance; and

12 “(BB) State-specific re-
13 quirements and Federal reg-
14 ulations;

15 “(II) appealing and mediating a
16 finding of serious deficiency, includ-
17 ing—

18 “(aa) findings related to
19 State-specific requirements; and

20 “(bb) processes for ensuring
21 officials involved in appeals and
22 mediation are fair and impartial;

23 “(III) determining the cir-
24 cumstances under which a corrective
25 action plan is acceptable; and

1 “(IV) termination and disquali-
2 fication, including maintenance of the
3 list under subparagraph (E).

4 “(iii) GUIDANCE AND REGULA-
5 TIONS.—

6 “(I) IN GENERAL.—After con-
7 ducting the review under clause (ii),
8 the Secretary shall make findings
9 from the information collected and
10 issue guidance and, as appropriate,
11 regulations from such findings that
12 will assist sponsoring organizations,
13 State agencies, and the Food and Nu-
14 trition Service in ensuring a fair, uni-
15 form, and effective administration of
16 the serious deficiency process, while
17 retaining program integrity.

18 “(II) SCOPE.—Such guidance or,
19 as appropriate, regulations shall in-
20 clude—

21 “(aa) clarity on the different
22 measures for noncompliance;

23 “(bb) appeals process for a
24 finding of serious deficiency or a

1 determination that a corrective
 2 action plan is inadequate; and
 3 “(cc) adequate timeframes
 4 under a corrective action plan for
 5 compliance that are consistent
 6 for all types of institutions, in-
 7 cluding family or group day care
 8 homes.”.

9 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF REIMBURSEMENTS FOR ADDI-**
 10 **TIONAL MEAL OR SNACK.**

11 Section 17(f)(2) of the Richard B. Russell National
 12 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(2)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “(2)(A) Subject to subparagraph
 14 (B) of this paragraph” and inserting the following:

15 “(2) DISBURSEMENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
 17 graph (B)”;

18 (2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as
 19 follows:

20 “(B) LIMITATION.—No reimbursement
 21 may be made to any institution under this para-
 22 graph, or to family or group day care home
 23 sponsoring organizations under paragraph (3),
 24 for more than—

1 “(i) 2 meals and 1 supplement or 1
 2 meal and 2 supplements per day per child;
 3 or
 4 “(ii) 3 meals and 1 supplement or 2
 5 meals and 2 supplements per day per
 6 child, for each child that is maintained in
 7 a child care setting for more than 8 hours
 8 per day.”.

9 **SEC. 5. ADJUSTMENTS.**

10 Section 17(f)(3)(A) of the Richard B. Russell Na-
 11 tional School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(f)(3)(A)) is
 12 amended by striking “Consumer Price Index for food at
 13 home” each place it appears and inserting “Consumer
 14 Price Index for food away from home”.

15 **SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PAPERWORK REDUC-**
 16 **TION.**

17 Section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School
 18 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766) is amended by adding at the
 19 end the following:

20 “(v) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PAPERWORK REDUC-
 21 TION.—

22 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180
 23 days after the date of the enactment of this sub-
 24 section, the Secretary shall establish an advisory
 25 committee (hereafter in this subsection referred to

1 as the ‘Advisory Committee’) to carry out the duties
2 described in paragraph (2).

3 “(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the Advisory
4 Committee shall be to—

5 “(A) examine the feasibility of reducing
6 unnecessary or duplicative paperwork resulting
7 from regulations and recordkeeping require-
8 ments, including paperwork resulting from ad-
9 ditional State requirements, for those partici-
10 pating or seeking to participate in the program
11 under this section including State agencies,
12 family child care homes, child care centers, and
13 sponsoring organizations; and

14 “(B) provide recommendations to reduce
15 such paperwork for participants in the program
16 under this section while ensuring that proper
17 accountability and program integrity are main-
18 tained.

19 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee
20 shall be composed of 1 member representing each of
21 the following entities and such other members as the
22 Secretary determines to be appropriate:

23 “(A) A public nonprofit center.

24 “(B) A private nonprofit center.

25 “(C) A family or group day care home.

1 “(D) A Head Start center.

2 “(E) A for-profit center.

3 “(F) An emergency shelter.

4 “(G) An adult day care center.

5 “(H) A State agency.

6 “(I) Sponsoring organizations for centers
7 and family or group day care homes.

8 “(J) An anti-hunger advocacy organiza-
9 tion.

10 “(K) An at-risk, after school program.

11 “(L) A child care advocacy organization.

12 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In developing the rec-
13 ommendations described in paragraph (2), the Advi-
14 sory Committee shall consider—

15 “(A) information, recommendations, and
16 reports from the Paperwork Reduction Work
17 Group established by the Food and Nutrition
18 Service pursuant to section 119(i) of the Child
19 Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of
20 2004 (Public Law 108–265; 118 Stat. 755);
21 and

22 “(B) the use of electronic systems and rec-
23 ordkeeping technologies to reduce paperwork
24 for program participants.

1 “(5) GUIDANCE AND REGULATIONS.—Not later
2 than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
3 subsection, the Secretary shall issue guidance and,
4 as appropriate, regulations based on the rec-
5 ommendations described in paragraph (2) for
6 streamlined and consolidated paperwork and record-
7 keeping requirements for the program, including rec-
8 ommendations for reducing paperwork for applica-
9 tions and monitoring and auditing requirements.

10 “(6) REPORT.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
12 days after issuing the guidance and regulations
13 described in paragraph (5), the Secretary shall
14 submit a report to the Committee on Agri-
15 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate
16 and the Committee on Education and the
17 Workforce of the House of Representatives con-
18 taining the information described in subpara-
19 graph (B).

20 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report under sub-
21 paragraph (A) shall contain the following:

22 “(i) In each case in which the Sec-
23 retary did not implement a recommenda-
24 tion of the Advisory Committee, an expla-

1 nation of why such recommendation was
2 not implemented.

3 “(ii) Recommendations for legislative
4 action that may further strengthen and
5 streamline the program application and
6 monitoring process and reduce administra-
7 tive burdens on grantees, program partici-
8 pants, and local, State, and Federal gov-
9 ernments.”.

○