

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1676

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays during the school year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2015

Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE, and Mrs. LAWRENCE) 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 establish a weekend and holiday feeding program to provide nutritious food to at-risk school children on weekends and during extended school holidays during the school year.

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 “Weekends Without
5 Hunger Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS WITHOUT HUNGER.**

2 Section 18 of the Richard B. Russell National School
3 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 “(1) WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS WITHOUT HUN-
6 GER.—

7 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

8 “(A) AT-RISK SCHOOL CHILD.—The term
9 ‘at-risk school child’ has the meaning given the
10 term in section 17(r)(1).

11 “(B) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘eligible
13 institution’ means a public or private non-
14 profit institution that is determined by the
15 Secretary to be able to meet safe food stor-
16 age, handling, and delivery standards es-
17 tablished by the Secretary.

18 “(ii) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘eligible
19 institution’ includes—

20 “(I) an elementary or secondary
21 school or school food service authority;

22 “(II) a food bank or food pantry;

23 “(III) a homeless shelter; and

24 “(IV) such other type of emer-
25 gency feeding agency as is approved
26 by the Secretary.

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
2 ability of appropriations provided in advance in an
3 appropriations Act specifically for the purpose of
4 carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall es-
5 tablish a program under which the Secretary shall
6 provide commodities, on a competitive basis, to eligi-
7 ble institutions to provide nutritious food to at-risk
8 children on weekends and during extended school
9 holidays during the school year.

10 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
12 ceive commodities under this subsection, an eli-
13 gible institution shall submit an application to
14 the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
15 and containing such information as the Sec-
16 retary may determine.

17 “(B) PLAN.—An application under sub-
18 paragraph (A) shall include the plan of the eli-
19 gible institution for the distribution of nutri-
20 tious foods to at-risk school children, includ-
21 ing—

22 “(i) methods of food service delivery
23 to at-risk school children;

1 “(ii) assurances that children receiv-
2 ing foods under the project will not be pub-
3 licly separated or overtly identified;

4 “(iii) lists of the types of food to be
5 provided under the project and provisions
6 to ensure food quality and safety;

7 “(iv) information on the number of
8 at-risk school children to be served and the
9 per-child cost of providing the children
10 with food; and

11 “(v) such other information as the
12 Secretary determines to be necessary to as-
13 sist the Secretary in evaluating projects
14 that receive commodities under this sub-
15 section.

16 “(4) PRIORITY.—In selecting applications under
17 this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to
18 eligible institutions that—

19 “(A) have on-going programs and experi-
20 ence serving populations with significant pro-
21 portions of at-risk school children;

22 “(B) have a good record of experience in
23 food delivery and food safety systems;

24 “(C) maintain high quality control, ac-
25 countability, and recordkeeping standards;

1 “(D) provide children with readily
2 consumable food of high nutrient content and
3 quality;

4 “(E) demonstrate cost efficiencies and the
5 potential for obtaining supplemental funding
6 from non-Federal sources to carry out projects;
7 and

8 “(F) demonstrate the ability to continue
9 projects for the full approved term of the pilot
10 project period.

11 “(5) GUIDELINES.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
13 issue guidelines containing the criteria for
14 projects to receive commodities under this sec-
15 tion.

16 “(B) INCLUSIONS.—The guidelines shall,
17 to the maximum extent practicable within the
18 funds available and applications submitted, take
19 into account—

20 “(i) geographical variations in project
21 locations to include qualifying projects in
22 rural, urban, and suburban areas with high
23 proportions of families with at-risk school
24 children;

1 “(ii) different types of projects that
2 offer nutritious foods on weekends and
3 during school holidays to at-risk school
4 children; and

5 “(iii) institutional capacity to collect,
6 maintain, and provide statistically valid in-
7 formation necessary for the Secretary—

8 “(I) to analyze and evaluate the
9 results of the pilot project; and

10 “(II) to make recommendations
11 to Congress.

12 “(6) EVALUATION.—

13 “(A) INTERIM EVALUATION.—Not later
14 than November 30, 2018, the Secretary shall
15 complete an interim evaluation of the pilot pro-
16 gram carried out under this subsection.

17 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than De-
18 cember 31, 2020, the Secretary shall submit to
19 Congress a final report that contains—

20 “(i) an evaluation of the pilot pro-
21 gram carried out under this subsection;
22 and

23 “(ii) any recommendations of the Sec-
24 retary for legislative action.

25 “(7) FUNDING.—

1 “(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
2 TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated
3 to carry out this section such sums as are nec-
4 essary, to remain available until expended.

5 “(B) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not more
6 than 3 percent of the funds made available
7 under subparagraph (A) may be used by the
8 Secretary for expenses associated with review of
9 the operations and evaluation of the projects
10 carried out under this subsection.”.

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